

# President's Message



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Enhancing members' experience  
Giving members a voice  
Promoting the key issues for doctors  
Developing internal structures and operations



As the President of MMA, I was invited to attend the British Medical Association Annual Representative Meeting (ARM) 2017 from 25-29 June 2017 in Bournemouth, United Kingdom. Bournemouth is a small city situated south of England along the coast.

ARM was held at the Bournemouth International Centre and is the annual meeting of the Representative Body (RB) – representatives elected by their peers, doctors and medical students that make up the professional association that is BMA. RB is described as the "Parliament of the Profession" with BMA Council as the "Cabinet". The representative body comprises of representatives from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Motions passed at the ARM become the policy of the BMA; they become instructions to Council, who are charged with either implementing it themselves or by another part of BMA to implement. The meeting is genuinely democratic unlike other conferences or congresses. Those who want to speak for or against the motion are selected beforehand. If any doubts on whether to continue the discussion or not is put to vote to the RB. The motions which are passed are entered the BMA Policy Book. Every five years policies are reviewed and those have been enacted, overtaken by events, have newer or better policy or out of date are recommended to be passed into the lapsed policy archive.

The RB elects the many BMA Committees and boards. This year for the first-time elections at the ARM was conducted through a new online system. This could be accessed on any electronic device ensuring the elections are transparent and inclusive.

All ARM sessions were from 9.00am to 5.30pm. Lunch was served between 1.00pm to 2.00pm. However, there were scientific sessions during the lunch hour called "Victor Horsley Scientific Sessions". We were provided with sandwiches for lunch during the scientific sessions.

BMA has 160,000 members. The interesting observation by me was the large number of junior doctors' present and



Handing 55th Year Book to the outgoing President Prof Dr Pali Hungin



Installation of Incoming President Professor Sir John Temple