

March Board meeting
Wednesday, 20 March 2024



Chair's Report

- 1.1 Our Board last met on 17 January 2024 in London and since that meeting it has been a busy period for the PSA.
- 1.2 Alan and I have continued our programme of meeting the chairs and chief executives of the statutory regulators, meeting with the General Optical Council on 6 February 2024, the General Pharmaceutical Council on 16 February 2024 and the HCPC on 29 February 2024. Where relevant, feedback on our new approach to Standard 3 has been positive. There is some resigned frustration about the pace of regulatory reform and all regulators seem to be experiencing increases in referrals. Alan and I also met with Baroness Hayter on 6 February 2024 to discuss the GMC's approach to gender/sex on their Register. We have facilitated direct discussions on this between Baroness Hayter and the GMC.
- 1.3 I continue to meet with staff including all new joiners, which is a pleasure. In January 2024 I led a session for staff on how to effectively chair meetings and I am delighted to be joining staff on 8 March 2024 with Juliet to help celebrate International Women's Day. Congratulations also to Dinah on becoming Head of Policy from 1 April 2024.
- 1.4 The Nominations Committee is continuing to have regular meetings to ensure that the upcoming five recruitment processes (an Associate Board Member, a Chair of Audit & Risk, Committee and Board Members for NI and Scotland and, slightly later, Wales) that we have scheduled over the next 12 months run smoothly.
- 1.5 On the new Chair for the Audit & Risk Committee, Frances, Marcus and an independent panel member, Rommel Pereira, and I interviewed four candidates on 1 March 2024. 19 candidates applied for the role and the field was strong which was interesting given that we did all of the recruitment in-house. We may wish to reflect on this for some of our future recruitment campaigns. From this campaign we were able to shortlist five candidates and four were interviewed (one could not make the interview date). Three of the candidates were appointable and we are now in the process of making a recommendation to the Privy Council. We hope to be able to announce the successful candidate by the end of March 2024.
- 1.6 On the recruitment campaign for a new Associate Board Member, this campaign closes on the 10 March 2024. We appear to have pitched it much better this time around and we have strong interest in the role.
- 1.7 A highlight of the last period has been attending the PSA's Accredited Registers Seminar held on 28 February 2024. This was the first in-person event held in five years for the Accredited Registers. Attendance was very

strong, there were excellent speakers and the attendees that I spoke to were very positive about both the accreditation process for new registers and the benefits of the programme. Professor Louise Wallace from the Open University led a very interesting session on the harm that witnesses can suffer during the FtP process. This discussion also included looking at the accessibility and readability of the statutory regulators' websites. As we embark on investing in our own website update, there will be useful lessons to learn. A breakout session led by the Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners also highlighted the risks in this area of practice and the urgent need for greater intervention. I had not previously understood that the UK is currently an outlier in terms of the lack of regulation, substantially behind, for example, the USA.

- 1.8 As you know, we held an excellent Board workshop on Education and Training and AI on 20 February 2024. It was interesting to reflect on how we can add value in the area of education and to think about the challenges and opportunities for AI. No doubt these conversations will continue. Since the last Board meeting, I have also attended several events for the Public Chairs Forum (PCF) and in May and June I will be leading four training sessions for the PCF for newly appointed public appointee chairs.
- 1.9 As it is approaching year end, I hope it's okay that Melanie will be in touch with you shortly to get dates in the diary in April/May for the annual appraisal cycle.
- 1.10 Finally, Amrat will shortly be leaving us, so this will be Amrat's last Board meeting. As you know, Amrat has been our inaugural Associate Board Member. Not only has Amrat been an excellent contributor to the Board, but he has also helped us shape and improve the programme for future Associate Board Members. I hope that you will join me in thanking Amrat for his contribution to the PSA over the last two years and in wishing him well for the future.
- 1.11 I look forward to seeing you at our Board meeting in London on 20 March 2024.

Caroline Corby
5 March 2024