AGM Online 25th November 2023

Chair's Report

I am pleased to report that our membership numbers have continued to increase. We want to further expand our membership, and as such, we have, like last year, provided a year's membership as part of the Conference admission fee to non-members. We have sought sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies, which enables us to provide the conference free of charge to our members.

In the last year our brilliant Honorary Secretary, Dani Zanni has resigned for personal reasons, as did our hard-working Honorary Treasurer, Gwen Ronald. We have, as yet been unable to replace Dani, and as a consequence we have now employed a secretary in the last month. I am thankful to Harnek Chera who has taken the position of Honorary Treasurer; Harnek brings a huge business acumen to the position. We also welcomed back Larry Goodyear as our educational lead. Larry was, of course, a past Chair of BGTHA.

Presently our committee comprises three doctors, two nurses and four pharmacists. There are three vacancies in the Executive Committee so there are opportunities to bring in fresh ideas and passion to the Executive Committee. Please contact me, or any of the Committee should you wish to nominate yourself.

We have continued to present the electronic version of the Travelwise Journal, as an educational publication with relevant material to practitioners who provide, or have an interest in, any type of Travel or Global Health service. Our editorial team are Sarah Feliciello and Jane Wilson-Howarth. I am so grateful for the dedication of this dynamic duo who contribute hours of work to produce an excellent journal.

We have taken the decision to change how the journal is presented so that we can publish articles more quickly and regularly. Can I take this opportunity to invite members to contribute to the Journal. Sarah and Jane can be contacted by emailing editor@bgtha.org and we can provide you with our author guidelines.

This year Dr Graham Fry has start to produce monthly newsletters of interesting snippets that are uploaded to the members area on the website. These are just enough to stimulate some thought and allow members the opportunity to explore in more depth items that interest them. We alert members by email when the latest edition is uploaded.

We have also started exploring how we can work more closely with The Faculty of Travel Medicine to the benefit of both organisations. I am grateful to Sam Allen, Dean of the Faculty for agreeing to us working together to our mutual benefit.

As always, my heartfelt thanks to all on the BGTHA Executive Committee for their hard work throughout this year. I must also thank our outstanding President George Kassianos, OBE, for his long-standing and continued contributions to BGTHA. It truly has been a pleasure to work with you all toward our common goal of providing education to travel and global health practitioners.

Patricia Armstrong