

# BPSA Executive Update July 2020

**Dear members, sponsors, stakeholders and supporters,**

We hope you are managing well during this challenging time. Given the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in, we have had to make some changes to the normal running of the Association.

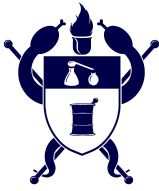
You may be aware that recently the BPSA held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). As the name suggests, this is not something that happens regularly, so we are very grateful to all of our members who took the time to join us in the EGM. During the meeting the following motion was passed: *"The Association believes that the 2019-20 Executive has the authority to make reasonable adjustments to the Executive and the Association, as agreed by the delegation at an EGM held during the COVID-19 pandemic, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic."* This means that we can make decisions to ensure that members are best supported and the BPSA is protected.

## Provisionally Registered Pharmacists

Usually, BPSA membership is only available to students currently undertaking an accredited MPharm course or pre-registration training programme in Great Britain. Owing to the current circumstances, a large proportion of our work in last few months has consisted of working with the GPhC and other key stakeholders to create and finalise the requirements, decisions and guidance for current Pre-registration Pharmacists who will be enrolling onto the register in the coming weeks as provisionally registered Pharmacists. The Executive has decided that until the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021, provisionally registered pharmacists will also be covered by our membership. This means that we will engage with, represent and advocate for provisionally registered members at all stakeholder meetings and provide support and direction. However these members will not be eligible to run for a position in the April 2021 elections. Please [sign up for free graduate membership here](#) if you are not currently a member, and would like to benefit from membership. You can read about the perks of BPSA membership [on our website](#).

## Executive positions

Each BPSA Executive member is elected to their role for one year, usually at our Annual Conference in April, which we were unable to hold due to the ongoing pandemic. As a result of the postponed election process, and to create consistency during this period of disruption, it was decided that one of the reasonable adjustments made this year will be the continuation of the 2019/20 Executive's mandate until an appropriate time for elections to take place. We are hoping that this will take place online in September.



I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the team for their continued hard work and to show appreciation for the Executive members who have served their mandate and no longer wish to continue.

There are a number of positions currently vacant that will be opened for co-option very shortly including - Vice President, Graduate Officer and Engagement Officer. Please keep an eye on our social media and go to our new website [www.bpsa.co.uk](http://www.bpsa.co.uk) to find out more.

## July Hiatus

The BPSA team is made up of 19 MPharm students and pre-registration trainees, who are fulfilling their roles on top of their other responsibilities. Being on the Executive committee is a very time intensive and often high pressure role, this has been exacerbated by COVID-19. In normal times the Executive would have handed over to their successors on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As the Executive have committed to stay in their roles, so that the Association can best support its members, the Executive has now been working extremely hard for over a year.

In light of this we have decided that the BPSA will be restricting its work throughout the course of July to:

1. Time-critical projects, collaborations and/or meetings
2. Work essential to the running of the Association

This means that whilst we will still be representing your voice and ensuring that the BPSA continues to function, we will be putting the vast majority of our other work on hold. The Executive's inbox will be scanned regularly so that we do not miss anything that falls into the above categories. The purpose of this break is to allow the team to reset, so that we can fulfill our duties to the highest possible standard from August.

As we continue in our mandate we will continue to advocate for you all, seek to inspire progress and champion the development of our profession.

**Your Sincerely,**  
**On behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**

Regan McCahill  
President 2019 - 2020