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## **Special Edition E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 30: June 2009**

### 208. Growing Patient Participation

The Growing Patient Participation campaign has now been launched! N.A.P.P. is delighted to be a partner, along with the British Medical Association, the NHS Alliance and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) with support from the Department of Health. The campaign website can be found at [www.growingppgs.com](http://www.growingppgs.com). This is integrated within the N.A.P.P. website which can still be found at [www.napp.org.uk](http://www.napp.org.uk).

The launch event was hosted by the RCGP chairman Professor Steve Field and featured an opening presentation by Richard MacRae, chairman of the Eric Moore Partnership PPG in Warrington. Richard described the many changes that the practice has put in place as a result of face to face research carried out by the PPG in the waiting room. Richard was followed by a presentation from N.A.P.P. that outlined the difference that a good PPG can make to a practice and its patients.

The launch included a superb testimony for PPGs from Dr Michael Dixon the chairman of the NHS Alliance. He explained that his PPG plays a central role in the life of the practice. The launch event also featured a Questions and Answer session that brought together Drs Dixon and Field, with Dr Laurence Buckman, the chairman of the GP Committee of the BMA, and yours truly representing N.A.P.P. This saw a lively discussion on how GPs can be encouraged to embrace PPGs, how PPGs can influence commissioning and the value of PPGs to general practice.

This breakfast event also showcased the launch of three new publications. The first of these brought together the arguments in favour of PPGs from the perspective of patients, practice managers, GPs and Primary Care Organisations. The second is a Step by Step Guide to setting up a PPG, based on a template developed by NHS Norfolk. The third, much briefer publication summarised 21 Reasons for PPGs. I had loads of help with the last of these slimming it down from the initial 50 Reasons.

**Special** thanks go to Bob Seddon, who chairs the Moreton Health Clinic Patient Partners Group. It was Bob who came up with the Growing Patient Participation message and the slogan, which I now use in most of my presentations, that Patient Participation Grows on You. Equally, it has been great to get so much feedback from affiliates as to what is needed to really embed PPGs and see them flourish.

The campaign will initially focus on professionals, working largely through the networks of the partner organisations. In the Autumn, this will be supplemented by a more public facing approach, raising awareness of PPGs and how they can make a difference. We'll keep you posted as the resources develop, but you can also register on the campaign website to receive regular updates. As ever, your feedback and ideas will be invaluable. As a result of the funding arrangements, some of the materials and support will only be relevant to English PPGs but we hope that many will be of general interest and value, wherever you are in the UK.

209. Lottery bid submitted

N.A.P.P. has now submitted its bid to the Big Lottery Research Programme to study responsiveness in primary care, and how it can be increased. This is a major study that we have developed in partnership with a research team headed by Professor Baker at the University of Leicester. It is hugely competitive with 20 applications for each available grant. We will learn the outcome in October.

210. Primary Care PPI Research Forum

Still on the subject of research, the University of Manchester is looking to recruit patients and the public with an interest in research into primary care. Details are provided [here](#).

211. Using feedback to transform care

The Department of Health is committed to making greater use of patient feedback to drive service improvement. Recently issued [guidance](#) sets out best practice in this area and includes working through PPGs.

212. Design of primary care buildings

I know that a number of PPGs are heavily involved in design of new premises. This [research](#) from the Picker Institute may well be of interest. Kind regards

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