



The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

Quarterly Update

October-December 2014

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

www.appgs.co.uk



ROUNDTABLE EVENT (DECEMBER 2014)



In December 2014, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin (APPGS) held its 'A Crisis in Dermatological Education and Workforce' event. Witnesses included representatives from the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD), Health Education England (HEE), the Primary Care Dermatology Society (PCDS) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

The discussion mainly focused on problems facing the dermatology workforce, with participants considering the training restraints on GPs, and the strains arising from an insufficient numbers of consultant dermatologists and problems associated with the commissioning of services. An acute example of the latter was demonstrated in a recent article in the Independent newspaper, available [here](#).

During the open debate segment of the roundtable, audience members proposed several ways to improve dermatology services, including joint training initiatives between the BAD and the RCGP, and the potential use of financial drivers – such as CQUINs. With all parties present acknowledging the problems facing the dermatology workforce, the APPGS is now considering how best to utilise this spirit of cooperation to bring about solutions.

Of particular encouragement was the presence of Health Education England, who we look forward to working with closely over the next Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE DERMATOLOGY (DECEMBER 2014)

Lord Kennedy of Southwark tabled this month an oral question for short debate on the subject of dermatology services. Participants of the debate included Lord Kennedy, Lord Bradley, Baroness Gardner, Lord Walton, Baroness Barker and of course the Government's health spokesperson in the Lords, Earl Howe.

Following the production and distribution of briefings sent to participants (informed by the incredibly useful comments sent through by APPGS members), we shall be following up with the individuals involved to try and garner support for action in the next Parliament.



SUNBED REGULATION... WATCH THIS SPACE

APPGS Group Chairman, Sir Paul Beresford MP and Shadow Public Health Minister Luciana Berger recently asked the Government when it intended on responding to the APPGS' report on sunbed regulation. The Government stated that it was aiming to respond by the end of October 2014 but sadly missed its self-set deadline. Having been assured of a response we are now awaiting its eventual publication and anticipate further details to emerge imminently. We do not yet know whether the Government will deliver on the APPGS' chief ask - to publish new regulations on the use of sunbeds in England - however we shall continue to liaise with key stakeholders in the field to ensure that this 'ask' remains front and centre of the discussion.

THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

In accordance with the rules governing general elections, Parliament is due to be dissolved on 30th March 2015. This means that the APPGS will also be dissolved and will need to be re-formed after the election, pending confirmation from those wishing to stand as the parliamentary officers of the Group.

We believe that the APPGS will garner sufficient support to be reformed in the next Parliament and we shall be aiding the parliamentary officers in setting it up. The APPGS' Advisory Group shall also be holding a strategy day in the New Year to put together a recommended programme of activity for the consideration, approval and adoption of the parliamentary officers. Should you wish to write in to us and recommend an activity or topic of focus in 2015, please do so via the contact details below. The strength of the APPGS has always rested in the diversity of its supporter base, which we continue to rely on to a great extent.

NEW WEBSITE

Over the last few weeks we have been steadily updating the Group's website to make it more user friendly. This is an ongoing process and consequently we would welcome any ideas supporters may have that might further improve use of the site. Please feel free to contact us should you have any comments you wish to make.

PLANNED FUTURE EVENTS

→ March 2015 - TBC

The upcoming dissolution of Parliament has thrown some uncertainty on the feasibility of another event before the general election. In the New Year, we shall be publishing a list of anticipated events for 2015. All dates and topics of focus are subject to change and dependent on the agendas and opinions of the parliamentary officers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all