



## Member Newsletter – Autumn 2022



### *News from the Chair*

The Cameron Fund continues to have been very active over the late Spring and Summer. Jill Rowlinson (our CEO) and I attended the LMC Conference in York. We had a stand in a prominent position and it was wonderful to see so many friends of the Fund in the real world, face to face. The conference was very supportive and especial thanks to the Chair, Katie Bramall-Stainer, and to the rest of the conference team for their support. The Cameron Fund logo was prominently displayed on the conference screen and we were able to use technology in the form of a QR code, text donation and a credit card

machine for non-cash donations. Cash donations were collected at the conference evening event also. Very many thanks to all who donated at the conference - we will make sure that the monies collected are put to good use.

In common with the other medical charities we have seen an increase in applications this year. There are multiple reasons and complex situations but a major underlying cause is post-Covid effects. We have seen a number with long Covid causing significant ongoing medical complications. Another Covid effect is an increase in relationship breakdowns, particularly in young families. This appears to be due to the pressures of working in the NHS during the pandemic, as well as to general societal effects as reported by numerous surveys.

The Cameron Fund Trustees have assessed all these cases at their regular quarterly meetings and are pleased to be able to support colleagues through difficult times in their lives and especially to enable them to return to work and ultimately financial independence. The current fuel crisis and inflation will affect those already struggling and place increasing pressure on the Fund.

Jill and I continue to engage with other organisations on behalf of the Fund, both to coordinate and publicise the Fund's activities. In the last few months we have had face-to-face meetings with our colleagues in other medical charities such as RMBF, SAMF, RMF and BMA Charities. We have also had several meetings with RCGP to explore joint initiatives.

It is always with sadness that we say goodbye to Trustees, but we were particularly sad to say goodbye to Tony Grewal who is well known to many through Londonwide LMCs and the LMC Conference. Tony was a great source of information and advice, and his advice was always given with valuable insight and a certain twinkle in his eye. At his last meeting Tony stated, "Being a Cameron Fund Trustee was a role that gave me great satisfaction and pride that we were able to help our colleagues in need."



Of course, as a Trustee leaves this does give us an opportunity and Terry John was an appointed Trustee and is now elected as a London representative. We will appoint a further Trustee to the vacancy in due course. An appointed Trustee will give us the opportunity to balance the Committee in experience and knowledge.

### *Membership survey*

While we hope that you find our newsletters a helpful way of keeping up with our activities, we are keen to engage more with members and would like to hear about your experience of the Cameron Fund. Please take a few moments to complete our short membership survey available at <https://forms.office.com/r/5MB7UmCDyn>. If you normally receive our newsletters by post, please return the survey to us in an unstamped envelope marked 'FREEPOST CAMERON' instead. Your feedback will help us to provide the news and information that is most important to you. Returns by **Friday 7 October** would be very much appreciated.



## How you can support us

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported and continues to support the Fund. We have seen a marked increase in applications since the start of the pandemic and, more recently, from GPs who are struggling with the impact of long Covid. Our ability to support GPs relies in large part on the donations that we receive. These play a vital role in enabling us to assist every eligible applicant who reaches out to the Fund.

There are many ways that you can support the Cameron Fund as an individual.

For a simple, one-off donation why not scan the QR code on the right-hand side. Individual donations can also be made by cheque, bank transfer or through a [standing order](#). If you are a UK taxpayer, completing the [Gift Aid declaration](#) (also on the website) enables us to claim 25p for every pound you donate. You can also donate from your salary, in a tax efficient way, if your employer has signed up for [Give As You Earn](#).

When you shop online you can raise money for free with over 4,000 retailers through [Give As You Live](#). Every time you shop with a selected retailer, they make a donation to the charity as a thank you. You can also do the same with [Amazon Smile](#). Simply sign up for the add-on and select The Cameron Fund. Both of these are free and simple to use.

If you are planning a sporting challenge you could use this as a fundraiser for us. Please contact us at [info@cameronfund.org.uk](mailto:info@cameronfund.org.uk) for further details.

If you haven't already, why not consider leaving us a donation in your will? We are fortunate enough to have received legacies from the estates of former GPs which are an additional boost to our donated income and would be grateful if you could consider this.

Thank you – your donations make a real difference to our work!

## Making a difference...

One of the most rewarding things about working with the Cameron Fund is when a beneficiary no longer needs our help. Dr T was a locum GP with a long-term health condition. The Cameron Fund supported him and his young family for several years during the times when Dr T was unable to work. The family is now financially stable and Dr T sent us this lovely message.

*"If it weren't for the help /support from the Cameron Fund, then I would have been in a lot of financial difficulty in years gone by. I cannot thank you enough for your kind help and support throughout the years, through times of significant hardship in terms of my health and finances. As ever, I remain determined and motivated to work as much as I can where my health permits, so that I can support my family. Many thanks for your kind help and co-operation."*