



## Member Newsletter – Autumn 2023



### *News from the Chair*

It has been a great privilege to serve the Cameron Fund as a Trustee for seventeen years and as Chair for the past six years. In particular, I take satisfaction in the number of beneficiaries helped in that time and the monies distributed.

The last three years have been a success in supporting more colleagues and their families to “prevent hardship and poverty” to a greater extent than ever before. This is partly due to Covid, partly the state of General Practice including the cost of living crisis but also making the profession more aware of the existence of the Fund. In the last three years the monies we have distributed has increased by 62% (based on our financial statements for 2022).

Although this is a success we now find ourselves, for the first time in the Fund’s existence, needing to use our capital reserves. Normally half of our income comes from the longstanding investment (created by James Cameron Chair GP Committee 1966) and the other half from donations (overwhelmingly from LMCs).

We take great care in assessing applicants and making appropriate awards according to individual circumstances in order to “prevent poverty”, always recognizing the need to spend our colleagues’ donations appropriately.

However, given the financial position we will have to take hard decisions in the coming months to either support colleagues as previously but recognize the limited life of the Fund at those donation levels, or restrict our level of support by stricter criteria, limited grants, or by time restricted support. Any or all of these measures will increase the level of hardship for our applicants at a time in their lives when they are exposed to significant stresses.

Although this is a decision to be made by the Trustees, the Fund was conceived and delivered by LMC Conference and we would welcome comments and feedback from LMCs. Even more welcome would be increased financial support from LMCs to enable us to continue to support colleagues in distress on your behalf.

I am sure that the Fund will continue its essential work in supporting those colleagues in greatest need after my time in office in whatever way that is ultimately decided.

It has been an enormous privilege to be able to assist our most vulnerable colleagues and I would like to thank all the Trustees who have supported me during my time in office and also, most importantly, the hard work and dedication of our Chief Executive, Jill Rowlinson.

### *Introducing our new trustees (Part 2!)*



#### **Dr Brian McGregor**

Brian has been a GP for 31 years, has been a partner in a small and a large practice, salaried (currently) and a locum. He has always worked as a portfolio GP, having been a GPwSI in A/E, addiction therapy, secure environment work, and medico-political roles. He currently is the Medical Secretary of YORLMC, GPC England Regional Representative for North Yorkshire and Bradford, Speaker of GPC England, Chair of the Yorkshire Regional Council of the BMA, is a GP Appraiser and still works 2 days a week in a salaried role.



### Dr Richard Vautrey

Richard is a GP partner in Leeds, clinical director of Central North Leeds PCN and the primary medical services member of West Yorkshire ICB. He is the assistant secretary of Leeds LMC and a nationally elected member of BMA Council. He is the former chair of the BMA GP committee in England and GPC UK and has recently been elected President of the RCGP.



### *Making a difference ...*

We were very grateful for the recent opportunity to contribute to a *BMJ* article about the devastating impact that long covid has had on doctors: <https://www.bmj.com/content/382/bmj.p1983>. Please do take a look if you haven't already, as the piece contains case studies that show who and how we have helped some of our beneficiaries.

We would also like to share this message from one of our long-term beneficiaries, Dr M B. This GP had been struggling with ill health for a number of years. The Cameron Fund was able to provide grants to help with essential living costs and occasions when emergency care was needed.

*"The Cameron Fund have truly been a lifeline for us over the past few years. I'm only in my early 40s, but have been largely bed bound since 2016, and now require 24/7 care and supervision. Subsequently, my husband also had to dramatically reduce his own working hours to help care for me.*

*Without the support of the Cameron Fund we would not have been able to afford the most basic of living expenses, let alone our mortgage. We are hugely grateful for all their support. It has made such an enormous difference to us, and has made an extraordinarily difficult few years that bit more manageable. Many, many thanks, from the bottom of our hearts!"*

### *How you can support us this Christmas*

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported and continues to support the Cameron Fund. Your donations make a huge difference to our work.



If you are planning to send Christmas cards by email instead of post this year, please consider making the Cameron Fund your nominated charity for any donations.

Or, if you would like to make a simple, one-off donation why not scan the QR code on the right-hand side? To find out about other ways you can donate, please visit [our website](#).

