

British International Doctors Association (BIDA) held its Annual Representative's Meeting and Annual General Meeting in Liverpool on 15th and 16th October 2011. It was well attended by delegates from England, Scotland and Wales and we had very lively and quality debates on the motions which were submitted by different Divisions of BIDA. I wish to give you a brief overview of some of these debates.

The Representative Body (RB) voted unanimously to support a motion which said that "When a charge of sexual assault is brought against a doctor, the name and details of the doctor should be kept confidential until such charge is proven" and it also asked "that the case should be held hurriedly and promptly in the wider public interest".

Delegates supported a motion to recognise the language barrier to access health care and asked BIDA to lobby for more support for NHS professionals working in areas of high immigrant population.

The RB debated and supported a motion regarding discrimination towards overseas doctors in MRCGP examination and want RCGP to be "more transparent".

A motion on the fitness of General Medical Council in "Supporting Doctors" was lost.

RB debated forthcoming Revalidation and asked for appropriate support and education for those who may require retraining.

RB strongly opposed the Treasury's proposals to alter the terms of NHS Pensions as well as deplored all the prospective severe "cuts" in the resources of the NHS within the next 4 years.

RB supported a motion which proposed the Health and Social Care Bill would give Clinicians the opportunity to commission Health Services for the benefit of patients.

A debate on the Practice Boundaries in Primary Care informed the delegates that it would be detrimental for safe medical and nursing services if it is imposed.

Delegates strongly supported the view that General Practice with an integrated multi-professional health team remains the best model for providing Primary Health Care for patients.

The RB deplored the continuous "Pay Freeze" of hospital staff for the last 3 years despite significant increase in the annual inflation.

We also debated the subnormal Vitamin D levels especially in Asian communities which should require public health intervention.

Our last motion debated to call on the GMC to issue guidance to doctors on how to respond to patients or relatives who approach them seeking confirmation of clinical conditions with a view to assisted suicide abroad and this was carried with majority.

Dr Sabyasachi Sarker
National Chairman, BIDA.

