PROPOSAL FOR UPDATE TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER 2020

Members of the Renal Association are asked to consider the Resolutions to change the Articles of Association as set out in the Formal Notice of Annual General Meeting.

A key element of the strategy of the Renal Association has been to develop closer working with the Multi Professional Team (MPT) and in 2018, to achieve this, RA members gave the Trustees a clear mandate to further discussions with the British Renal Society to form a single professional membership organisation.

The RA Trustees have worked over the past 2 years to build effective joint delivery arms, notably the Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership, UK Kidney Week, patient safety and in the community’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These have been highly effective MPT approaches which give confidence that joint working within a single organisation would achieve further rewards to members without compromising existing outputs and dynamic delivery to medical clinicians and scientist constituency.

This will provide many benefits to members including:

- Reflecting nationally our daily integrated MPT clinical approach to achieve optimum care and professional support.
- Improving delivery of the Association to its members, creating economies of scale, achieving better cross community coordination and greater impact and reducing duplication in all aspects but specifically delivery of:
  - Quality improvement and patient safety (further improvements)
  - Clinical research activity and attractiveness to funding bodies
  - National lobbying of commissioners of healthcare policy makers
  - Outputs from many joint committees; patient information and clinical practice guideline groups.
  - Support for training and professional development across all renal clinicians
  - Financial efficiencies - combining BRS and RA secretariats is likely to achieve efficiencies of scale allowing reinvestment.
  - Delivering a joint national conference going forward in this uncertain environment with financial and quality benefits
  - Increased opportunities for members to influence change
- Strategic support for the future renal unit staffing (falling registrar numbers/recruitment): Advanced Clinical Practitioners, Physicians Associates, MPT consultants.
- Research opportunities:
  - Facilitating joint MPT research applications, potentially supporting quality and quantity of research and breadth and support
  - Attracting increased research funding from: Industry, NIHR and charitable funders.
  - A coordinated approach to increase research capability and capacity
• Improved renal stakeholder engagement opportunities: more attractive with whole team approach.
  • The key role of the renal scientist constituency will be protected and enhanced.
  • The development of a series of sub-speciality Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in key areas of practice which will be the key outputs of the ‘new organisation’ and will be co-chaired by the multi-professional and medical leads.

A great amount has already been achieved through cross-community joint committee chairing and activity on which volunteers have worked. There is now a unique opportunity to take this forward in the merging of the Renal Association with the British Renal Society and the multi-professional affiliates to form a new membership organisation which we propose be named, the United Kingdom Kidney Association.

The plan is for the existing Renal Association corporate structure to be used as the ‘chassis’ for the ‘new organisation’ in relationship to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The intention will be the creation of a ‘new organisation’, with a new name and structure that operates under these Articles for which we seek approval.

The Renal Association, which includes the Renal Registry, has hundreds of individual contracts with Trusts and NHS Digital and employs upwards of 40 staff. The complexity and risk to delivery of the Registry outputs and staff of changing the charity entity would prevent us proceeding with this approach. Changes to the RA Articles to allow for new categories of membership as well as adequate representation of all groups including through elections of the multi-professional colleagues is required. Elected members will be in the majority on the Trustee Board and will be supported by other trustees both clinical and in particular non-clinical to increase the breadth of expertise required to run a modern charity.

In summary, we ask you to support the proposed changes to the Articles of Association in order to better serve the Association and approve the Trustees to progress discussions with the BRS and the multi-professional affiliate groups, with a view to a merger to the formation of the UK Kidney Association - a new professional membership body representing all kidney clinicians. A vote will be held on the merger, including details of structure, within 2 months of the AGM.