



## Medical Technology Awareness Week Reception on the House of Commons Terrace



Reception host John Pugh MP signs the MTG Patient Access to Medical Technology Pledge

Hosted by John Pugh MP

The Medical Technology Group's 2015 parliamentary reception was once again the showcase event of Medical Technology Awareness Week. Over 150 parliamentarians, patient users, patient groups, industry members, healthcare professionals, commissioners and representatives from the NHS and other Government departments came together to discuss issues surrounding medical technologies, current barriers to uptake and the benefits of medical technology in both reducing costs to the NHS and improving patient outcomes.

The aim of this annual awareness week is to get people talking about medical technology and the great potential it has to make a difference to patients' every-day lives. This year, this week also aimed to highlight medical technology's potential to generate efficiency savings in the NHS at a time when it is most needed and of the most importance. The UK is one of the slower developed countries to adopt new medical technologies, which means that many of the benefits of improved quality and patient outcomes are currently not being realised.

The focus of this year's reception was on how far medical technology has progressed in the past 50 years and its future potential and value. The themed showcase had both medical technology devices from the past and the latest technology in use today on display, which highlighted some of the huge advancements made and the potential for medical technology to innovate further and be of even greater value to patients and health services.

The showcase included displays of medical technology throughout the body from head to toe. Technology on display included thoracic stents, heart valves, ICDs, pacemakers, insulin pumps, hip and knee replacement technology, vascular stents and balloons, woundcare products, and InVivo diagnostics.

Attendees learnt about each of the technologies from charities, patient groups and industry representatives, who were at each stall to give further information and to discuss with attendees the benefits and current barriers to wider patient access.



Parliamentary Reception guests listen to the speeches

## Medical Technology Awareness Pledge

The pledge highlighted that medical technologies offer beneficial treatment options for patients with a range of both acute and long-term conditions, and that improved patient access to medical technology can deliver improved patient outcomes and savings for the NHS as well as more widely. It also stressed the importance of patient access to medical technologies, as recommended by NICE if clinically appropriate, wherever they live in the UK.

Over 20 parliamentarians attended and those below signed our parliamentary pledge calling for better patient access to medical technology across the UK:

- David Amess MP
- Lord Colwyn
- Mims Davies MP
- Nigel Dodds MP
- Mark Durkan MP
- Lord Fox
- Sir Oliver Heald MP
- Ben Howlett MP
- Kit Malthouse MP
- Baroness Masham
- Steve McCabe MP
- Caroline Nokes MP
- Chi Onuwarah MP
- John Pugh MP
- Jim Shannon MP
- Virendra Sharma MP
- Angela Smith MP
- Mark Tami MP
- Maggie Throup MP
- Angela Watkinson MP



## MTG Reception Speakers

The reception was divided into 2 speaker segments to ensure that there was time to hear from everyone and allow for networking.

### Segment 1:



Barbara Harpham

#### Barbara Harpham, Chair of the Medical Technology Group

Barbara opened the reception, calling the event a celebration of the role that medical technology has played in supporting the NHS and patients. She drew attendees' attention to the timeline which displayed some of the innovative technologies that have benefitted patients. She spoke of the MTG's pride in the achievements made which have delivered life changing innovations and been able to make a real difference to patient's everyday lives.

She did however stress that the timeline was not complete. There are new technologies being developed all the time and Barbara emphasised the need to ensure that technologies with a proven benefit to patients and NHS productivity are spread throughout the NHS, which is specifically what the MTG is campaigning on.



Damian Smith

#### Damian Smith, Innovator

Damian Smith gave an overview of the process of developing medical devices. Mr Smith stressed the need to put patients at the centre of the innovation process. Describing how, when he first started developing wound care 20 years ago, the process of development was centred around the nature of wounds. He then explained how in recent years the process has become much more about looking at the whole patient, their life and how they interact with a bandage or dressing, stressing that a 'bandage can only work if it remains on the patient'. Mr Smith said this process of looking at the whole patient and the day-to-day life of an individual has increased their ability to develop effective technologies.



Julie Bartlett

#### Julie Bartlett, Patient

Julie was one of two patients at the reception speaking on how life can be transformed by medical technology. She was diagnosed with the genetic condition Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, an enlarged heart, in 2008 at the age of 47 and spoke to attendees about the emergency surgery she underwent to install a cardiac device called a Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy (CRT). Julie is cared for by the Royal Brompton Hospital in Chelsea through a remote monitoring device, which she said has enabled her to get her life back after a period of struggling with pain, mobility and breathing issues. Whilst Julie stressed it is a hidden condition she has to manage from day to day, her cardiac and remote monitoring devices have enabled her to take advantage of the days when she is feeling well; she is able to meet friends, walk her dogs or exercise at the Heart rehab Gym.



Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

#### Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Shadow Health Team, Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Lord Hunt echoed the points made by Barbara Harpham in her opening speech as he spoke of the importance of medical devices in helping deliver improved patient outcomes and in helping the NHS achieve their savings targets. Lord Hunt said he had been a long term supporter of medical device innovation in the NHS and that he was keen to ensure that this process improves in the coming years.

### Segment 2:



Philippa Cooper

#### Philippa Cooper, Patient

Philippa Cooper spoke to attendees about her experience of medical technology as a Type 1 diabetic patient. She was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes 20 years ago and spent the first 18 years injecting two types of insulin multiple times a day, having to adjust the amount injected to try and keep her glucose levels in range. She told attendees of the difference using a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) and an insulin pump has made to her life. Both devices enable her to significantly reduce the number of hypoglycaemia (low blood glucose levels) episodes at night and better manage her glucose levels. Crucially, she said this has resulted in lower average blood glucose levels (HbA1c) which will help decrease her risk of future diabetic complications.



Robert Dixon

#### Bladder and Bowel Foundation, Patient Story

Robert Dixon, Chief-Executive of the Bladder and Bowel Foundation was the last speaker at the reception. He spoke of the importance of looking at all conditions, even those not commonly talked about such as continence issues, and the importance of patient access to treatments and medical technology across the UK.

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**Medical Technology Group Members:** ABHI, AdvaMed, AntiCoagulation Europe, ARMA, Arrhythmia Alliance, Arthritis Care, Atrial Fibrillation Association, BD, BKPA, Bladder and Bowel Foundation, Boston Scientific, British Cardiac Patients Association, C R Bard, Cardiomyopathy Association, Diabetes UK, Edwards Lifesciences, Eucomed, FABLE, FEMISA, Heart Research UK, Heart Valve Voice, ICD Group, INPUT, Insightec, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, JDRF, Johnson & Johnson, Lindsay Leg Club, Medtronic, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, Pancreatic Cancer UK, Pelvic Pain Support Network, Pumping Marvellous, Roche Diagnostics, SADS UK, Smith & Nephew, Smiths Medical, St Jude Medical, STARS, Stryker, The Circulation Foundation, The Patients Association, The Somerville Foundation.

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