

## NEWS

## BMA meeting: Consultant Mark Porter is elected as chairman of BMA council

Helen Jaques

Bournemouth

Consultant anaesthetist Mark Porter has been elected as the new chairman of the BMA's governing council, replacing outgoing chairman and general practitioner Hamish Meldrum.

Porter has been a consultant in obstetric anaesthesia at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust since 1998, where he was also a clinical director from 2000 to 2003.

He has been chairman of the BMA's Consultants Committee since 2009 and chaired its Junior Doctors Committee between 1997 and 1998.

Porter said: "I'm excited and privileged to be taking on this role at what is clearly a particularly challenging time for the NHS and the medical profession. The BMA will continue to work to help its members do the best for its patients during a time of huge change, and often huge financial difficulty, for the NHS."

Outgoing chairman Hamish Meldrum came to the end of his five year term at the BMA's annual representative meeting in Bournemouth this week. Meldrum received a standing ovation for his final speech to the meeting, in which he thanked the "fantastic people" he had worked with during his term as chairman and urged BMA members to value, support, and encourage young doctors."

Porter was elected by the 34 voting members of BMA Council at the close of the annual representative meeting.

The other candidates for the post were George Rae, a GP in Whitley Bay, and Michael Rees, a professor of vascular medicine at the University of Bangor.

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;344:e4489

© BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2012