**Chairman’s Report 2018**

**AGM January 2019**

2018 has been a year of developments for the PPA with the first Conference due in January 2019 off the back of successful Study Days in Edinburgh and London in 2017 and 2018. This falls to coincide with the 25th Anniversary year of the PPA. Looking back over the past 25 years the PPA has been an interest group which has had a huge impact on practice. This was down to the skill and energy of the early committee members and an approach of going towards difficult questions and helpfully questioning established clinical practice where emerging evidence bases warranted this. My thanks go to all of the PPA members who make the organisation so special and in particular to the exec who have given up their time to continue this work.

Education events remain a core part of the PPA and benefit members through the provision of high quality events and also provide a contribution to PPA income. Pete Gladwell and Emma Knaggs have continued to deliver the two day introduction to cognitive behavioural approaches and feedback for these events has been consistently excellent. Diarmuid has also worked to broaden the PPA education provision and has led the conference committee with vision and commitment to providing something special for members.

The PPA has also been working with other organisations to ensure we are raising the profile of physiotherapy in pain management. Martin Hay, the past PPA chair, is a co-opted member of The British Pain Society Council and provides an important link between the PPA and BPS ensuring physiotherapy voices are heard. The PPA also formulated a response to the IAPT group working on guidelines for IAPT treatments for chronic pain. Key areas of this have been to raise concerns around the classification of chronic pain as a Medically Unexplained Symptom and also to highlight the physical components of pain management and the role of good clinical understandings of pain and rehabilitation.

Good financial management over the past few years has enabled us to take the bold step of organising a conference and bringing together clinicians to meet and network. This is a huge achievement for the PPA as an organisation of only 500 members. It is important that we continue to ensure value for our members. Key membership benefits are discounted rates on educational events and access to The Journal of Pain and Rehabilitation. The journal continues to go from strength to strength and attract high quality submissions and Cormac and Chris have been doing a fantastic job driving this forwards with their editorial team.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement within the PPA exec over the past 10 years and am sad that I will no longer be involved in day to day running. I am sadder still that I will be unable to make the conference and AGM and apologise for my absence. It is however time for new things.

The roles of executive officers are challenging as they require a view of the membership and to distance from personal view points at times and act on behalf of the membership. There is also a time commitment required to facilitate involvement in project work. This year is a year of change in the exec with changes in post-holders; this is important for the sustainability and growth of the organisation and ensures fresh ideas identify changes. I wish the new exec well in continuing to steer the progress and development of the PPA into the next 25 years.