RCOG Women’s Voices Involvement Panel (WVIP)

A selection of comments received from the 2019 membership survey.

General comments

“Having been involved with this panel for several years I have seen it grow and evolve. I continue to enjoy being involved and feel my contribution is valued.”

“Pleased that women’s health post-childbearing age has not been forgotten.”

“(the Facebook group) … gives us an opportunity to network and learn from each other. We all have our own sphere of interest but as we know, it is all interlinked so it is great to be able to talk openly in a safe space and exchange ideas etc. Plus it allows us to feedback to the RCOG about things and feel we are having a positive input into things.”

“I don’t often get involved with things but I feel connected to activities to make improvements when I receive news of what’s going on.”

“I find this group hugely valuable as a source of information and contacts. It’s like a huge hive of anything you could ever possibly want to know about women’s health…It does feel like a group in which the members take ownership in a collegiate and generally respectful way.”

“It sometimes feels like there are a lot of experts and people who work in the field (women’s health) who regularly comment and share their work but maybe less of a voice for real lay-people/patients”

“I still don’t feel the condition I have is being recognised and that I am a lone voice on this panel in trying to bring about change. Just because it isn’t common like menopause doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be taken seriously.”

“For me it’s been educational and enlightening.”

“I think the Royal College certainly listens and takes heed of what this panel and the women’s network are saying. It feels like there is a lot of thought given when we make suggestions and raise issues.”

“It is actually well run and well moderated. It is quite balanced and varied”
Suggestions and ideas

“Connecting through video and online meetings has been a big help – I love tuning into the webinars. More like this please!”

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“It is important to help those who don’t often speak to raise their voices above those who speak about the same issues regularly (and loudly).”

“A platform for doctors to ask WVIP questions may be useful as a means to learn how women feel and to improve their communication skills with patients.”

“There are a lack of opportunities to be involved ’at a distance’. I would love to have more opportunities for virtual involvement and online meetings”.

“...we do need more for dads and partners (not necessarily all the time but some of the time). A dads and partners chat or webinar occasionally with clinicians.”

“As a member of the panel, could we speak to the Women’s Network directly sometimes to get our voices heard so they can take our issues to the College?”

“Connect to a wider group of women bigger than this panel and the patient groups through video and social media.”