Dear Colleague,

I want to start this week’s blog by thanking Dr Rob Morgan who did a tremendous job of representing the College in front of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee this week. On a panel along with the BMA and Royal College of Nursing, Rob explained the RCGP Wales response to the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill. This response was prepared in discussion with Dr Karen Gully. The key aspects which the College focused on were the definitions of the terms used in the high-level Bill and the level of independence from Government of the proposed Citizen’s Voice body. I understand that, appropriately enough on the eve of the Rugby World Cup, Rob also managed to name drop Warren Gatland into one answer after David Rees AM had used a rugby analogy in his question.

I was also pleased to see another example of RCGP Wales’ political engagement on the big challenges facing healthcare in Wales. On Wednesday the Senedd debated air quality and to coincide with this, Dr Isolde Shore-Nye and Dr Rowena Christmas recorded short videos highlighting the importance of air quality as a public health concern. Their videos received 800 views in 24 hours.

On Thursday, North Wales Faculty hosted mentoring training. We are trying to expand the mentors programme which aims to provide support to qualified GPs in Wales. This scheme is open to all GPs at any stage in their career. Sometimes it can be helpful to share thoughts and consider options with someone else in the profession. The scheme links GPs with an experienced GP who doesn’t belong to their practice or career stage group. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or are a GP who thinks you’d gain from being paired with a mentor, you can contact Kirsty Dodd in confidence via Kirsty.dodd@rcgp.org.uk.

Until next time,

Kind regards

Peter

Dr Peter Saul
Joint Chair, RCGP Wales