



Atrial Fibrillation Association
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Providing information, support and access to established and new treatments for atrial fibrillation

NEWS RELEASE FROM ATRIAL FIBRILLATION ASSOCIATION

NEW PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO CHAMPION AWARENESS OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

The All Party Group on Atrial Fibrillation (APGAF) was officially launched in Westminster last night when it heard from Professor Roger Boyle, National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke at the Department of Health. Professor Boyle addressed a gathering of cross party MPs and Peers and outlined the progress made in the management of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) as well as examining the challenges facing the NHS in detecting, and caring for patients with, AF.

The inaugural meeting was led by the Chair of the APGAF, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire Glyn Davies MP. The All Party Group's activities will help it achieve its aim of raising awareness of the issues affecting patients diagnosed with AF, working to ensure the diagnosis, care, treatment, management and research of AF is a priority for the NHS. AF is the most common heart rhythm disorder in the UK and is estimated to affect more than one million people.

Speaking after the meeting, Glyn Davies MP said:

“Atrial Fibrillation is an issue that is very important to me and I am delighted to have been elected to Chair the APG on AF. As an AF patient myself, I know the importance of knowing the signs and symptoms of AF in order to receive an early diagnosis and the appropriate treatment. I look forward to working with my fellow parliamentarians to raise awareness of AF and make this Group a resounding success.”

Chief Executive and Founder of AFA, Trudie Lobban MBE said:

“The APG on AF will work to ensure the diagnosis, care, treatment, management and research of AF is a priority for the NHS. As we come to a critical juncture in the NHS reforms in England, it is important that patients with AF have a greater say in their care, and for the NHS to ensure that there is better diagnosis and treatment options available to patients with AF. I am delighted that the AFA is able to play a crucial part in establishing this Group.”

Ends

Notes for editors

1. The All Party Group on Atrial Fibrillation held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2011. At that meeting, Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire was elected as Chair. The elected Vice Chairs are Conservative Peer Lord Colwyn, Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Jones of Cheltenham and Madeleine Moon, Labour MP for Bridgend. The AFA supports the establishment of the Group.
2. A photograph of the Officers is available on request.

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The Atrial Fibrillation Association (AFA) is a UK registered charity which focuses on raising awareness of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) by providing information, education and support materials for patients and medical professionals involved in detecting, diagnosing and managing Atrial Fibrillation (AF). AFA works closely with medical professionals, Department of Health, Government, NHS Trusts, PCTs, patients, carers, patient support groups and allied groups. Further information can be found at www.afa.org.uk.