

Working together to improve the diagnosis, treatment and quality of life for all those affected by arrhythmias

## ARRHYTHMIA ALLIANCE LAUNCHES ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON ARRYTHMIAS

Arrhythmias are a critical health concern in the UK, but the necessary policy attention and resource focus is limited. There are many issues from a management and service provision perspective that need to be addressed for the benefit of patients and the NHS. A strong political voice is necessary to help raise these issues and help to effect positive change.

An All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) – when managed effectively – can be a powerful resource to drive change in policy, focus and resource in health issues. The representatives of these Groups attend educational meetings within parliament to learn more about their areas of interest, raise questions in Houses and hold debates in Westminster that can bring issues to the Government's attention.

Building on its success with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Atrial Fibrillation (APPG-AF), Parliamentary Events held during Heart Rhythm and AF Aware Weeks, Westminster based Know Your pulse events and policy driven initiatives, Arrhythmia Alliance (A-A) decided now was the time to set up an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arrhythmias (APPG-A).

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, this aim was realised with the formal election of a Chair and Officers, in Westminster, to lead the APPG-A, with A-A acting as secretariat for the Group. The Chair is Mike Gapes MP, who sadly lost his teenage daughter to sudden cardiac arrest a few years ago, and who himself, suffered a cardiac emergency in November 2015. So far 12 MPs and Peers, from across the political spectrum have signed up to become members of this Group and to provide an active voice in parliament to raise awareness and issues related to arrhythmias.



Mike Gapes MP, Chair, APPG-A

There are many challenges to be overcome in arrhythmia management for which this Group can provide a voice and call for action. For example, reducing the unnecessary deaths from sudden cardiac arrest, addressing the misdiagnosis and inappropriate management of syncope, and raising the uptake and implantation of implantable defibrillators to the level of our European neighbours to improve patient outcomes.

If you would like to know more, or wish to attend future meetings of this Group in Westminster please contact [nigel@heartrhythmalliance.org](mailto:nigel@heartrhythmalliance.org)

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**President:** Prof A. John Camm, QHP, MD, FRCP, FACC. **Trustees:** Mr Mark Bullock, Professor Richard Schilling, MB, BS, FRCP, MD, Mr Nigel Farrell, LLB (Hons), Dr Adam P Fitzpatrick, MD, FRCP, FACC, Mrs Trudie Lobban MBE FRCP Edin  
**Patrons:** W B Beaumont, OBE, Rt. Hon Tony Blair, Prof Silvia G Priori, Prof Hein JJ Wellens, HM King Constantine of Greece

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## Notes to editors

1. Arrhythmia Alliance, are global advocates, working in partnership to reduce deaths and impact on individuals caused by cardiac arrhythmias and their associated morbidities. By raising awareness and campaigning for the improved detection and care of heart rhythm disorders, Arrhythmia Alliance aims to extend and improve the lives of the millions around the world that these conditions affect. Visit website [www.hearhythmalliance.org](http://www.hearhythmalliance.org)

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