Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As Charles Dickens wrote in a Christmas carol “At this festive season of the year, it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute. ”In that spirit could I ask you to think of the Cameron Fund this Christmastide? Please allow me to explain about the fund.

The 1964 GP Contract was negotiated by the GMSC led by Dr James Cameron and proved a landmark in the history of UK general practice. During the implementation of the contract in 1966 it was found that there was a surplus of £800,000 in the group practice loan fund which had existed since the 1950s. Dr Cameron amazingly persuaded the government to return the money to general practice and use it to found a charity. The 1970 LMC Conference voted to establish a charity to provide for “the relief of poverty, sickness or distress” for GPs and their dependants and named the fund after Dr Cameron.

There has been a link with Worcestershire LMC ever since the foundation of the Fund with an LMC doctor on the Board of Trustees. I am delighted to follow in the footsteps of Robin Steel, David Brownridge and Bob Ingles. I was appointed recently and joined in my first zoom board meeting two weeks ago. The fund is supporting many colleagues who have found themselves in dire financial straits often due to health problems. The current pandemic has frequently exacerbated their problems.

The fund relies on donations from LMCs, practices and individual doctors. We should be proud that Worcestershire has always sent a significant annual donation. Might I ask that individual members and/or their practices might consider the Cameron Fund this year.

The Cameron Fund is our charity. Run by GPs for GPs.

Best wishes,

Simon Parkinson

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