

AF Association welcomes new Medical Advisory Committee member

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Sotiris Antoniou is Consultant Pharmacist at Barts Heart Centre, part of Barts Health NHS Trust. Combined with his role as Lead Cardiovascular Pharmacist for UCL Partners supports medicines optimisation across the health economy to optimise patient outcomes and address unmet local needs.

He is an independent prescriber and is currently chair of the cardiac committee for United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA). He is chair of the international Pharmacist Anticoagulation Taskforce (iPACT). A group aimed to improve pharmaceutical care around anticoagulants, by providing background materials and stimulating pharmacists to provide appropriate care to their patients.

He has published extensively in the medical press and has a particular interest in improving anticoagulation for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation. Sotiris has been successful in obtaining a Lord Darzi funded fellow to 'co-design and test a new referral pathway for people with atrial fibrillation with community pharmacists' with the aim to support individuals understanding of their condition and their therapy with the ultimate aim of optimising adherence.

He is actively involved in the training and development of clinical pharmacists including developing a curriculum and assessment tool for advanced and consultant level specialist cardiac pharmacists working with the UKCPA and Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Sotiris has served on many NICE development groups including Unstable Angina/NSTEMI guideline, stable angina and STEMI guidelines and is a current NICE TA member of the highly specialist technology appraisal group. He is also a member of the London Strategic Clinical Network Cardiovascular Leadership Group and NHS England Medicines Optimisation Intelligence Group meeting. Sotiris is also an honorary senior research associate at UCL School of Pharmacy.

Sotiris said: "I am excited and delighted to become a member of the medical advisory committee. I am looking forward to supporting AF Association in raising awareness of AF amongst healthcare professionals and general public.

I hope my clinical expertise and enthusiasm will be of value to the committee, AF Association and most importantly to the public who have been affected by the condition."

