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2023 Community Outreach Officer Report

Throughout 2023 I have continued to operate as the association's Community Outreach Officer in a volunteer capacity.

This has been an interrupted year in my role of Community Outreach Officer. I took some time away from the role to dedicate myself to my studies. I must thank Jessica for stepping up and adding my role to her already very busy workload while I was away.

I have spoken to numerous people and families this year and have anecdotally noticed a further increase in the complexity of incoming enquiries. This includes those looking for advice or support, either for themselves or loved ones, or enquiries regarding the numerous ongoing studies and clinical trials. This demonstrates the necessity for individualised support and the importance of the role; we hope to be able to dedicate additional guidance and resources to this position in 2024.

This year has been one of substantial personal growth also. I have recently completed the Master of Genetic Counselling program at the University of Melbourne. Through the course I have learned much about successful communication of genetic concepts and have experienced the clinical side of genetic care through my placements. I hope to be able to apply these learnings in an ongoing manner with the association.

I would like to thank our president Jessica Betteridge and the rest of the committee once again for their ongoing support. I would also like to express my appreciation for the Porphyrina community that I have now worked closely with for some years. As an Association, we hope that 2024 can be a year of substantial growth and that we can continue to provide support where possible.

Kind regards,

James Clark
Community Outreach Officer