

Position: President

Nominee: Katherine Bellchambers Wilson

Nominated by: Jo Farren and Martin Schoenbeck

Supporting statement

I have been a practising medical herbalist for over 15 years, specialising in endocrine and reproductive health, and I am deeply committed to inclusivity in our profession, ensuring that all peoples, irrespective of any protected characteristic or on the margins of society, have access to safe, effective care.

The Council, where I served as Treasurer and Finance Director (2012- 2018) taught me how vital strong governance and financial stewardship are to the Institute. During that time we protected member funds, ended costly external contracts, modernised communications, ushered in the new era of administration and began the process of modernisation. And I, alongside the President, personally represented the NIMH at the MHRA to protect our access to whole plant families.

I have taught, mentored, and spoken widely — in clinics, classrooms, the media, and workplaces — to strengthen understanding of herbal medicine and support the profession we serve.

I am standing for President because I believe the NIMH needs steady, transparent leadership that is financially sound, inclusive, and member-focused while supporting the staff that make the work of the institute possible. Our Institute has been the voice of herbal medicine for over 160 years; my vision is to honour that legacy while ensuring we are fit for the future.

Position: Director

Nominee: Willow Murton

Nominated by: Paula McCreary and Katie Beswick

Supporting statement

Personal

I live and practice in West Wales, growing and gathering many of the herbs that I use. I qualified in 2022 having studied with both Heartwood and Betonica. My herbal path began here on the organic hill farm I grew up on, amidst wild hedgerows and gardens. Although I was always drawn to medicine, I studied languages. This led me to a job at the BBC and over the last 20 years, I have worked on documentaries around the world, visiting indigenous communities and learning from them. This, in part, inspired me to take up herbal medicine and work with the plants that grow so generously around us. With this comes a deep sense of care for the natural world and supporting sustainability in our profession and the wider herbal industry.

Why I would like to become a NIMH director

I am interested in helping support NIMH to give us a greater voice as a profession. As an individual member - living on a hill in Wales! - it can often feel lonely and dislocated from other herbalists and those working with plants. I want to be at the heart of the herbal community and becoming a NIMH director is a way of giving back, getting involved and offering skills to make us a stronger herbal community.

Professional

I am a member of BHMA and the Herb Society.

I am currently working alongside Ann Armbrrecht as the programme assistant for the Sustainable Herbs Initiative. SHI is a US based organisation that brings together stakeholders in the botanical world and works towards supporting a more sustainable and equitable future for plants, wild-harvesters and producers and people working with plants as well as the planet itself.

<https://www.sustainableherbsinitiative.org/>

I have a life-long interest in organic agriculture and horticulture. I worked for the Organic Herb Trading Company until March this year with a focus on sourcing and supplier relations. This gave me huge insight into the challenges involved in herbal horticulture and wild-harvesting and the real costs and issues involved.

I continue to do some freelance TV documentary work, specialising in indigenous cultures, the Amazon and other far flung places.

Position: Director

Nominee: Kim Walker

Nominated by: Helen Kearney and Flora Scott

Supporting statement

My goal is to support and develop areas within NIMH and the professional herbal medicine community, while also promoting the value of herbal medicine to a wider audience.

As a trained, (non-practicing) medical herbalist, I transitioned into writing, research, academia, and education. I believe my background and networks allow me to connect with individuals keen on advancing research within herbal medicine. Additionally, I am passionate about guiding students pursuing professional diplomas in herbal medicine towards diverse career paths beyond traditional practice.

My current work spans three key areas:

1. Director and Lecturer, Betonica School of Herbal Medicine (www.betonica.co.uk)
2. Author and Teacher, Handmade Apothecary workshops (www.handmadeapothecary.co.uk)
3. Honorary Research Associate, Kew Gardens and Royal Holloway, where I focus on herbal projects in ethnobotany, biocultural history, and genetics. I completed my PhD in 2023 and am currently researching plant-based alkaloids, specifically quinine and cocaine. (<https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/people/kim-walker>)

I am also a committee member in the Herbal History Research Network (www.herbalhistory.org) and the British Society for the History of Pharmacy (www.bsph.org), but do not see any competing interests within these roles.

I would bring my energy and organisational skills to this role and actively contribute to new projects.

For an overview/CV please see: www.kimwalkerresearch.com