



bsg News

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SUMMER 2024



OUT-GOING PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A message from Prof Andy Veitch



BSG HEPATOLOGY UPDATE

The year for liver



ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Looking back at BSG LIVE'24

A MESSAGE FROM AN EX-PRESIDENT

I am still buzzing from the excitement of BSG LIVE and remembering the enthusiasm of attendees. We had our first sell out meeting and, while that was disappointing for those unable to attend, this is a positive reflection of our growing family that is the BSG.



We now have our highest membership ever, which is truly multidisciplinary and diverse, and with an increase in all categories. I was particularly pleased to speak with some of the newer trainees attending their first meeting, and I have fond memories of my first BSG meeting about 30 years ago. I also very much enjoyed meeting our undergraduate members, was impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication for medicine, and was pleased that they felt very welcome among gastroenterologists. As ever, I met many of the friends I have made in gastroenterology over the years, and the social side of the meeting remains important. While the challenges and stresses of our day jobs in the NHS continue, the meeting was a welcome respite from this, though many of the sessions directly addressed those challenges.

The BSG recognises the challenges we face, and continues to be a source of support for our members. Our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy](#) is providing real transparency about the BSG and its activities, while working to provide not only the opportunities, but tools and support for all our members to achieve their goals.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to lead the first environmental sustainability strategy of any gastroenterology society in the world, and am pleased to see this embraced and incorporated throughout the activities of the BSG, and enthusiastically embraced by our members. This is now embedded within the organisation, and the work will continue to be developed by the Sustainability working group led by Sandeep Siddhi.

“ We must never forget that all of those individuals give their time voluntarily for the benefit of our members and patients ”

I know that the Society is in excellent hands with Colin Rees as our new President, and the many new and continuing faces on the Executive, Council, and section committees. We must never forget that all of those individuals give their time voluntarily for the benefit of our members and patients. It is however a very rewarding and productive experience which can counter the stresses which contribute to gastroenterology having the highest rate of burnout among the medical specialties. I would encourage any of you to considering working with the BSG at any stage in your career.

Work-life balance is critical to us all, and post presidency I can enjoy the reduced pressure on my email inbox, and have found additional peace by deleting Twitter/X! I feel very proud of the society I have had the honour to lead, and know that it will continue to be a welcoming home for our members, as well as a world-class source of education, training, and research.

With very best wishes to you all.

ANDY VEITCH President June 2022 – June 2024

EXPLORE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Check out our calendar to see what's planned for 2024/25 with exciting events such as Liver and IBD highlights from BSG LIVE'24, as well as various Trainees events. [View the full calendar here.](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 AWARD WINNERS!

We are delighted to extend our congratulations to this year's impressive award winners, as well as the poster and oral winners for each category, awarded at BSG LIVE'24 in June. [Read the full list of the 2024 winners.](#)

THE YEAR FOR LIVER

It is shocking to realise that I have been the VP of Hepatology for a whole year. It has been a very interesting 12 months, and I am still honoured to be in this position.

Time moves so swiftly and of course all of the BSG roles must fit in amongst busy hospital jobs and home life. I would imagine working in a DGH is no different to working in a larger tertiary centre; the dedicated commitment to service from the staff is the same and the volume of workload proportional. It is the similar strains on the system that gives the liver section the need to look at hepatology as a whole, and the workforce saga impacts ability in everything.

This year, the liver section has been working on several guidelines on outpatients and on workforce. Though staffing shortages are felt throughout the NHS, it does feel like liver disease is where more needs to be done the soonest. Being VP has the advantage of being at the front of new ideas and progression, and being asked to sit on a huge variety of committees and represent the liver community of the BSG.

Some of the highlights, or low lights, from this year: The NCEPOD report 'Remeasuring the Units' looked at our national outcomes from alcohol misuse. Sadly, this did not show any improvement in outcomes for liver patients over the last 10 years. More recently, the disappointing lack of alcohol minimum pricing in England when our colleagues in the devolved nations are seeing a reduction in alcohol harm from new policies. Most recently from the BSG, [a statement](#) supporting

“ The only way forward for liver medicine is to empower the workforce, from early disease detection projects to ward-based care from specialist staff ”

all of our colleagues that may have been touched by the hepatitis C blood scandal, and to acknowledge the suffering it has caused.

The BSG has continued to do what it does best; offer open access education and guideline materials, support members in all ways possible, and listen to concerns with ideas on how to take problems forward as well as what works well. But the only way forward for liver medicine is to empower the workforce, from early disease detection projects to ward-based care from specialist staff. Most recently, the debate on Physician Associates has had us all engaged and the prompt BSG statements have been reassuring that the evolving workforce landscape has not gone unnoticed. We completely support our trainees and nurses, but also acknowledge there is a burgeoning workforce crisis and that many departments will already have skilled PAs embedded in their service structure who are invaluable members of the team. There is no easy answer, we have signposted ways in which the voice of our members can be heard including GMC and RCP surveys, as well as being willing to take on oversight of governance issues. PAs continue to be welcome in our forums.

With the robust international standing of the BSG, we continue to work as one group in liver disease, embracing all of our members with an open-door policy, so that everyone is seen and heard. We need to continue to stand together, to hear everyone, not only to endure as a progressive society, but also as part of our constitution – to improve the health of the nation.



CORAL HOLLYWOOD
Hepatology Vice President



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED BSG LIVE'24

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped create and attended [BSG LIVE'24](#) on 17th – 20th June at the ICC in Birmingham.

As the premier and most extensive assembly of professionals from the UK GI Community, we hosted over 2,600 healthcare experts in this significant four-day scientific event. With a delegation comprising of physicians, surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, scientists, nurses, dieticians, undergraduates, and other dedicated individuals specialising in gastroenterology and hepatology, BSG LIVE is the definitive annual gathering for all those involved in this field.

BSG LIVE'24 featured the return of Monday Masterclass, an opening Plenary featuring keynotes and awarded lectures from leaders within the specialty, as well as more than 60 specialist scientific symposia. This year, we ran a seventh stream of sessions with more symposia on Research, as well as new symposia on NETS, "Gastroenterology in the Next 5 Years", GI Pathology, and an additional Sustainability session.

“ It was striking to see a new generation of gastroenterology and hepatology leaders and speakers dominate the programme. ”

The conference went incredibly well and we were fully sold out for the first time in BSG history. The atmosphere was fantastic, as was the feedback following numerous people coming up to us to tell us that it was the best BSG annual conference that they have been to, and the quality of the talks was extremely high.

This year we saw the successful return of Pathology, had the biggest EndoVillage ever over 3 days, as well as a very popular undergraduate reception also attended by some of our BSG Officers. We worked as a Society and with our industry partners and conference organisers to build on key strategic themes of BSG like Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Sustainability.

The BSG is committed to supporting and promoting environmental sustainability across all aspects of its practice nationally and internationally, and to supporting the NHS in its aims to achieve a net zero service. We are delighted to have delivered our most sustainable conference yet. Some of our key achievements this year was minimal conference materials produced, city centre location with good public transport and walkable social events, only vegetarian food served on two event days, no single use plastics throughout



the venue and dedicated water stations, tracking the impact of the event with questions on delegate travel, partnership with Event Cycle to redistribute items purchased for the family room to a local charity and will upcycle and redistribute other materials.

From our experience in sessions, we felt the conference was inclusive and dynamic. It was striking to see a new generation of gastroenterology and hepatology leaders and speakers dominate the programme, and many people remarked on that and found that to be positive and optimistic. We hope to continue to build on this in BSG LIVE'25, save the date for SEC, Glasgow on 23rd – 26th June 2025!

As you know, it takes a huge number of people to deliver something as large as our conference from the many speakers, chairs and EndoVillage trainers, the TFI Lodestar conference team and our own BSG team. We are talking hundreds of people and it's all those people, the BSG committees, and yourselves that made BSG LIVE'24 a success. We know a huge amount of effort and thought goes into developing and delivering educational

programmes and without that work to form the heart of the conference, it would not be the success it has been.

If you attended and missed any sessions, we have just extended the platform closing date to 30th August so you can catch up on-demand on all of the main programme sessions by logging into your BSG LIVE account. If you couldn't attend this year, you can purchase an [on-demand ticket](#) and watch all of the recordings as well as view the e-posters.

We are also thrilled to share the [BSG LIVE'24 highlights video](#), capturing the exciting buzz and atmosphere at this year's annual meeting. We would like to finish with an enormous thank you, congratulations and wishing you all a wonderful summer.



HELEN STEED

Senior Secretary



SAFA AL-SHAMMA

Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRAINEES CHAIR

It is a huge privilege to chair the BSG Trainees section, and I owe a great deal to my predecessors for their work to date. I have big shoes to fill!

Of late, we have been busy responding to training concerns raised by our colleagues. Many of you will have seen [the letter](#) sent to organisations involved in speciality training which highlighted [key areas of concern](#). These included the impact of service provision upon gastroenterology training, and the difficulties accessing endoscopy training including upper GI bleed training. We are grateful for the responses from the [JRCPTB](#), [BSG](#), Gastroenterology and IM SAC, and remain committed to working with stakeholders to find pragmatic solutions to these issues. Amid the NHS workforce crisis, a huge proportion of senior trainees are choosing not to accept substantive consultant posts as they CCT. Combined with the prediction that 50% of the current consultant workforce will retire within the next decade, this projects a rather concerning void in our workforce. We must ensure that senior trainees are confident and competent when making the transition into consultancy and put simply; feel confident they must be trained adequately. The 2024 BSG National Trainee Survey will provide us with a better understanding of the barriers to achieving this.

Our survey will also tell us more about our trainee workforce, and about how barriers disproportionately

“ I look forward to working with the gastroenterology community to remove the glass ceilings that clearly still exist ”

affect some more than others. Firstly, we know that whilst currently 20% work flexibly, 44% of trainees look to do so in the future. The majority (90%) of flexible workers are women but importantly, requests from men are increasing also. At first glance, flexible working challenges both traditional training and workforce models. However, given the burnout and attrition rates within gastroenterology, flexible working presents an opportunity to optimise retention and shape what future sustainable working looks like. Secondly, female medical students continue to outnumber their male counterparts at approximately 55%. The number of UK female trainees is increasing, yet only 24% of UK gastroenterology and hepatology consultants are female. Within my working lifetime, I hope these percentages will align and I look forward to working with the gastroenterology community to remove the glass ceilings that clearly still exist, to make our specialty appealing and accessible to everyone.

Finally, some lighter material - a busy programme of events. Our [education course](#) and management and leadership events will again run in the week to safeguard precious weekend downtime. Our [taster events](#) are aimed at FY and IMT trainees, but our faculty often comment how uplifting it is to be in a room buzzing with enthusiasm for our speciality in which there is always plenty to be excited about. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

 **RICIA GWENTER**
Trainees Chair



CATCH UP ON THE BSG INTERNATIONAL GRAND ROUNDS WEBINARS

All episodes from seasons 1 and 2 of the Grand Rounds are now available to watch on-demand! Free to watch, with no registration required, catch up on any [missed episodes here](#).



2024 SERVICE SUCCESS STORIES ARE NOW LIVE

Read the winning, highly commended, and other successful [Service Success Stories](#) submitted for this year's CSSC Service Development Prize.



BSG CAMPUS

Registration is
now live!

campus.bsg.org.uk



2 - 5 DECEMBER 2024 | ONLINE

BSG EDUCATION SECTION UPDATE

The annual conference of the British Society of Gastroenterology, BSG LIVE'24, was absolutely packed with the best quality of education that was bigger and better than ever before and can rival any other international meeting in the world.

It was all about education, research, and training at BSG LIVE, and I hope you managed to attend the Education Committee's Mentoring Workshop on Wednesday morning. If you missed any of these exciting sessions, you can [catch up on-demand](#) until 8th August.

Behind the scenes, the Education Team has been very active in the last few months. Two of our associate online web education Editors, Dr John Ong and Dr Srivathsan Ravindran, have completed their term and we have successfully appointed two new online associate Editors, Dr Jennifer Tham and Dr Eather Shakweh, who have already started delivering some collaborative education with the Royal College of Physicians. The Web Education team led by my Co-Chair, Dr Roisin Bevan and Dr Navjyot (Jyoti) Hansi have been producing web articles on a regular basis – they have released 2 new videos in January 2024, a new Journal Highlights article on the 'Diagnosis and management of functional dyspepsia', and a top tips video on "How to get a Gastroenterology number".

Our Education Committee meetings have been very well attended and supported by our Education

“ We have had fantastic representation from all of the BSG and have secured commitment for contribution to the web education portal and high-quality videos ”



Manager, Michael, together with other members of the BSG team including Maria, Lucy, Liz, and Tim. We have had fantastic representation from all the sections of the BSG and have secured commitment for contribution to the [web education portal](#) and high-quality videos, as well as podcasts. I am sure that all our members will benefit from this in the coming year.

The Royal College of Physicians has also decided to produce a few podcasts aimed at those preparing for MRCP PACES and upskill consultants in general medicine, and our BSG education team have been asked to provide these for them. Eather and Jennifer have confirmed a couple of podcasts already for them!

We are just in the process of finalising two new education projects which will be quite unique for our trainees – look out for details that will come shortly. I am very keen to engage with our GI trainees to create innovative learning tools in gastroenterology, hepatology, and endoscopy, and if you are interested, please reach out to me directly.

Finally, on the mentoring front, Francesca Moroni has expanded our mentorship platform to include IMT 3 trainees who are seeking support to become gastroenterology registrars. Mentorship will hopefully ensure their successful application and interview process to allow them to join this vibrant GI community.



ANJAN DHAR

Education Chair

CHECK OUT OUR JOURNALS

We are proud co-owners of Gut, Europe's highest-ranked gastroenterology journal, Frontline Gastroenterology, focuses on clinical aspects, and Open Gastroenterology. [Find out more and read them here.](#)



BSG GUT HIGHLIGHTS

We're bringing Gut and BSG members closer by highlighting the best and most interesting articles [published in this series](#) each month.

BSG RESEARCH UPDATE

It is with great pleasure that I take over the helm as the first female and Academic Hepatologist Chair of the BSG Research Committee in June 2024. I would like to begin by sincerely thanking Shaji Sebastian for leading the Committee through a very challenging 2 years as UK Gastroenterology re-emerged from the covid pandemic.

Research is fundamental to every aspect of medicine, regardless of academic discipline, clinical speciality, locality, or level of practice. Since the NHS was founded in 1948, it has gained an international acclaimed reputation for outstanding biomedical and clinical research contribution. This is underpinned by the fundamental belief that patients should receive not only the best care that is currently available, but to aspire to delivering even better care in the future. Furthermore, it is recognised that patients enrolled in clinical trials have better outcomes than those who are not.

I believe that it is possible to integrate clinical care and research into the NHS. That said, the Covid-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for research and innovation. The onus has been on catching up clinically, clearing backlogs against a backdrop of industrial action in an adverse financial climate with reduced charitable and research council funding. We need to rejuvenate a disenfranchised, disengaged, and 'burnt out' workforce.

It is therefore vital to identify clear realistic strategic priorities in partnership with patients, carers, clinicians, external partners, and charitable bodies. So, what part can the BSG play in the integration of clinical care and research? Research has been at the heart of the BSG since its inception. 15,000 patients have been recruited to UK-led endoscopy trials in the last 5 years. The [BSG Research Strategy 2021-24](#) will be key to this and builds upon the work done over recent years identifying key strategic priorities for the [7 Clinical Research Groups \(CRGs\)](#):

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- Endoscopy
- Liver
- IBD
- Food and Function
- Pancreas
- AI Task Force
- Gut Microbiota for Health

So, what do I see as our strategic research priorities for 2024-25? We need to support our members in participating in research and continue to define the research priorities in collaboration with the James Lind Alliance; a collaborative effort that involves patients, carers, scientists, clinicians, and allied health professionals. Specifically, we need to support the delivery of the NIHR-funded Gastroenterology and Hepatology portfolio which includes pivotal clinical trials that are driving the global research agenda.

To overcome some of these barriers, the BSG has introduced the [BSG Research Scholars Scheme](#) which enables financial support and mentorship to research active clinicians and allied health professionals to carve out time to dedicate to pursuing research. I am keen to publicise and expand this scheme in the coming years. We are also proud to see that many BSG trainees have also joined the NIHR Associate Principal Investigator Scheme that will train our clinical research leaders of the future which has been bolstered by the incredibly productive [Trainee Research Networks](#) who continue to tackle some of the key clinical research questions. Finally, it has been wonderful to witness the growing engagement of our Allied Health Professionals in clinical research including pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and dieticians. It is the intention of the Research Committee to continue to mentor and support the delivery of research at the very heart of the BSG.



DEBBIE SHAWCROSS
Research Chair

BSG TRAINING UPDATE

It is a cliché but time flies! Almost a year since my appointment as deputy chair of the Training Committee, writing this piece has allowed time for reflection on a very busy 12 months.

Very early on, I was delighted to attend the Strategy Day which provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with other members of the BSG, learn about what other committees are doing, and contribute to the future strategy plan.

One of my first 'big' events was the National Introduction to Gastroenterology day held in Birmingham in November 2023 which Simon Panter (Chair of the Training Committee) and I planned and hosted. We were delighted to welcome 40 delegates at the IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology). The face-to-face event provided a much-welcomed opportunity for those new to higher specialty training to network and meet some inspirational people within the specialty. The programme included sessions on the Shape of Gastroenterology training, Hepatology over the next 4 years, the SCE, why we love the many subspecialties within Gastroenterology and many other topics. We received excellent feedback from the delegates and are currently planning the next event.

I was pleased to be a part of the judging panel of the Barbers Company Award. This is an award of £3000 to contribute to a project that helps patient care through clinical service delivery. We received 9 excellent applications. I am delighted that Dr Theresa Hydes (a Mersey-based HST) was the successful candidate and her project aims to support those with metabolic associated liver disease.

“ The face-to-face event provided a much-welcomed opportunity for those new to higher specialty training to network and meet some inspirational people within the specialty. ”

The Training Committee is also involved in assisting with judging the Dame Parveen Kumar Award for Education and Training. The applicants are nominated by the trainees in recognition of their contribution to Education and Training. We received 32 applications to a very high standard and the winner was Dr Sarah Clark, Consultant Hepatologist, St George's Hospital London. Sarah received her award at BSG LIVE in June 2024, attended the President's dinner at the conference, will receive £1,000 towards an educational project of her choice, and was invited to join the BSG Training

Committee as an associate member for one year. There were also two highly commended nominees, Dr Louise China, Consultant Hepatologist, Royal Free London Hospital, and Dr Phedra Dodds, Nurse Lead, NHS England South West Endoscopy Programme.

Recognising the importance of collaborative working, I have also been involved in a working group supporting Dr Charlie Andrews (GP) to produce a framework to support GPwER in Gastroenterology. The Training Committee members suggested some changes to the final document. Once completed, the framework will be presented to the BSG Executive and Council for their consideration of approval at their meeting in September 2024.

I continue to work with the trainees and recently appointed consultants on the newly established New Consultants Group within the committee to support those transitioning to consultant roles. I was thrilled that within the first few months of the group, we were able to deliver a session at the BSG annual meeting which was received positively. I look forward to the next 12 months!



KATIE CLARK,
Deputy Chair, Training Committee



The BSG Mentoring programme aims to help our members with their career growth and development by strategically matching those who are looking for additional knowledge or advice with suitable mentors. Find out more and sign up to be a mentor or mentee today.



BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

The BSG is an organisation focused on the promotion of gastroenterology and hepatology within the United Kingdom. It has over three thousand members drawn from the ranks of physicians, surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, scientists, nurses, dietitians, and others interested in the field.

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