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Portsmouth International Endoscopy Symposium 2018

1st – 3rd February 2018

Lakeside North Harbour –
Portsmouth

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Lessons Learned 2018

2nd February 2018

National Liberal Club – London

➤ [Further Information](#)

Improving Quality in Liver Services Event 2018

6th February 2018

Royal College of Physicians
North – Liverpool

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BSG Management and Leadership Weekend 2018

23rd – 24th February 2018

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BSG 2018 – Call for Abstracts

The British Society of Gastroenterology Annual Meeting 2018 will take place at the ACC Liverpool from 4 – 7 June 2018. The conference will showcase the best of British gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy with hundreds of abstracts presented orally or as posters.

This is your opportunity to share your latest research and findings with colleagues and peers.

All accepted abstracts will be published in Gut, which is an official journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology. Submit your abstract now to be considered for the BSG Annual Meeting 2018 scientific programme.

For details on how to register [please click here](#).

For further information about how to submit please visit the [conference website](#).

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BSG 2018 abstracts review

The review period is 16 February through 4 March inclusive. If you are a consultant BSG member in a substantive position who would be interested in reviewing abstracts submitted for the conference, please send your name, your current work role, preferred email address and topic area from [the list of 13 topics](#) to research@bsg.org.uk. Reviewers will be asked to review a maximum of 30 abstracts.

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Digestive Diseases Wales 2018

Cardiff, Thu 1st – Fri 2nd March 2018

Woodland Grange – Leamington Spa

✦ [Further Information](#)

St Mark's Gastrointestinal Histopathology Workshop

23rd February 2018

St Mark's Academic Institute

✦ [Further Information](#)

AGIP Upper GI Physiology Masterclass

1st March 2018

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham

✦ [Further Information](#)

Digestive Diseases Wales

1st – 2nd March 2018

Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel

✦ [Further Information](#)

Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders Training Weekend 2018

2nd – 4th March 2018

Holiday Inn – Stoke on Trent

✦ [Further Information](#)

Gastroenterology SCE Course

The Welsh Association for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy (WAGE), BSG, Welsh Surgical Society and Welsh Chapters of AUGIS and ACP are joining for the largest joint-society meeting held in Cardiff since BSG was held there in 1986. As you'd expect from a co-hosted meeting, there will be [many high-profile speakers](#) in plenary sessions in hepatobiliary disease, colorectal disease, inflammatory bowel disease, oesophageal disease and endoscopy. There will also be a session on research, an "Editor's Choice" and a pre-dinner debate (Thursday) on the role of aspirin in cancer prevention. With parallel nurse specialist sessions, posters and free paper prize sessions, there is something for everyone. For more information, go to the [conference website](#).

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BSG Hopkins Endoscopy Prize 2018

The Hopkins Endoscopy Prize is awarded annually at the meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology on the recommendation of the Endoscopy Committee. The prize is awarded for the best submission regarding a technical innovation in the field of endoscopy, a new method using existing endoscopic equipment or contribution to endoscopy research.

Entrants need not be a member of the Society. The successful recipient will be required to deliver a 30 minute lecture at the BSG Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the Liverpool ACC in June 2018. Applications should be composed electronically in Word or Rich Text format and emailed as an attachment to the BSG Office (h.ellison@bsg.org.uk) by 5pm Monday 5th February 2018.

All applications must include the following:

1. A manuscript (2 A4 pages ONLY) describing the work conducted.
2. A bibliography of relevant personal publications.
3. An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title.
4. A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the UK or Ireland.

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The Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 2018

The annual Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award encourages research by gastroenterologists working in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The award consists of an engraved medal and a prize: full registration for the whole meeting (4-7 June 2018) and travel and accommodation expenses as specified in their speaker entitlement letter. The recipient will be required to deliver a 20-minute lecture during the plenary session at BSG 2018, which will be held on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at the Liverpool ACC.

Applications are invited by the BSG Research Committee and must include:

- A single A4 page describing the work conducted.
- A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted by the applicant in

2018

5th – 6th March 2018

St Mark's Hospital – Harrow

[▶ Further Information](#)

The 10th Emma Stuart Memorial Symposium 2018

7th March 2018

International Centre for Life, Times Square, Newcastle upon Tyne

[▶ Further Information](#)

Newcastle Clinical Nutrition Course 2018

7th – 9th March 2018

Copthorne Hotel Newcastle – Newcastle

[▶ Further Information](#)

6th European Transnasal Endoscopy Training Workshop

7th March 2018

Royal Free Hospital

[▶ Further Information](#)

Falk Forum 64 – IBD: challenging symptoms, body image and nutritional perspectives

9th March 2018

Royal College of General

the UK or Eire.

- A written statement confirming that, on the date of the lecture, the applicant will be aged 40 years or less OR will have held a Consultant/Honorary Consultant post for less than 5 years (or whole-time equivalent if part time or in intermittent employment).
- The title and an outline of the proposed content of the lecture.
- A bibliography of relevant personal publications.

Entrants need not be a member of the Society. A list of past winners can be downloaded below. Previous applicants are welcome to apply.

Applications should be composed electronically in Word or PDF format and emailed as an attachment to the BSG Office (research@bsg.org.uk) with the email subject line "Avery Jones BSG Research Award 2018" by 5.00pm on Monday 5 February 2018. Applicants will be notified of the decision by Monday 26 February 2018; the early bird registration deadline is Friday 2 March.

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CLINICAL

BSG guidelines on the management of abnormal liver blood tests

These updated guidelines on the management of abnormal liver blood tests have been commissioned by the Clinical Services and Standards Committee (CSSC) of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) under the auspices of the liver section of the BSG. These guidelines deal specifically with the management of abnormal liver blood tests in children and adults in both primary and secondary care under the following subheadings:

1. What constitutes an abnormal liver blood test?
2. What constitutes a standard liver blood test panel?
3. When should liver blood tests be checked?
4. Does the extent and duration of abnormal liver blood tests determine subsequent investigation?
5. Response to abnormal liver blood tests.

They are not designed to deal with the management of the underlying liver disease.

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Join the NICE Quality Standards Advisory Committee

NICE is currently recruiting for additional members to join their Quality Standards Advisory Committee (QSAC) to support delivery of the [library quality standards topics](#). They are looking to appoint a number of standing members with the following backgrounds/expertise:

Practitioners – London

[▶ Further Information](#)

3rd Karolinska Lower GI Endoscopy Course

12th – 13th March 2018

Karolinska Institutet – Sweden – Stockholm

[▶ Further Information](#)

Basic training for GI researchers: Young Investigators Meeting 2018

16th – 18th March 2018

House of European Gastroenterology – Vienna

[▶ Further Information](#)

Screen-Based Endoscopy Technical Skills Course 'sets' Training Course – March 2018

23rd March 2018

Homerton Simulation Centre – London

[▶ Further Information](#)

HCC – UK Annual Meeting

4th – 5th April 2018

[▶ Further Information](#)

Clinical Nutrition and Nutritional Support 2018

- Secondary care practitioners – For example doctors, nurses, or allied health professionals, in secondary care.
- Public health practitioner – For example those from local authorities, and PHE regional teams.
- Commissioners of health, public health and social care services – For example those from clinical commissioning groups or local authorities and those with experience of service redesign to improve quality and outcomes for people with care and support needs.
- Safety expert – For example people who take a lead in addressing issues of relating to risk and safety, for example risk managers and safeguarding leads
- Lay member

You will not be representing your organisation but will bring your expertise, experience and knowledge of current practice. The time commitment is one day a month, for a three year period, and your expenses will be reimbursed (if you are a general practitioner, locum cover will be covered).

The closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 15 January 2018.

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Referral of assessors required for NCAS assessment of an Upper GI physician

The National Clinical Assessment service are looking to source two upper GI physicians to act as clinical assessors in an upcoming NCAS assessment.

Assessors should be physicians who do not carry out any surgery – their main scope of work is performing endoscopies and they should have a subspecialty interest in hepatology.

The time commitment for this remunerated role would be approximately 8 and a half days, to include:

- Half a day for pre-reading the assessment case information, half day for the training for additional assessor (where you will be provided with an overview of the assessment process and the assessment tools to be used) and half day for planning meeting. This can be done by telephone conference.
- Four days for the clinical assessment visit – likely to be scheduled in February/March.
- Two days for the report writing (in London – to be scheduled the week after the assessment) and a further one day report writing approximately two weeks later to quality assure the report.
- Approximately half a day of follow-up work to review and comment on subsequent drafts of the report (can be done by email or telephone) in the six-eight weeks following the visit.

NCAS recognise that any additional assessor will need at least six to eight weeks to arrange cover for a clinic or surgery and will bear in mind the availability of the assessor team when discussing possible dates for the assessment.

If you are interested in the above role then please contact [Howard Ellison](#) at the BSG office by 17th January 2018.

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18th – 20th April 2018

Leggett Building – University of Surrey

[▶ Further Information](#)

6th Edinburgh Clinical Research Methodology Course

23rd – 24th April 2018

John McIntyre Conference Centre – Edinburgh

[▶ Further Information](#)

Colorectal Cancer Research Conference

24th – 25th April 2018

Royal Society of Medicine

[▶ Further Information](#)

The S.T.I.G. Course – April 2018

26th April 2018

Homerton Simulation Centre – London

[▶ Further Information](#)

Falk Forum 65 – Sheffield Pancreatology Forum

27th April 2018

Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Sheffield

[▶ Further Information](#)

2017 NOGCA Annual Report published

The National Oesophago–Gastric Cancer Audit is pleased to announce publication of its [9th annual report](#). It covers patients diagnosed with oesophageal or gastric cancer between April 2014 and March 2016 (from 2013 for surgical topics) and patients with high grade dysplasia diagnosed between April 2012 and March 2016. Highlights of the report include the following findings:

- The audit found the number of patients that died in hospital after surgery to remove a tumour in the stomach reduced from 6% between 2007–09, to 2% during 2014–16.
- For patients needing surgery to remove the food pipe (oesophagus), mortality rates for patients in hospital have more than halved since the period between 2007 and 2009, from 4.5% of patients to just 2.1% in 2014–16.
- The audit also found that some patients waited up to 100 days following their diagnosis for treatment for their cancer.
- Guidelines suggest that the management of High Grade Dysplasia (HGD) should be limited to NHS trusts treating 15 or more cases each year. However, of the 115 NHS Trusts that have responsibility for the treatment of patients with HGD, only six organisations (5.2%) treated this number of patients between 2014–16. The average number of cases at each trust is less than five.

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IBD Registry Update – January 2018

The latest news from the IBD Registry can be found at the link below. Updates include:

- 2017 Review
- Looking forward to 2018
- Data submission deadline
- HC–UK: The Clinical Audit Summit 2018: Clinical Audit for Improvement

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MHRA's Drug Safety Update: Eluxadoline (Truberzi▼)

The December 2017 issue of Drug Safety Update is now online <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update>

MHRA have an article informing gastroenterologists of new contraindications for the medicine eluxadoline (Truberzi▼), licensed for irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhoea.

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BSG's response to the Health Education

Human Factors in Virtual Endoscopy – May 2018

10th May 2018

Homerton Simulation Centre – London

[▶ Further Information](#)

UEG Summer School 2018

24th – 27th May 2018

Hotel International Prague – Prague

[▶ Further Information](#)

Digestive Disease Week

2nd – 5th June 2018

Walter E. Washington Convention Center – Washington, DC

[▶ Further Information](#)

BSG Annual Meeting 2018

4th – 7th June 2018

Liverpool ACC – Liverpool

[▶ Further Information](#)

UEG Basic Science Course 2018

27th – 29th June 2018

TARGID laboratory, Clinical

England Cancer Workforce Plan 2017

The British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) welcomes the Cancer Workforce Plan published by Health Education England and the specific focus and recognition afforded to Gastroenterology (GI) and Endoscopy services within it.

Professor Martin Lombard, President of BSG said: "Diagnosing and treating cancer patients successfully relies on a multi professional and whole system approach.

The report and its recommendations are welcome but there is still much to do.

In order to meet the needs of patients now and in the future, it is essential to develop a coherent, adequately funded and sustainable healthcare workforce.

For Gastroenterology, this includes a welcome focus on improving the recruitment and retention of gastroenterologists, increasing the number of clinical endoscopists and a range of endoscopy support staff.

We must ensure regional variations are addressed and embrace new ways of working and service delivery to ensure our patients receive the best possible care.

We look forward to collaborating with all our partners involved in developing this long-term work in the next phase.

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EDUCATION

BSG Education Committee – endorsement policy update

From 1st September 2017, the Committee has not considered for endorsement any meeting taking place within a month each side of the BSG Annual Meeting. In 2018, the meeting will be held in Liverpool from 4th–7th June; therefore, no endorsements will be given for meetings taking place from 4th May through 7th July 2018. If you would like your meeting to be endorsed, please bear this timing in mind. The endorsement process and policy have been updated on the [Education section of the website](#). If you have any queries, please email the [Education Committee](#).

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Transition and beyond: managing gastroenterology in adolescents and young adults

Motility Unit and ACRO – Leuven

[▶ Further Information](#)

8th Edition of International Conference on Hepatology

9th – 10th July 2018

Vienna

[▶ Further Information](#)

Glasgow Gastro 2018

5th October 2018

Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow

[▶ Further Information](#)

Gastroenterology Update: It's all a matter of nutrition!

12th December 2018

The Royal College of Physicians, London

[▶ Further Information](#)

The inaugural "Transition and Beyond: Managing Gastroenterology in Adolescents and Young Adults" course will take place at BMA House, London on the 19th January 2018. The course is designed to be suitable for consultants, specialist nurses and trainees – and in fact, all healthcare professionals involved in transition and ongoing care of adolescent and young adults.

The "Transition and Beyond" course focuses on all the major 'difficult to manage, difficult to treat' areas in managing not just adolescents, but those young adults affected by gastrointestinal disorders from IBD through to functional disorders. The course is led by an internationally renowned faculty of experts in transitions.

Given that numbers of patients transitioning from Paediatric care to Adult services is growing year on year with complex disease and multiple associated problems, this course fills a gap in training not just in the trainee curriculum, but in the training of experienced consultants, nurses and healthcare professionals who may encounter adolescents and young people in their daily practice.

The course has applied for RCP CPD and has been endorsed by the BSG Education Committee subject to its being granted. For further information or to register for the course, please contact Faith Hanstater via f.hanstater@ucl.ac.uk

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Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders Training Weekend

2nd – 4th March 2018, Holiday Inn, Stoke on Trent

Hosted by the NGM Section of the British Society of Gastroenterology and endorsed by the BSG Education Committee

This training weekend will cover the basic pathophysiology and treatment of the functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs). This training will be complemented by break-out sessions covering the indications and basic interpretation of motility testing as well as a perspectives session covering the view point of patients, GPs, hypnotherapists and dieticians. Trainees will be invited to submit abstracts of difficult cases which they will be able to present to an expert panel for discussion. The weekend will be free of charge for trainees to attend (including travel and accommodation). It is anticipated that 25–30 places will be offered. To register, contact Dr Adam Farmer at neurogastro@mac.com and explain in 100 words or less why you should be offered a place on the course.

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The 10th Emma Stuart Memorial Symposium

7th March 2018, 12.30 to 5.30pm, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Topic: Clinical controversies in inflammatory bowel disease – Putting the Patient at the Centre of IBD Care. We have seven speakers of regional, national and international repute and in two patients giving their view on life with inflammatory bowel disease. The talks cover fertility issues, pitfalls of teenage transition clinics, the risk of EBV

and thiopurines in IBD, therapeutic drug monitoring, the timing of surgery and how IBD nursing can use social media to focus on patient care. Our guest speaker is Dr Krisztina Gecse, currently at Amsterdam, previously in Budapest, talking on the future of IBD care in Europe new drugs, new expectations and new challenges. The meeting is aimed at consultant physicians, surgeons and paediatricians involved in IBD care, trainees in the specialties and IBD nurses. The programme deliberately targets areas of controversies to make a stimulating half day symposium. The meeting has been endorsed by the BSG Education Committee. Registration is free for healthcare professionals involved in management of inflammatory bowel disease but preregistration is essential. E-mail Emma.Johnson3@nuth.nhs.uk.

[▶ Further Information](#)

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ESGE Days 2018

Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Date: April 19 – 21, 2018

The goals of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) have always been underpinned by the fundamental aims of increasing quality of care, establishing guidelines for best practice and developing educational programmes.

Their first congress, ESGE Days 2018, will provide an ideal interactive arena to discuss, debate and disseminate.

- Registration open: early bird deadline December 3, 2017
- Call for abstracts now open: deadline November 15, 2017.
 - Accepted abstracts will be published in the journal Endoscopy
 - Top abstract authors invited to submit original articles to Endoscopy with priority processing
 - Travel grants for top abstract authors
 - Three dedicated sessions (including plenary session) where abstract authors can present their work
- Programme finalised and available to view online.

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Falk Forum 65 – Sheffield Pancreatology Forum

27th April 2018, Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Sheffield

This unique, one day meeting, held in conjunction with the pancreatic section of the British Society of Gastroenterology, aims to cover both the daily challenges and the most up to date advances to improve care for patients with pancreatic disease. Presentations and debates will be delivered by some of the leading UK and international specialists in Pancreatology who will all bring their invaluable insights. With this in mind the meeting is relevant to the whole multidisciplinary team working that is vital to pancreatology including Nurses, Dieticians, GI Medical trainees, Surgical trainees, Liver trainees and GI Consultants.

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Glasgow Gastro 2018

Glasgow, 5th October 2018

The inaugural Glasgow Gastro conference, to be held on 5th October 2018, will cover a wide range of gastroenterology and hepatology topics (6 CPD credits approved). Glasgow Gastro is an interactive one-day symposium, consisting of mini-lectures, case-based discussions, interactive sessions and state-of-the-art lectures. The meeting will be of interest to consultants and trainees in gastroenterology and hepatology, with the invited faculty consisting of national and international experts in these fields. The meeting has been endorsed by the BSG Education Committee.

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RESEARCH

forCrohns/Core Crohns Disease Research Grant

Applications are invited for a grant of up to £50,000 for a scientific research project on Crohns Disease. The research question should reflect at least one of the top ten research priorities identified in the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership on Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

The grant call is open to established investigators, both clinicians and scientists, based at a UK university or hospital. Academic Clinical Lecturers who have a contract of sufficient length to cover the duration of the research project will be considered. This award is not for a fellowship; the principal applicant must have an established academic or clinical position though co-applicants may be fellows. Funding will be available only in the UK.

The maximum allowed budget is £50,000. Only the direct costs associated with the project will be funded; overhead allocation or other indirect costs, including senior or supervisory posts which are already covered by HEFCE or other funding will not be funded; equipment or capital costs will not be funded either. The maximum duration of the projects should be 24 months.

The deadline for applications is 5pm 19 January 2018. The awards will be decided in March/April.

To download an application form, guidance notes, grant terms and conditions go to: <http://corecharity.org.uk/research/researchawards-information/forcrohnscore-research-grant>

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Core-Dr Falk Awards 2018

Now in their twelfth year the Core-Dr Falk awards recognise the achievements of those who bring new insight to gastroenterology and hepatology, and the collaboration that furthers patient care. These awards are an opportunity to achieve national recognition as well as the financial support for career progression.

This year's awards comprise:

- A £1,000 prize for the best essay on gastroenterology or hepatology research personally undertaken by medical students studying in the UK who were on an intercalated BSc/MRes/MSc/MPH/MBPhD* course during the previous academic year (2016-17). [Apply for this award.](#)
- Four £1,500 prizes for medical students taking full-time science degrees in the UK (BSc/MRes/MSc/MPH/MBPhD*) focusing on gastrointestinal or liver-related disease in the current academic year (2017-18). [Apply for this award.](#)
- Two £2,500 awards for UK-based F1/F2 doctors to facilitate prospective research in an area relevant to gastroenterology or hepatology. [Apply for this award.](#)
- A £1,000 award for UK-based primary and secondary care nurses working in gastroenterology or hepatology for initiatives that have improved patient care. [Apply for this award.](#)
- A £1,000 award for UK-based dietitians working in gastroenterology or hepatology for initiatives that have improved patient care. [Apply for this award.](#)
- Up to £10,000 is available for UK-based gastroenterology / hepatology SpR trainees who would like to conduct an audit or quality improvement project in any area of gastroenterology, liver disease or nutrition. Download the [Core-Dr Falk SpR Audit/Quality Improvement Awards 2018 Criteria](#) for more information on this award. [Apply for this award.](#)

Applicants considering applying for the SpR Audit/Quality Improvement Awards as a network can download tips and advice on [how to set up a successful trainee network.](#)

Applications close at 17:00 on Friday 2nd March 2018.

*PhD students should note that they may apply for the medical student prize only once during their three-year studentship and that they may apply for the essay prize when their PhD has been completed.

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Pancreatic Cancer Action PhD Scholarship Grants 2018/19

Nearly 10,000 people are newly diagnosed each year. Unfortunately, due to late diagnosis, most patients face a terminal prognosis and life expectancy of a mere 4-6 months. Currently, the 5-year survival rate is only 5%, which is the lowest of all 22 common cancers. However, for those diagnosed in time for surgery, their chance of surviving beyond 5 years increases six-fold.

Pancreatic Cancer Action are offering to fund a PhD studentship for up to three years if you have an idea of how we can improve early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

- Develop your idea into a research proposal
- Share it with your potential supervisors
- Put together a proposal with your chosen supervisor

- Ask the supervisor to apply directly to Pancreatic Cancer Action on your behalf

Your idea must be innovative, unique and focus exclusively on improving early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. For the best applications (two are available in 2018) we will fund your annual stipend, project running expenses (up to £37,000) and will cover your fees.

For more information and to download an applications form, please visit:

Website: panact.org/PhDScholarships

Telephone: 0303 040 1770

Email: grants@panact.org

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I-CARE: IBD Cancer and Serious Infections in Europe

As of the end of November, 8066 patients had been included in the trial by 454 investigators! The UK is leading the way in this European trial, with over 2021 patients so far. Each investigator is being asked to reach at least 20 patients enrolled by the time ECCO 2018 comes around in February. At the rate the trial is recruiting, we have high hopes! Congratulations to everyone involved.

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2017 IBD Investigators Meeting, Cardiff, 16 November

Almost 90 people interested in IBD research attended this busy workshop in Cardiff, the day before the 54th ECCO Education Workshop. Topics ranged from how to maximise the help you can receive from the NIHR Clinical Research Network and capitalise on the people and admin resources available to stories of trial successes and information on upcoming trials in IBD. There was also a brief networking session during which delegates were able to introduce themselves to others whom they didn't already know – a key way to spread your research networks. The next workshop is already being planned, for Nottingham on Monday 12 November 2018. Keep your diary free to attend!

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Will you be a 2018 BSG research champion?

The Research and Academic Development Committees of the BSG are seeking research champions to advise and mentor up to 3 Gastroenterology trainees at the BSG annual meeting in 2018. Research champions would meet with self-nominated trainees to

discuss research, future projects, career and fellowships opportunities etc. The trainees and their champions will have access to the trainees' meeting area, where they can meet to exchange scientific ideas and opportunities. We hope that this will facilitate links between established researchers and future research active trainees, with the eventual development of a nationwide research champion network, with opportunities for our trainees similar to those supported at the UEG week, through the young GI network programme.

The champions and trainees will have the option to maintain an informal link for up to one year after the Annual Meeting to support further discussions around opportunities related to research-active careers.

We are asking research champions to self-nominate for this role. At this stage, we are asking BSG members to register their interest by emailing research@bsg.org.uk. Please include your work region and area of research interest along with a brief research-relevant CV. The only initial commitment would be to a meeting with up to three trainees at the BSG Annual Meeting at Liverpool ACC (4th to 7th of June 2018).

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Bowel Cancer UK Identify Critical Research Gaps that could stop the UK's Second Biggest Killer in its Tracks

Almost 332,000 people living in the UK will needlessly lose their lives to bowel cancer – a preventable, treatable and curable disease – between now and 2035 unless urgent action is taken to fill critical research gaps identified in a Bowel Cancer UK report 'Finding the Key to the Cures: a plan to end bowel cancer by 2050' launched today. If ignored, the scale of the issue will only grow larger.

The research is published in the leading international academic journal, GUT.

Bowel cancer is the UK's second biggest cancer killer with 16,000 people dying from the disease, and the fourth most common cancer with over 41,200 people diagnosed each year. Globally, 694,000 people die from bowel cancer and 1.4 million people are diagnosed every year.

Early diagnosis is critical to changing this, but the disease can be difficult to detect early, as symptoms are often attributed to more common, but less serious, conditions. Nearly 98% of people will survive bowel cancer for five years or more if detected at stage 1 compared with less than one in ten people who are diagnosed at stage 4.

To accelerate progress, the charity brought together 100 leading scientists, healthcare professionals and people affected by the disease to identify the key research gaps and priorities in bowel cancer research. If these are addressed, they could transform survival rates and ultimately benefit thousands of people in the future.

The report reveals fifteen key research questions together with vital recommendations to address these gaps, which include:

- How do our genes, lifestyles and the environment we live in affect risk of bowel cancer?
- How can we improve the bowel cancer screening programme?

- Can we develop new treatment options with the potential to cure people of bowel cancer?
- How can we improve quality of life for people living with and beyond bowel cancer?
- What's the best way to improve communication between healthcare professionals and patients?

[▶ Read the BSG's response](#)

[▶ Further Information](#)

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Coeliac UK Priority Setting Partnership – second survey

Coeliac UK have reached the interim stage of our Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) and are ready to launch their second survey to patients, carers and healthcare professionals.

The first survey had 1000 respondents and collected more than 2500 questions about coeliac disease and other gluten related autoimmune conditions. Their Steering Group has summarised these into 43 research questions which have been taken forward to the second survey.

The results from the second survey will be taken to a one day workshop in London, 1 February 2018. At the workshop, patients, people who care for them and healthcare professionals will jointly agree the top ten list of research priorities.

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Research news on the BSG website

News has been added to the [Research News section of the BSG website](#); there are quite a few research training courses listed, as well as patient experience conferences, grant and fellowship application support, building research capacity, learning modules and webinars, awards and more, including the role of nurses in research, with info on the new NIHR research nurse strategy, and news on clinical trials.

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Research funding opportunities

See the [Research Funding Opportunities](#) page for updates on research funding.

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Gastroenterology SAC Chair

Dr Tony Ellis will be demitting as SAC chair for Gastroenterology on 30 June 2018. A vacancy is now due for recruitment to allow timely handover.

Interested parties are invited to express their interest by completing the attached form together with their brief CV and supporting statement of not more than 500 words. Closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 2 February 2018.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Felicity Stuart at felicity.stuart@jrcptb.org.uk

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Changes to the Specialty Certificate Examination

The Specialty Certificate in Gastroenterology will become the European Specialty Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology from 2018

Dr Geoff Smith, Lead Specialist and Exam Board Chair

The SCE, co-run by the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians and the BSG, is a compulsory part of the accreditation process for the Completion of Training in the UK. It is designed to test knowledge of the Curriculum, helping to ensure a safe standard of practice.

Over the last 4 years the BSG, the European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Federation have worked to develop a joint exam and this is now mandated in the Netherlands and Switzerland as well as in the UK.

In October 2017 the GMC approved the change to a single exam, identical across the UK, Europe and the rest of the World, with the first sitting in April 2018. The style, content and curriculum upon which the exam is based will remain unchanged from that of the SCE and resulting qualification will also remain unchanged.

The exam will continue to a computer-based test hosted by Pearson Vue.

2018 examination

The key dates for the Specialty Certificate Examination in Gastroenterology will be:

- application period of 27th December 2017 – 31st March 2018
- examination date 18th April 2018

Fees

- The Fee will remain £665 for UK trainees

More information on the structure, content and application process can be found at: www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/specialty-certificate-examinations/specialties/gastroenterology

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OTHER MATTERS...

Receiving Your Journal(s)

The BMJ Publishing Group (BMJPG) manages production and distribution of Gut, Frontline Gastroenterology and BMJ Open Gastroenterology, NOT the BSG. The BMJPG uses a mailing list provided by the BSG to post copies of the printed journals to BSG members; this mailing list is not held or maintained by BMJPG.

The journals' publication schedule means that there is a period of 3–4 weeks between the time the BMJPG needs the mailing list and when the journals are posted; in addition, the journals are always distributed during the month before the cover date. As an example, the mailing list for the January issue of Gut is required towards the end of November, but dates change from issue to issue.

Please help the BSG to ensure you receive your copies to the correct address by logging into your Aptify account and keeping your contact details up to date, you will also need to mark your preferred address to receive your journals. You can e-mail the BSG office at membership@bsg.org.uk if you need a reminder of your USER ID and Password for the BSG's membership database. If you have updated your contact details and taken the BMJPG's schedule into account, then enquiries about delays or delivery failures should be directed to support@bmj.com.

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British Society of Gastroenterology, 3 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB