



BRITISH SOCIETY OF  
GASTROENTEROLOGY

# eNewsletter

13th December 2017

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ERCP Basic Training Course –  
London

9th – 10th January 2018

King's College Hospital –  
London

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Falk Forum 63 – IBD  
Endoscopy: Disease Assessment  
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12th January 2018

Glasgow Royal Infirmary –  
Glasgow

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Transition and Beyond:  
Managing Gastroenterology in  
Adolescents and Young Adults

19th January 2018

BMA House – London

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## New BSG Website Go-live

The Society has developed a more advanced and responsive website to keep members up to date and informed about BSG and what we can do for you.

The site has better functionality, is easier to navigate, and is compatible with modern tablets and smart phones.

The site also gives us a fantastic platform to build on as we aim to interact with members through greater use of blogs, videos, online discussions and opinion pieces.

We will continue to shape and expand the content over the coming months. We are also developing a new members' area with an improved members directory, increased personalisation and virtual networks. This will be ready in February next year – watch this space.

We would love to hear what you think, visit the new site at [www.bsg.org.uk](http://www.bsg.org.uk) and give us your feedback via the link on the home page.

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## Apply to be the BSG International Secretary

The BSG is seeking applicants to undertake the role of International Secretary following the end of the tenure of Professor Krish Ragunath.

This role will chair and lead the recently formed International Committee and oversee the implementation of its emerging strategy. Many BSG members have established links internationally and undertake various research, educational and training projects in countries throughout the world. The Secretary, with the support of the Committee, will oversee the Society's grants programme, foster links amongst UK clinicians with overseas interests and the ongoing establishment of productive partnerships internationally so that patients and professionals can benefit from UK best practice and

25th – 26th January 2018

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

➤ [Further Information](#)

ERCP Intermediate Skills Lab – 2018

30th – 31st January 2018

University College London Hospitals – London

➤ [Further Information](#)

Portsmouth International Endoscopy Symposium 2018

1st – 3rd February 2018

Lakeside North Harbour – Portsmouth

➤ [Further Information](#)

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

➤ [Further Information](#)

reciprocal links and exchanges are maintained. The position will be appointed by competitive application and interview process (valid for a term of 3 years) and will report to the BSG Executive, Council and Trustees. Applications are sought from members of all categories in any area of practice related to gastroenterology and hepatology. Experience of international projects or established international links is highly desirable. An active track record of excellence and achievement in education, training, research or clinical practice is equally important.

A job description is available below. Please send a brief CV (2 pages max.) and a statement of application detailing why you would like to be appointed to the role to Christine O'Shea ([c.oshea@bsg.org.uk](mailto:c.oshea@bsg.org.uk)). Applications will close at 5pm on Friday 5th January 2018. Interviews by a panel of BSG officers, Council members and Trustees will take place in February 2018 (exact date tbc).

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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](mailto:research@bsg.org.uk). Reviewers will be asked to review a maximum of 30 abstracts.

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## CLINICAL

### BSG Management and Leadership Weekend 2018

23rd – 24th February 2018

Woodland Grange – Leamington Spa

[▶ Further Information](#)

### AGIP Upper GI Physiology Masterclass

1st March 2018

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham

[▶ Further Information](#)

### Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders Training Weekend 2018

2nd – 4th March 2018

Holiday Inn – Stoke on Trent

[▶ Further Information](#)

### Gastroenterology SCE Course 2018

5th – 6th March 2018

St Mark's Hospital – Harrow

[▶ Further Information](#)

### Newcastle Clinical Nutrition Course 2018

7th – 9th March 2018

## 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. The original guidelines, which this document supersedes, were written in 2000 and have undergone extensive revision by members of the Guidelines Development Group (GDG). The GDG comprises representatives from patient/carer groups (British Liver Trust, Liver4life, PBC Foundation and PSC Support), elected members of the BSG liver section (including representatives from Scotland and Wales), British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL), Specialist Advisory Committee in Clinical Biochemistry/Royal College of Pathology and Association for Clinical Biochemistry, British Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (BSPGHAN), Public Health England (implementation and screening), Royal College of General Practice, British Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiologists (BSGAR) and Society of Acute Medicine. The quality of evidence and grading of recommendations was appraised using the AGREE II tool. 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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## IBD Registry Update – December

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

- Registry plans
- Data and reporting
- Resources for sites
- Opportunities

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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.

Copthorne Hotel Newcastle – Newcastle

[▶ Further Information](#)

The 10th Emma Stuart Memorial Symposium 2018

7th March 2018

Centre for Life – Newcastle upon Tyne

[▶ Further Information](#)

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

9th March 2018

Royal College of General 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](#)

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](mailto: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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## BSG's response to the Health Education England Cancer Workforce Plan 2017

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

Thanks to constant advances in screening, therapeutic endoscopy, and non-surgical treatments, more people are being diagnosed earlier and are surviving cancer.

GI, Liver & Pancreatic cancers account for almost 30% of all cancers in the UK. Gastroenterologists, Clinical Endoscopists and other highly skilled endoscopy professionals diagnose more than 80% of those and are involved in the ongoing treatment of up to 50% of patients.

The HEE report broadly sets out the importance of not just trying to increase the number of cancer specialists in various key areas, but, ensuring staff must have the right skill set, embrace new technology and are deployed where they are most needed to have the greatest impact.

BSG members across both medicine and nursing are working hard to deliver high quality Endoscopy services to detect and treat GI cancers and the Society supports the recommendations set out in the report. While welcoming recognition of the role our members play, with practical proposals that will support improved services for patients it is important to note that this should only be the start of ongoing measures to support workforce development in the speciality for the longer term.

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

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

23rd March 2018

Homerton Simulation Centre –  
London

[Further Information](#)

Clinical Nutrition and  
Nutritional Support 2018

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](#)

The S.T.I.G. Course – April  
2018

26th April 2018

Homerton Simulation Centre –  
London

[Further Information](#)

Falk Forum 65 – Sheffield  
Pancreatology Forum

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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## NHS England Elective Care Transformation Programme

The Elective Care Transformation Programme Team has worked with NHS organisations and other partners to redesign patient pathways for non-emergency care to test interventions designed by local clinicians and commissioners. Gastroenterology has been part of a first wave of specialty based transformation programmes. A handbook looking at service interventions in elective gastroenterology services has been produced. It looks at practical interventions developed and tested at various sites that took part in the programme's early work. They provide some excellent case study examples and resources. Congratulations to the teams in Stockport and Somerset and their partner organisations.

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## Increasing demand and waiting times for endoscopy patients

JAG is aware that there is an increasingly significant and persistent challenge with waiting times in endoscopy. This has arisen primarily from an increase in demand and has caused:

1. Challenges in endoscopy services' ability to achieve and maintain accreditation
2. Patients to wait beyond acceptable limits for endoscopy
3. Increased pressure on the delivery of screening programmes.

JAG recognises the unprecedented strain on endoscopy services and wants to offer the right support and guidance to ensure patients continue to receive their endoscopy in a timely fashion. JAG has shown an increasing degree of flexibility and reasonable tolerance with services struggling to achieve standards on access and booking. Additionally, given the challenges described, JAG has agreed the following solutions to address these issues:

1. Surveillance practice
2. Waiting time tolerances
3. List validation
4. Referral criteria
5. Post Colonoscopy Colorectal Cancers (PCCRC)
6. Operating practices

It is ultimately for hospitals locally to determine the appropriate arrangements for each individual patient, but this must consider achieving the best clinical outcomes for patients. This includes complying where appropriate with NICE quality standards and evidence based guidelines and following a risk stratification approach

27th April 2018

Holiday Inn Royal Victoria  
Sheffield

[▶ Further Information](#)

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](#)

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  
Motility Unit and ACRO –  
Leuven

[▶ Further Information](#)

as outlined above.

We ask you to work with your endoscopy clinical lead and senior management team to ensure all options for improved management of waiting times and validation of surveillance cases are being implemented. Sustaining a low wait service is a key factor in achieving and maintaining JAG accreditation and in providing high-quality and responsive care to patients.

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## Improving Quality in Liver Services Event

The improving Quality in Liver Services accreditation scheme will host a second event at RCP North, in Liverpool on 6th of February 2018. This is for services interested in learning more about the scheme and for those who were unable to make the first event in London.

The aim of the day is to provide further understanding of the scheme and the process. Delegates will have an opportunity to speak to the leads of scheme and to ask questions or advice. Liver services are again encouraged to join the RCP North event where they can network and share best practice.

The event will take place on February 6 2018, at RCP North, Royal College of Physicians North, Level 3, William Henry Duncan Building, 6 West Derby Street, Liverpool, L7 8TX.

All interested parties are welcome to attend.

To book a place please RSVP with the names of those who wish to attend from your service to [askigils@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:askigils@rcplondon.ac.uk)

Lunch will be provided. Please include any dietary or accessibility requirements.

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## Important Changes for Independent Practitioners from BSG Independent Practice Committee

Following the conclusion of its private healthcare market investigation and publication of its final report in April 2014, the Competition and Markets Authority ("CMA") issued an Order bringing into force the report's Orders. Following an appeal by FIPO (the Federation of Independent Practitioner Organisations) and a further consultation by the CMA, the Order was revised. The full text of the revised Order is available on the CMA's website (<http://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/private-healthcare-market-investigation>).

What does this mean in practice for you as an independent practitioner? There are two main changes which you need to be aware of and it is likely that your private hospital has informed you of these already. However if you are unfamiliar with these changes the following outlines the changes which predominantly relate to patient fees.

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### 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 National Endoscopy Database (NED) Project

The National Endoscopy Database (NED) project continues to develop. A number of sites are uploading endoscopy data in 'real-time' to a central national database. This allows individual endoscopists to view their key performance indicators (KPIs) on a website in a similar way to that which allows trainees to view their data on the JETS website. This automated system also means that trainees don't have to manually enter endoscopy data, NED automatically populates the JETS eportfolio.

Many services have commenced the process towards being compatible with NED. The first steps are to engage with your Endoscopy Reporting System (ERS) manufacturer and to obtain Caldicott approval within your Trust. All major ERS manufacturers in the UK are engaged with the project. An update on their individual progress can be found in the [Resources section](#) of the NED website – [www.jets.nhs.uk/ned](http://www.jets.nhs.uk/ned).

In the [service documentation](#) section of their website, you can find the NED starter pack which contains a guide to applying for Caldicott approval and other steps your service should take.

Some ERS manufacturers are in the roll out phase meaning services can come online soon. Other suppliers have not yet completed preparations for NED compatibility. It is envisaged that these manufacturers will progress over forthcoming months. The GRS census in April 2018 will require services with systems compatible with NED to be uploading to the pilot database. It is important for services seeking to meet this GRS requirement that they commence the process soon.

If you have any enquiries please contact [askjag@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:askjag@rcplondon.ac.uk).

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## EDUCATION

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### 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

We are delighted to invite you to the inaugural "Transition and Beyond: Managing Gastroenterology in Adolescents and Young Adults" course 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](mailto: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](mailto:neurogastro@mac.com) and explain in 100 words or less why you should be offered a place on the course.

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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 finalized 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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## RESEARCH

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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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### 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 the UK or Ireland.
- 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](mailto: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.

[Further Information](#)

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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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## BADENOMA recruitment target met 9 months early

The BowelScope ADENOMA trial (BADENOMA) is a study of the effectiveness of a device in improving detection of colorectal adenomas in patients attending for flexible sigmoidoscopy screening. This RCT had a recruitment target of 3,222 patients with a planned end date of July 2018. Sixteen sites around England were involved in recruitment, which stopped in November 2017 because the target had already been met. This is one of the largest endoscopy RCTs ever and the recruitment curve is phenomenal. This is due to the fantastic work of the research team and the brilliant network of world leading endoscopy research we have in the UK. The results of this trial are awaited with interest.

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## Basic training for GI researchers: Young Investigators Meeting

March 16–18, 2018

House of European Gastroenterology, Vienna, Austria

This course specialises in the fields of research, statistics and the writing of papers. Its intense and lively lectures and discussions are combined with interactive training sessions. Presentations by participants provide the ideal environment to share ideas and personal experiences.

Application is open until December 15, 2017.

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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 in November 2018. A date will be announced soon – keep your eyes peeled for it and your diary free to attend!

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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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## 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](mailto: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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## The 2018 Core / Dr Falk Pharma uk awards are open for Applications

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 who were on an intercalated BSc/MRes/MSc/MPH/MBPhD course during the previous

- academic year (2016–17).
- Four £1,500 prizes for medical students taking full-time science degrees (BSc/MRes/MSc/MPH/MBPhD) focusing on gastrointestinal or liver-related disease in the current academic year (2017–18).
  - Two £2,500 awards for F1/F2 doctors to facilitate prospective research in an area relevant to gastroenterology or hepatology.
  - A £1,000 award for primary and secondary care nurses working in gastroenterology or hepatology for initiatives that have improved patient care.
  - A £1,000 award for dietitians working in gastroenterology or hepatology for initiatives that have improved patient care.
  - 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.

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

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## 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/research-awards-information/forcrohnscore-research-grant>

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## Research priorities in Barrett's oesophagus and GORD

Last year Core and the BSG facilitated a priority setting exercise to determine the top ten uncertainties in Barrett's oesophagus and

gastroesophageal reflux disease. The project, which followed the James Lind Alliance methodology, aimed to identify and rank the most important areas for future research, as prioritised by patients and health-care providers. This has been the first patient-centred assessment of research priorities in this disease setting.

The priorities, which cover a range of issues, have been published by The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology journal. Core and the BSG hope that recognition and dissemination of these results will shape the future direction of research and translate into meaningful gains for patients.

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## TRAINING

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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](http://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/specialty-certificate-examinations/specialties/gastroenterology)

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## OTHER MATTERS...

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:support@bmj.com).

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## NEWSLETTERS

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