

BSG Education Strategy **September 2017**

Education is one of the most vital areas in which the BSG is involved - from the annual conference to small local meetings. It is essential that we offer access to high quality educational tools and events to our members and also support our members to organise their own events.

The BSG Education Committee is responsible for the programme of all educational meetings of the society, including those organised by the BSG's sections. The Committee considers all aspects of education in gastroenterology. It is responsible for considering applications for financial support in regard to attending conferences and educational training courses and it advises on nominations for such fellowships and awards.

In considering the education strategy for the BSG it is important that we remain aligned with the BSG mission statement, specifically by supporting the strategic pillar of service improvement and advancing knowledge, so that the Society remains a resource of high quality information, guidance and education.

Educational Event Approval

The Education Committee has an important role in approving meetings organised by members. This is through either listing, endorsing, supporting or organising.

The guidance for BSG endorsement of meetings has recently been updated and includes several significant changes. These changes allow delegate numbers to be protected at the major BSG-organised meetings, ensure that we are endorsing only meetings of high quality, and increase the variety of meetings that we can offer to our members.

The full [endorsement policy](#) and [checklist for application](#) can be downloaded from the BSG website.

Joint Conferences with the Royal College of Physicians

The BSG organizes an annual conference at the RCP, with a varying focus each year. This event is aimed at generalists and not just gastroenterologists, with the aim of generally increasing understanding of gastroenterology among physicians. These conferences are usually well attended and the feedback received is universally positive.

BSG Nurses Association Education

GI and liver specialist nurses are a pivotal part of the multi-disciplinary teams within gastroenterology. Their educational need is an area that has been neglected by the Society outside of the annual conference. A working group has recently been formed to address this. Essentially the aims are to increase the value of membership for nurses and to consider the provision of quality bespoke education – recognising that it can be challenging for nursing colleagues to fund and take time off for training and education.

Rolling Symposia Programme

As part of the Society's aim to improve the activity of the sections and to ensure that we are maximizing the opportunities we offer to our members, a rolling programme of section-organised symposia will be implemented outside those organised for the annual conference. This also allows the Society to monitor the outputs of the sections (in keeping with the overall BSG Strategy). Each section will be required to run a symposium on a 3-yearly basis (i.e. once in each chair's tenure). A planning pro forma is available from the [BSG office](#).

The symposium should:

- Be of educational value to all members of the society, both nursing and medical
- Have appropriate CPD approval
- Comply with the BSG requirements for endorsement of educational events

It will be incumbent on the section to produce resources after the event that can be accessed by members of the Society – this is likely to be in the form of summary slides from speakers with associated MCQs (multiple-choice questions). This has the added benefit of increasing the educational resources that our members can access after the event.

The programme of events will begin in 2018; with 12 anatomical sections of the Society, there will be 4 symposia per year.

e-learning

The BSG will continue to make available to its members several high quality educational resources that can be accessed through the website. These include modules from UEG, ECCO and BAPEN. The annual conference has also provided a wealth of educational opportunity through BSGtv. Unfortunately, due to the current financial position of the Society, the annual conference was not recorded for BSGtv in 2017. However, we are exploring a more limited recording of sessions for e-learning opportunities with a focus on the postgraduate course in 2018.

Engagement with Journals

MCQs are associated with some of the *Frontline Gastroenterology* (FG) articles and promoting access to them would be beneficial to members. There are also podcasts from both GUT and FG, which could be better publicised.

Awarding of bursaries

Each year the Education Committee is able to offer bursaries to some members to enable them to attend meetings, present research etc. We have also made specific funding available for BSGNA members to attend meetings. We are reviewing the application processes for all of these awards and bursaries in order to encourage more applicants.

Strategic Summary

In summary the strategic themes for the Education Committee in 2017-18 will be:

1. Increase opportunity for BSG endorsement of educational events
 - a. Scrutinise event programmes and prior feedback to ensure the highest quality events are endorsed
 - b. Consider educational events for nurses and trainees to be on an equal footing to those with RCP CPD points
2. Produce high quality conferences in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians
3. BSGNA education
 - a. Promote BSGNA membership as a way to access educational resources
 - b. Identify bursaries, awards and prizes to encourage nursing engagement with the society
 - c. Develop and support regional educational events
4. Introduction of a rolling programme of section-organised symposia
5. e-learning
 - a. Continue to forge links with other societies to access appropriate high quality online educational content
 - b. Develop BSG e-learning content from BSG Postgraduate day and section symposia
6. Engagement with journals
 - a. Promote MCQs based on FG articles
 - b. Promote GUT and FG podcasts
7. Awards and bursaries
 - a. Increase publicity of the bursaries that can be offered by the society
 - b. Promote externally funded bursaries to members

Dr J Williams
October 2017

Review date October 2020

