



**bsg** BRITISH SOCIETY OF  
GASTROENTEROLOGY

# Training Strategy

2021-2024



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# INTRODUCTION BY DR ALASTAIR MCKINLAY

## President of the British Society of Gastroenterology

The BSG has always attached the highest importance to the training of the next generation of specialists and the other health care professionals on whom the service relies. This strategy represents our current priorities and objectives, at a time of major restructuring in the medical training programs. "Shape of Training" represents the biggest change in the training of gastroenterologists and hepatologists for over a decade.

It is both a challenge and an opportunity for our trainees and those who have to train them, coming as the NHS starts to recover from the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed the pandemic itself has led to changes in practice such as virtual consultations, that the next generation of gastroenterologists will have to embrace and develop.

Many of the changes are requirements that come directly from the UK Government, the devolved administrations, and the General Medical Council in its role as regulator. We have little choice about accepting change, but we do have an obligation to ensure that the standard of training remains high, and does not have a detrimental effect on the care of our patients, or the wellbeing of our trainees.

I am very grateful to Dr. Matthew Cowan, the Training Committee, and Dr. Bettina Kluettgens for their hard work and careful consideration in the drafting of this strategy document, and to our trainee section for their support and helpful suggestions. The BSG will continue to support both our trainees and their trainers. We will work hard to ensure that the quality of training improves, that the next generation of gastroenterologists and hepatologists are equipped to deal with developments in practice, and above all, that the care of our patients is enhanced, despite the mounting pressures on the Health Service.

*A McKinlay*

Dr Alastair McKinlay

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**We have an obligation to ensure that the standard of training does not have a detrimental effect on the care of our patients.**

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# INTRODUCTION BY DR MATHEW COWAN

## Training Committee Chair

This is a difficult time to be a gastroenterology trainee, and indeed a gastroenterology trainer. We have experienced a collapse in endoscopy training followed by a recovery hampered by record service pressures and the continued need to cover Covid rotas. We need to learn how to teach and how to assess ability at remote consultation whilst coping with the cumulative effect of two years of upheaval. At the same time we are about to step into a new Shape of Training with a revamped curriculum and a training time that will be shortened from five to four years.

Fortunately if Covid has taught us anything, it is that we are perfectly capable of accomplishing meaningful change in a world of limited resources. The new curriculum presents challenges but it also comes with opportunities. Helping the wider community find these opportunities whilst addressing the challenges will be a major focus of the Training Committee over the next few years.

The independent nature of the BSG with its wide membership gives us a unique and powerful voice with access to important stakeholders in the world of medical education. For this reason, we are ideally placed to facilitate the development of new models of endoscopy training embodied by the English Endoscopy Academy Programme and related initiatives in the devolved nations. We have also been asked to write a framework for GP colleagues wishing to develop specialist gastroenterology interests in order to support both primary and secondary care.

Finally, we are nothing without our trainees. The Society will continue to support and encourage them in what the more experienced of us still believe to be the most exciting and interesting branch of medicine.

*Dr Matthew Cowan*

Dr Matthew Cowan

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**We are perfectly capable of accomplishing meaningful change in a world of limited resources.**

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A large, stylized, light-colored letter 'g' is positioned in the background, spanning across the middle and lower portions of the page. It has a thick, rounded stroke and a small tail that curves upwards.

PART ONE

# Background

## The British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) is a professional membership organisation that aims to enhance care in gastroenterology and hepatology in the UK and internationally.

The Training Committee is one of five higher committees that delivers the key objectives of the BSG. Supporting high quality training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology is a key charitable objective of the BSG.

The main role of the Training Committee is to support the development and implementation of the national training programme in Gastroenterology and Hepatology to ensure a high-quality consultant workforce. It also provides a forum for key stakeholders to come together to share challenges and opportunities in the area of Gastroenterology and Hepatology training. This is achieved by bringing together Training Programme Directors, Royal College of Physicians Gastroenterology Specialist Advisor Committee and Joint Advisory Group Endoscopy, current trainees, BSG Workforce Lead and other representatives from BSG Section Committees.

This BSG Training Strategy outlines the challenges and opportunities arising in specialty training and how the committee will address those for the benefits of BSG members and patients.

### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CURRENT CHALLENGES

Specialty training in the UK has recently undergone a significant review and from the autumn 2022, specialty training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology will need to be delivered within a four-year period, rather than the current five years. The BSG Training Committee has worked collaboratively in recent years to support the development of the new curriculum. The committee has produced workforce reports and surveys of trainees to inform the debate on priorities and challenges that the specialty faces now and is likely to face in the future.

The BSG fully supports trainees who train 'less than full time' and will ensure that they are not disadvantaged in the way that training is designed and delivered. To that end, the BSG Training Committee has [published a position statement outlining good practice for training providers](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges to all aspects of training in the NHS, including the ability to continue delivering the required speciality training. The BSG Training Committee provided a discussion forum where training challenges could be shared, committee members could learn from each other about how to overcome those challenges and how to embed some of the digital innovations that were rapidly implemented during the pandemic.

PART ONE

# Strategic Priorities for Training



The following key areas of work have been identified as delivery priorities for the committee:

**PRIORITY 1:**

**SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CURRICULUM**

The committee will continue to provide a discussion and learning forum, bringing together Training Programme Directors, trainees and a broad range of BSG members. One key focus for the committee will be to support the successful implementation of the new curriculum from the autumn 2022. The challenges include a shortened training period, competing priorities to deliver day to day care in a pressured environment, innovation in non-invasive diagnostic methods and the opportunities and challenges of virtual training.

The committee will also consider the implication of the new curriculum on training opportunities post Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and how the BSG can best support such opportunities.

**Key Performance Indicator:** The Committee will collaborate with the BSG Trainee Section Committee to develop and publish a position statement by July 2022 on the key considerations of implementing the new curriculum. This will include details on how the BSG will offer training and support to those delivering training and how the BSG will provide peer support during the implementation of the new curriculum.

**PRIORITY 2:**

**SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENDOSCOPY ACADEMIES**

Endoscopy training is an essential part of the specialty training curriculum. In order to deliver this training within the new curriculum and to provide a more efficient training environment, 'Endoscopy Academies' are currently being commissioned in each region to provide centralised oversight and to develop intensive "immersion" endoscopy training.

There is a need outside the formal commissioning process for all stakeholders to learn and share insights into how the academies will deliver the proposed benefits.

**Key Performance Indicator:** The Committee will set up and host a discussion group by April 2022 to support the successful implementation of Endoscopy Academies.

### PRIORITY 3:

## DEVELOPING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY OUTSIDE SPECIALTY TRAINING

Modern clinical services in gastroenterology and hepatology are delivered by multi-professional teams. There is an increasing demand to ensure that all members of the team receive consistent high-quality training. The BSG Training Committee will review the needs of different groups and how the BSG could play a role in meeting those needs. In the first instance, the committee will explore the opportunities around subspecialty training for general practitioners and the wider primary care workforce.

**Key Performance Indicator:** The Committee will analyse primary care training requirements by June 2022 and develop and publish a training framework for general practice by March 2023.

### PRIORITY 4:

## DELIVER THE ANNUAL TRAINING INTRODUCTION DAY

The BSG has always played a key role in welcoming new trainees into the Gastroenterology and Hepatology family. The Committee, in collaboration with the Trainee's Committee, has hosted an annual "Introduction to Gastroenterology" meeting. The conference consists of a combination of formal lectures and small group discussions covering all aspects of the training program and how to develop a satisfying career in gastroenterology and hepatology.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Deliver a successful (as measured by participant feedback) introduction day for new trainees each year.





