



bsg News

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SPRING 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Solving the NHS workforce crisis



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

Celebrating women in gastroenterology



BSG ENDOSCOPY UPDATE

Focussing on the theme of appropriate endoscopy



Message from the BSG President

I am writing this piece on the eve of the second junior doctor's strike in England and am reflecting upon the pressures which have led our trainees to take such action. I totally respect the right of any worker to strike, including doctors, but know that such action has not been taken lightly.

There is a workforce crisis within the NHS, but this is not just about numbers, many in all disciplines, and at all levels of seniority, feel under-valued and sometimes ignored. We are proud at the BSG to have a diverse multidisciplinary membership, and do our best to support them in ways that are open to us. Within our membership, there will be diverse views on striking, with some supporting and some disagreeing with striking in these circumstances. As an organisation, we respect all views. We give huge thanks to our colleagues including consultants, fellows, other non-training grades, physician assistants and nurses, who will support the NHS, and ultimately the junior doctors, over the strike period. We also thank those junior doctors who continue to work during the strike and make no judgement on the personal decisions of any of our members in this regard. We all hope for an NHS which is adequately staffed and resourced, and where all workers are valued and respected. In the long term, this can only be to the benefit of our patients, which is a fundamental objective of our organisation. We hope for a speedy resolution to this dispute.

The decision to abolish lifetime allowance, and increase annual allowance, on pensions gives some hope that advocacy and negotiation with the government can eventually result in benefits for doctors, not just from removal of punitive taxes on pension growth, but hopefully encouraging senior doctors to remain within the NHS in the later stages of their career. The BMA deserves due credit for its campaign on this issue, and we have contributed our small part in all of our discussions with senior NHS figures on a variety of topics. Many senior colleagues have, however, already reduced their work commitments, or fully retired at a stage

they would not have previously contemplated, and this workforce has been lost to the NHS at a time when approximately 50% of advertised consultant gastroenterologist appointments are unfilled. The "glass half full" side of me has some hope that NHS leaders will take further initiatives to support and value the workforce in the future.

Current workforce-related activities in the BSG include support, mentoring and education, but we also frequently take the opportunity for advocacy for our workforce with senior NHS and professional leaders. We are working on a BSG workforce strategy, which will be supportive and innovative, primarily focusing on those issues where we have some control or influence in the first instance. There is not a quick fix, and we cannot easily "fix" the NHS or society, but we will continue to work on this over the coming months for discussion at our Strategy Meeting in October. This work will include continued collaboration across the four nations with Royal Colleges, and NHS bodies, but of course also with our members.

Our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#), due to be launched for June, has not just the representation, but the value of our workforce at its heart. "Value" isn't just about pay, although that is clearly important, even more so in the current economic climate. The BSG has signed up to the BMA End Sexism in Medicine Pledge addressing the cultural and structural factors that cause sexism, in order to improve working conditions for medical students and doctors. Sexism at any level is unacceptable, but a survey of 2,458 doctors by the BMA in 2021 showed that 91% of women doctors in the UK have experienced sexism at work, with 42% feeling they could not report it. The NHS, and gastroenterology as a speciality, is ethnically diverse in many aspects, but



I was shocked to read the latest [GMC News bulletin](#) highlighting lower pass rates in professional exams for Asian trainees and those of black heritage, compared to white trainees. These differences were compounded by lower socioeconomic status and persisted throughout a doctor's career. There is clearly much work to be done to fully achieve Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and it is critical that we address the "E" and the "I", as well as looking Diverse. The BSG is committed to these aims and will work in a focused, outcome-based, transparent way to achieve them within our organisation, and within the wider NHS where we are able.

I never fail to be impressed by the huge variety of high-quality work produced by the BSG higher committees, sections, working groups, and indeed our members, supported by our enthusiastic and very able BSG staff. I am very much looking forward to seeing this work presented at our [annual meeting in Liverpool in June](#). Last year's face-to-face annual conference, after the hiatus caused by the pandemic, was a great reminder of the value and regard which our members rightly place on this meeting. It was not only an educational activity of the highest calibre, but an opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues, and to engage with the "family" of the BSG. We do not underestimate the social side of our annual meeting, and it is one of the reasons I still love gastroenterology as a specialty, despite all the pressures we face in the NHS. I very much hope that the concerns of our diverse groups of members will be listened to by our NHS leaders in due course, and that all NHS workers can feel truly valued for the excellent work they do in challenging circumstances.

PROF ANDY VEITCH BSG President

“
There is a workforce crisis within the NHS, but this is not just about numbers, many in all disciplines, and at all levels of seniority, feel under-valued and sometimes ignored
”

BSG CAMPUS

We are delighted to announce that BSG Campus will be back this year, save the date for 20th – 23rd November 2023! Join us for our third digital meeting designed to support and bring together the gastroenterology and hepatology community.



BSG GLOBAL GRAND ROUNDS

Dr Sabina Beg and Dr Dave Nylander have piloted a 'Grand Round' webinar format, aligned with a panel discussion where international speakers are invited to present on topics aligned to the SCE Examination. Watch this space!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

On 8th March, we celebrated International Women’s Day. I have heard a few people ask why it is necessary. I do not know one woman doctor who has not been asked ‘when will the doctor be coming to see me?’. Until that changes and we have genuine equality, International Women’s Day, and important movements such as Supporting Women in Gastroenterology (SWiG), remain essential.

I’ve had the privilege of working with many inspiring women colleagues; doctors, nurses, managers, BSG staff, academics, and other HCPs. There are far too many to mention them all, but I would like to give some examples to represent and thank all the amazing women who work in Gastroenterology.

The first is not in Gastroenterology but is my (now retired) former CEO for 15 years, Lorraine Lambert. Lorraine was an outstanding NHS leader who had a major influence on my career. She led by demonstrating that patients and people, not targets, should be at the heart of health services. If you put patients in the middle and support your teams you will deliver good healthcare, then the metrics will follow, NOT the other way around. The final line of her retirement speech was ‘Do not hit the target and miss the point’.

The second is Carolyn Davison. Carolyn was the first GI nurse consultant in the country, and she inspired me to deliver excellence in endoscopy and research from a small DGH. She encouraged me to visit units like Peter Cotton’s in Charleston and to aim high and be ambitious – my career would have been entirely different without her support and inspiration.

The next are two outstanding endoscopists – Evelien Dekker and Siwan Thomas Gibson. Both are endoscopists practicing at the highest level in terms of skills, training, and research. They have inspired countless others and I have learned so much about endoscopy, training, and research from them. Linda Sharp is the brightest academic and best research methodologist I have met - she has taught me more about research than anyone else. Linda is Professor of Cancer Epidemiology and is speaking at **BSG LIVE’23** this June in Liverpool – I encourage you to attend her presentation as you will not hear a better talk on the epidemiology of GI cancer.

“ Women do not enter Gastroenterology on a level playing field ”



Clockwise from top left: Laura Neilson, Siwan Thomas Gibson Bottom left: Evelien Dekker , Manmeet Matharoo

Lastly, I want to acknowledge some of the up-and-coming women in Gastroenterology. People like Laura Neilson, who is leading the way internationally in patient experience of endoscopy, and Manmeet Matharoo and Roisin Bevan who are the future of UK endoscopy.

Women do not enter Gastroenterology on a level playing field. The inspirational women I have mentioned and the many others they represent have had to work far harder than we men have to achieve career success. Too often men default to men – recently I spoke at a meeting where there were 14 speakers and just 2 were women – that is simply not good enough. As men, we need to do better - we need to understand male allyship and think and act differently – we need to encourage, support, and offer opportunities to female colleagues in the same way we do to men. As women, I ask you to keep inspiring and together we will work to ensure that glass ceilings aren’t just broken, they are removed. When that happens, we can look back and continue to celebrate the amazing work of women on International Women’s Day.



PROF COLIN REES
BSG President Elect

BSG ENDOSCOPY UPDATE

The major focus of our activities has been on the theme of appropriate endoscopy. To put it simply, appropriate endoscopy is to ensure the right procedure for the right indication, carried out by a fully trained endoscopist in a timely fashion.

Sounds simple? It is clearly desirable for patients and endoscopy staff, but how often do one of these elements contribute to a suboptimal patient journey, clinician experience, or contribute to long waiting times for diagnosis?

Quality improvement remains a focus for the endoscopy section. In acute upper GI bleeding, we plan to continue to develop our national GI bleeding course agenda and remain keen to pursue the possibility of certification in acute upper GI bleeding. To support our improvement agenda, we eagerly await the report of the BSG ERCP survey and BSG Endoscopy has been working closely with NHS England on an updated service specification for ERCP. This will undoubtedly have an impact not only on how the service is delivered in the UK, but also have significant implications for endoscopists providing an ERCP service.

The Endoscopy committee continue to strive to improve the quality of endoscopy and patient experience and I would particularly draw your attention to the recently updated guidelines on **[consent for endoscopic procedures](#)**. As we move to ever more complex endoscopic interventions, the importance and manner of obtaining informed consent has never been more critical. We also anticipate updated endoscopy sedation guidelines, and an update on the IBD colonoscopy surveillance guidelines which will be produced in partnership with the BSG IBD section in the year ahead.

The challenge of winter pressures, Covid peaks and troughs, and long waiting lists for non-urgent procedures mean that BSG Endoscopy is keen to support the development of a new workforce to deliver the service. In this respect, we are delighted to support the increasing role of physician

“ BSG Endoscopy is keen to support the development of a new workforce to deliver the service ”

associates within our speciality, but more specifically in the delivery of endoscopy services in the UK. We will be working closely with colleagues to promote the role of physician associates within endoscopy, but more importantly welcome them to the BSG as a distinct membership group.

As we look forward to BSG LIVE'23, our flagship endoscopy sessions will focus on appropriate endoscopy: how we might reduce post upper GI endoscopy cancer, improving ERCP quality and practical alternatives to colonoscopy. In addition, the colonoscopy quality symposium will further develop these themes, discussing optimal management of colonic polyps, colonoscopy in the frail and elderly patient, and controversies in the use of colonoscopy in colorectal cancer screening.

Our International Endoscopy Foundation lecturer this year will be Professor Barham Abu Dayyeh who will address how endoscopic innovations will change clinical practice. The BSG endovillage team go from strength to strength so remember to sign up early for these hands-on sessions from our experienced trainers. Our joint medical surgical session will highlight the ever-increasing role of endoscopy in managing conditions that were previously the domain of our surgical colleagues.

Finally, the importance of endoscopy in terms of environmental footprint is now well recognised. Whilst appropriate endoscopy in its broader sense will contribute to reducing the environmental footprint of endoscopy, I am pleased to say that we have been working with the Sustainability Committee to produce a green endoscopy checklist, which will act as a prompt and possible roadmap for services to begin to embrace the necessary changes to reduce the carbon footprint and the environmental impact of endoscopy.

The Endoscopy Committee remain committed to promoting endoscopy of the highest standard within the UK and I welcome your ongoing support with these initiatives.



DR JOHN MORRIS
VP & Chair of Endoscopy



JOIN US AT BSG LIVE'23 ON 19TH – 22ND JUNE 2023 IN LIVERPOOL

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join the BSG for our annual meeting, “BSG LIVE” at the ACC, Liverpool on the 19th – 22nd of June 2023.

We are looking forward to bringing the gastroenterology and hepatology community together in Liverpool this June to connect with colleagues old and new, learn about the latest developments and innovations within our speciality, and grow professionally and personally.

The aims of BSG LIVE are:

- To educate our members on state-of-the-art investigation and management, as well as new developments in all fields of gastroenterology and hepatology
- To provide high quality CPD for our members
- To allow researchers in all gastroenterology-related fields to present, share, and discuss their findings
- To encourage and enable collaborative working and research in gastroenterology and hepatology via networking at this face-to-face event

“ New for 2023, we are delighted to be filming all the sessions within the main BSG LIVE'23 scientific programme”

This year, we are bringing back popular features such as the Monday Masterclass, EndoVillage, Endoscopy Live, and Meet the Experts sessions. We will also be running several major new symposia including the “Primary Care Interface in Gastroenterology”, “The Future of Endoscopy Training in the UK”, and symposia dedicated to Research in gastroenterology and hepatology. In addition, the conference Plenary and the section-based sessions will cover the breadth of new developments and research within our speciality.



Above left: Prof. Andy Veitch, BSG President 2022 - 2024

Above: Plenary keynote lecture in the main hall

Below left: Delegate participating in a Q&A session

Below right: Prof. Andy Veitch, BSG President 2022 - 2024 (left),
Dr Alastair McKinlay, former BSG President 2020 - 2022 (right)

New for 2023, we are delighted to be filming all the sessions within the main BSG LIVE'23 scientific programme and will be sharing these after the conference with all in-person delegates. Those who are unable to join us live will be able to register to watch the recordings on-demand.

We are also thrilled to have received over 400 abstract submissions and look forward to celebrating the latest scientific achievements and research developments in gastroenterology.

You can register [here](#) and on behalf of the BSG, we look forward to welcoming you to BSG LIVE'23 in June and hope you will join us as we come together for another memorable annual meeting.



PROF ADRIAN STANLEY

BSG Senior Secretary

BECOME A BSG OFFICER

[Contribute at a strategic level to the Society as a BSG Officer:](#)

Deputy Education Chair 2023 – 2025
apply by 7th May

Deputy Chair International 2023 – 2025
apply by 14th May

Deputy Chair Training 2023 – 2025,
apply by 28th May



BSG SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

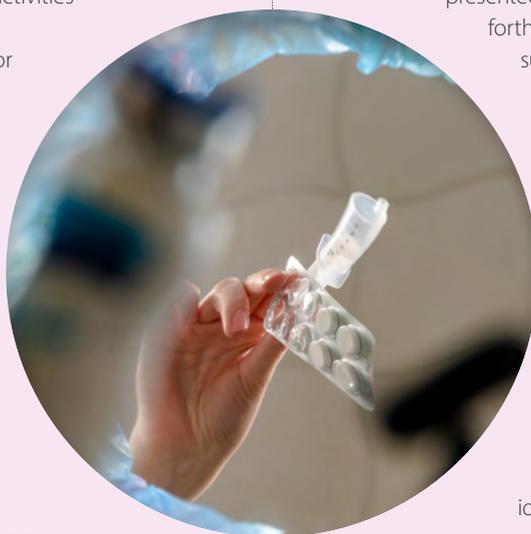
It gives me great pleasure to write this report as the BSG Lead for Sustainability. The BSG has been leading from the front in this important area - we were one of the first professional medical societies to develop a sustainability strategy with a strong commitment to achieving climate goals.

I was privileged to have been appointed as the lead for sustainability at the BSG in November 2022. It also comes with a huge responsibility to carry forward the substantial work that has already been achieved. The sustainability working group is now very much an integral part of the BSG machinery and we are working to identify various ways to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable practice not just within the working of the Society, but importantly amongst the membership and guiding clinical and academic activities supported by the Society. The sustainability group is responsible for ensuring the sustainability strategy is delivered and results are objectively measured.

In October 2022, the BSG collaborated with The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and the JAG to publish the [Joint Consensus in Practical Measures for Environmental Sustainability in Green Endoscopy](#). This was the first across all the Gastroenterology societies and has given some direction in the field where evidence is lacking.

We have since developed a Green Endoscopy Checklist and a national survey is underway for individual endoscopy units across the UK to self-assess their infrastructure, endoscopy pathways, and practices, with an aim to identify and develop standardised sustainable practice.

“ We were one of the first professional medical societies to develop a sustainability strategy ”



The BSG has joined the UK Health and Climate Change Alliance, and this year we have completed the Climate and Health score card to underline our commitment to this agenda - we will use the results of the scoring to inform an action plan for further carbon footprinting of the Society.

We are proud that the BSG's efforts to promote sustainable practice in endoscopy has been presented as a case study in the forthcoming policy document on sustainability in healthcare and climate change drafted by the Royal College of Physicians. This is an important document for government, to influence climate and health policies.

Work is also underway to revamp the sustainability webpage on the BSG website where we have designed a forum to encourage discussions and exchange of ideas amongst colleagues.

I would also like to draw attention to the series of [interactive webinars](#) organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation. Free to access, it gives attendees a clear understanding of the issues and how our specialty contributes to its effects.

I look forward to seeing you all in [Liverpool at BSG LIVE'23](#) where the sustainability symposium is now an important and permanent feature of the programme. Let's try to make it the greenest conference yet!



DR SANDEEP SIDDIH
Sustainability Lead



NIKKI HUSBANDS
Committee Services Support Officer

BSG RESEARCH UPDATE

Supporting gastrointestinal and liver research is one of the key charitable objectives of the BSG. It is well recognised that research active institutions deliver higher quality and safer care, hence the goal of the BSG to support integration of research into clinical care.

The [BSG research strategy](#) provides the framework on which the BSG Research Committee will deliver this goal.

The Clinical Research Groups (CRGs) under the umbrella of the BSG Research Committee are tasked with developing, supporting, and delivering research relevant to members. The five CRGs and 2 Task Forces have been rejuvenated with new members, including trainees and allied healthcare professionals. Sections of the BSG will work with the CRGs to deliver best research content at events such as BSG LIVE and BSG Campus.

The Research Committee is committed to progressing the goal of developing and supporting more early career researchers and allied healthcare professionals including nursing colleagues. The annual [Introduction to Research events](#) provide a platform to stimulate research interest and to develop collaborative studies. The Trainee Research Networks (12 of them on the last count!) are thriving and developing national multicentre projects such as the [EVOLVE study](#), which is supported by the BSG. Follow the latest updates on Twitter by following [@EVOLVE_FOLC](#).

Best research happens when various disciplines collaborate at all stages, from generating ideas, to conducting the research and analysing outputs. One such stimulus to this interdisciplinary research was given by the successful BSG Rosetrees Trust Interdisciplinary Workshop on Inflammatory Bowel Disease in York, attended by over 60 delegates including many aspiring GI researchers.

“ Best research happens when various disciplines collaborate at all stages, from generating ideas, to conducting the research and analysing outputs ”

Communication and collaboration with other partners in GI research enhances the quality and impact of work, and avoids duplication. The NIHR National Specialty Groups and the BSG Research Committee work closely to ensure alignment of strategic objectives in GI and hepatology research. In partnership with NIHR-HTA, 20 PICOS were developed by the CRGs of which already four commissioned calls have been made. Similarly, regular contact with key charitable partners such as Crohn's and Colitis UK and Guts UK focusses efforts and funding on key unmet needs and identifies priority areas of research in GI and hepatology. The BSG has partnered with Guts UK in developing two important [James Lind Alliance PSPs in Pancreatitis](#) and [Irritable Bowel Syndrome](#).



Ensuring research equity is a fundamental principle on which the BSG delivers its research strategy. Recognising that a significant proportion of research participation from BSG members, including early career researchers, allied healthcare professionals, and clinicians from non-academic centres, comes through voluntary, unremunerated activity outside of their job plans, the BSG offers the infrastructure and initial support to those who wish to progress their research ideas while practicing as front-line health care professionals delivering care. The initiation of the [BSG Research Scholars Programme](#) and the Research Database and Statistical Support programme in conjunction with [BiCOPS](#) are key components of this strategy.

We should also celebrate our successes. Impactful practice-changing research is conducted by many BSG members and [UK GI and hepatology research is lauded internationally](#).

The rejuvenation of research interest and activity following the challenges of the pandemic and ongoing pressures on service delivery is a huge ask and one to which we, all of the BSG family, must contribute.



PROF SHAJI SEBASTIAN
Research Chair

UPDATE FROM THE BSG EDUCATION CHAIR

Delivery of high-quality education is a key objective of the BSG. In my previous role as the first BSG Web Editor for Education, I curated the Web Education platform just before the start of the COVID pandemic.

Like many other parents who did lessons at home, BBC bite size was my 'go to site' to keep the kids focussed. This led to the invention of BSG bite size for education. Every cloud has a silver lining. Since then, the web offering has gone from strength to strength. Under the lead of Professor Anjan Dhar, there has been an expansion and restructuring of the [Web Education portal](#). The BSG team including Michael Coyne and BSG Marketing and Communications have worked hard behind the scenes to make it more visual and attractive to our readers. The Web Education team has also expanded with two new enthusiastic trainee Online Editors; Dr John Ong and Dr Srivathsan Ravindran. [Journal Highlights](#) is a new feature which highlights the latest articles from high impact factor journals with a succinct summary.

We also have a new Deputy Web Editor; Dr Jyoti Hansi, who has succeeded Dr Francesca Moroni, and will no doubt bring her own flavour to the web offering. The Masterclass video

“ The objective is to provide a measurement framework and to maximise awareness and understanding of what a high-quality service looks like ”

series, which has one release per calendar month, has been a good revision of important topics from BSG LIVE'22. The Web Education offering continues to augment the current breadth of articles including nurse and trainee focussed articles, clinical cases and articles on liver disease, inflammatory bowel disease, sustainability, and green endoscopy to name a few.

The [mentoring programme](#) which has been successfully relaunched, offers members the opportunity to train and upskill as mentors, or obtain mentoring from established mentors. Why not give mentoring a go?

The BSG continues to offer bursaries to attend BSG LIVE'23 in partnership with Galapagos. We are keen to attract more members to the annual meeting and undergraduates to join the BSG too.

I complete my term as Education Chair in June, handing over to Anjan. It has been a pleasure to work with a brilliant team at the BSG. For all those who contemplate [applying for an officer role](#), which are open now, but are hesitant, my advice is – believe in yourself and put yourself forward, some may succeed, and some may lose, but you can't win if you don't try!



PROF REENA SIDHU
Education Chair

CHECK OUT OUR WEB EDUCATION

Keep up to date with state-of-the-art education knowledge in all sub specialities in gastroenterologist and hepatology with [Web Education](#), featuring short articles written by experts in their field, case-based discussions, career-focused top tips, and now video presentations.



CONTRIBUTE TO MEET OUR MEMBERS

Meet our Members is a series of interviews with members to find out about their work, as well as what they value about their membership. [Read our latest interviews here and get in touch if you would like to contribute.](#)



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In the years following his visit to Basra for the Basra Medical School's 16th International meeting in 2019, Professor Al-Rubaiy and his team returned to conduct a research study to better understand the current colorectal cancer screening practice and perceived barriers. [Read the full story here.](#)

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BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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

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