



bsg News

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SPRING 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leadership and collaboration



BSG ENDOSCOPY UPDATE

Update on activities of the section



COME TO BSG LIVE'24

Join us this June!

Message from the BSG President

As this new year dawns, I hope that you have all had a chance to have some time with family and friends over the holiday period, and some well-deserved “down time”.

On behalf of the BSG, I wish to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the NHS in these increasingly challenging times. We have a continued workforce crisis, and there is ever increasing demand for NHS services. The NHS in all four nations has failed to meet key targets in ED, cancer, and hospital treatments over the past 7 years – this is not just a post-pandemic problem, or just due to strikes. I never fail to be impressed, however, by the determination of our members to work hard to address and tackle these challenges despite legitimate concerns, and sometimes grievances. The NHS is 75 years old and should remain an institution of which we are rightly proud. I am also proud of the British Society of Gastroenterology, which I have the honour to lead, and which has been serving its members for 87 years. In that time, the BSG has provided a welcoming collaborative home for its members and has been instrumental in developing and delivering world-leading education, training, research, and guidance.

The BSG's leadership was most evident in recent years during the early stages of the pandemic when the organisation filled a void of clear advice and guidance at a time of real uncertainty, anxiety, and some genuine fear. This influence spread beyond just our members and helped cement the organisation as a leading source of knowledge and opinion to guide aspects of government policy. I have great admiration and thanks for my predecessors in leadership positions in the organisation during that period. The BSG remains at the forefront of addressing current challenges in the NHS – there are no easy solutions, but we can harness the huge enthusiasm and expertise we have at hand to find solutions or mitigations where possible, and to actively support our members where not. As our 90th year comes into sight, I am

excited by the BSG's Project 90, led by our President Elect Colin Rees, which includes ambitious plans to support our members across the spectrum of BSG activities, and I look forward to this coming to fruition during Colin's presidency later this year.

The bedrock of our organisation, and indeed our specialty, is our members. Gastroenterology, in my opinion, is the best medical specialty to be in and I remain enthused and excited by my work in my day job, despite the clear challenges we face. Gastroenterology has rightly been a popular specialty and entry into it is very competitive. We know however that we have work to do in addressing some ED&I issues, particularly around gender imbalance but we are working hard to make this an attractive specialty for all. We have a rigorous [ED&I strategy](#) with transparent data and outcomes. This will help us self-examine our flaws, and address them, but we also need to attract a truly diverse group of individuals into the specialty. For the first time in our history, in September 2022, we invited undergraduates to become BSG members having become involved in some of the activities of enthusiastic undergraduate gastroenterology societies at several medical schools. We now have over [100 undergraduate members](#) who can now actively contribute to the society, and welcomed many of them supported by bursaries at last year's annual meeting. I look forward to them becoming an increasing active part of the Society over the coming years. At the Taster Weekend and Introduction Day in November, I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of a diverse group of young doctors who will make a great contribution to gastroenterology in the coming years.

Not all of the challenges we face are medical. The BSG has taken a world-leading stance on

highlighting the effects of climate change on health, and in attempting to mitigate its effects through advocating and [practising environmental sustainability](#). 2023 was the [hottest year on record](#) and the 1.5°C limit on increase of temperature above pre-industrial levels is in danger of being breached in the near future. The recent COP28 conference stated for the first time a call to “transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050.” This provides some degree of optimism, though this may be more aspirational than realistic on a global scale.

Healthcare is a significant contributor to carbon emissions, and professional medical societies have their own contribution across their activities. The BSG is playing its small part, not just through advocacy, but with practical measures across its administration and conferences, and with practical advice for our members. We have previously published consensus guidelines on green endoscopy and have followed this up with a green endoscopy checklist, and are developing an E-Learning for Health module in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. I am very grateful to our Sustainability Lead, Sandeep Siddhi, and to the BSG Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group for taking forward this important work. In addition, we will be taking a small but important step towards increased sustainability of our journals. The BSG co-owns the BMJ-published gastroenterology journals and, in collaboration with BMJ, have developed a high-quality digital



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flipbook alternative to our paper journals for [Gut](#) and [Frontline Gastroenterology](#), as indicated in the e-newsletter in November. We have had very positive feedback on the journal format from BSG Executive and Council, and from informal member feedback. I am pleased to announce that we will be switching our journal offering from paper to digital for our members from April of this year.

As we enter 2024, we have numerous challenges, but the BSG is your Society and we will be there for our members throughout.

With very best wishes for this New Year,

ANDY VEITCH BSG President

TUNE INTO OUR BSG WEBINARS

Check out our upcoming webinars including 'Managing Stress in Training & Practice' at 6pm on 5th March, and 'Active Bystanders' at 12:30pm on 20th March, and '[Introduction to Sustainable Healthcare in the Context of Liver Disease](#)' at 6pm on 26th March.



BSG LIVE'23 WEB EDUCATION VIDEOS

Catch up on all of our [BSG LIVE'23 Web Education Interviews](#); informal fire side chat format with question and answer discussions highlighting aspects of a presentation with the participating speaker and an expert in the field.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ENDOSCOPY VICE PRESIDENT

I write to share with you some of the activities of the endoscopy section of the BSG during 2023.

I am sure you would agree following the success of the BSG LIVE endoscopy contribution this year and feedback from our recent BSG Campus online event, the endoscopy section continues to develop innovative educational initiatives for our annual meeting programme. Watch out for our ambitious plans for BSG LIVE'24. This will involve an entirely new approach to our "live endoscopy" where we have sought to include high quality educational sessions with more inclusive content for our trainees and nursing colleagues.

A major component of our activity is our quality improvement programme pursuing an overall "appropriate endoscopy agenda". I am pleased to report that the ERCP has been approved for phase two funding by the BSG and we look forward to the implementation of defined interventions that will contribute to the overall NHS strategy of improving patient care and outcomes in ERCP.

A new and exciting development has been the upper GI quality improvement project and with a stakeholder meeting already held with broad representation between the BSG, JAG and NHS representatives from four nations, I am certain that the BSG Endoscopy section will continue to drive this agenda. We hope to define with our partners what exactly constitutes a high-quality upper GI endoscopy and more importantly, to review the indications for upper GI endoscopy such that we can be assured that the scarce NHS resources are being used appropriately and we avoid unnecessary endoscopy of low value, truly pursuing green endoscopy principles.

Finally, the second phase of the acute upper GI bleeding project including new innovations in delivery of our upper GI bleeding courses and educational materials, will be rolled out over the next few months, so please watch out for an update at the BSG.

I am pleased to report that our guidelines group continues to be productive, and I am sure you would agree that the recently published BSG sedation guidelines offer a template for best practice, but also a roadmap on how to engage with local sedation and anaesthetic committees to ensure

“ BSG Endoscopy on your behalf continues to advocate for excellence in patient care and in our member's interests ”

that where necessary, our patients can receive appropriate deep sedation. This will have implications for our everyday practice so I would encourage you to update yourself on this important output. We are eagerly awaiting the updated IBD surveillance guideline which is expected to be available in mid-to-late 2024 and will be of relevance to all those in luminal gastroenterology.

We continue to seek to support our trainees who have raised valid concerns about their ability to achieve certification in upper and lower GI endoscopy. We continue to advocate strongly that trainees should not have their training adversely affected by training other members of the clinical workforce, but nevertheless accepting that clinical endoscopists contribute to a valued and vital part of our workforce.

One of the most vigorous debates that we have engaged upon on your behalf in the past few months has been in discussions about what constitutes an appropriate "point on an endoscopy list". Whilst there are at times divergent views on priorities, this is critical to our patients who deserve high quality endoscopy to be carried out in a timely fashion. I hope to be able to report on further positive progress in this area in the New Year.

Finally, it is a real pleasure to see a much-revitalised BSG Endoscopy Clinical Research Group under the leadership of Manu Nayar. Research, particular in the field of endoscopy, is critical to our ability to synthesize new information and evidence that informs all of our clinical and guideline activities. A priority setting partnership process is underway and will report in summer 2024 at BSG LIVE'24.

BSG Endoscopy on your behalf continues to advocate for excellence in patient care and in our member's interests when we interact on a frequent basis with partners at JAG and the broader NHS and by working in partnership, I am encouraged that BSG Endoscopy remains in a position to influence clinical priorities and the broader gastroenterology delivery agenda.

I look forward to continuing the hard work of the committee and meeting you at BSG LIVE'24.



JOHN MORRIS
Endoscopy Vice President



A MESSAGE FROM THE WORKFORCE LEAD

It was a pleasure to see such a high turn-out at the joint session between myself and Dr Misha Kabir (Chair of SWiG) at the Workforce Retention and Wellbeing session at BSG LIVE '23.

Suffice to say we are in a workforce crisis, however I am pleased to report that at the BSG strategy day the need for the BSG to address these issues featured highly on the agenda.

As the Workforce Lead, I would like to draw the membership's attention to the [BSG workforce report](#). This year we have found data that demonstrates that we

“ This year we have found data that demonstrates that we have the biggest OP clinic backlog in medicine ”

have the biggest OP clinic backlog in medicine and as such the demand on our services is rapidly increasing and the need for the NHS long term plan to be realised is drawing fast. The report has now expanded to include more information on the wider workforce whom I believe will be key to our response to the backlog.

I hope we will all continue to show compassion to each other, but particularly to the most vulnerable members of our society who are struggling to meet the demand in the current intensive environment we find ourselves in.



SHAIROZ SAMJI
Workforce Lead

BSG RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

We aim to support the untapped potential for research participation among members by offering [initial support](#) to those who wish to progress their research while practicing as front-line health care professionals.



APPLY FOR A BSG AWARD BY 16TH FEBRUARY

If you have made any outstanding achievements or research contributions, or developed an innovative service in your practice, please consider applying for one of our [prestigious awards](#) by 16th February.



SEE YOU IN BIRMINGHAM FOR BSG LIVE'24

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the BSG Programme Committee, that we invite you to join us at **BSG LIVE'24** taking place at the ICC, Birmingham from 17th – 20th June 2024. As the premier and most extensive assembly of professionals from the UK GI Community, we look forward to welcoming over 2,500 delegates to this significant four-day scientific event.

The objectives of BSG LIVE'24 are to:

- Provide education on state-of-the-art investigation, management, and new developments
- Provide high-quality CPD
- Allow researchers in all gastroenterology related fields to present, share, and discuss their findings
- Encourage and enable collaborative working, and research
- Celebrate BSG members who have been awarded for their exceptional accomplishments in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology
- Host meetings for our Trustees, Executive, Council, and other BSG Committees
- Provide opportunities for delegates to hear about new industry developments that improve patient management and outcomes

BSG LIVE'24 will feature the Monday Masterclass, an opening Plenary featuring keynotes and awarded lectures from leaders within the specialty, as well as more than 60 specialist scientific symposia. In 2024, we are delighted to be running a seventh stream of sessions with more symposia on Research, as well as new symposia on NETS, "Future Gazing in Gastroenterology", GI Pathology, and an additional Sustainability session. Other sessions to look forward to are joint Endoscopy & Liver and IBD & Liver sessions.

We also look forward to our hearing industry symposia on the latest advancements in treatment, methodologies, equipment developments, and other insights and innovations.

After the great success and high attendance we saw at BSG LIVE'23, we are delighted to be opening our exhibition again from the Monday lunchtime to offer you more opportunities to engage with our industry partners and meet the BSG team at the BSG stand.



We are delighted to also once again be facilitating hands-on endoscopy training at the EndoVillage which will give attendees of all career stages the opportunity to train in different endoscopic scenarios.

As always, there are plenty of opportunities for networking with friends and colleagues, old and new, throughout the conference and we hope you'll be able to join us for the BSG NIGHT as we come together to celebrate as a BSG community. Let's make this year's BSG NIGHT the biggest and best yet!

Sustainability remains high on our agenda, and we are continuing to review how we can ensure the meeting is as sustainable as possible. We invite you to join us in these efforts as we aim to deliver a more sustainable BSG LIVE.

We are delighted to provide you with a wide array of exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and grow at this significant event of the year for the UK GI community, and look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham this June.

Registration is now open, and I encourage you to take advantage of the early bird rates and book your place by [5th April 2024](#). Further discounts are also available if you register for both BSG LIVE'24 and Campus'24 at the same time.

 **HELEN STEED**
BSG Senior Secretary



“ There are plenty of opportunities for networking with friends and colleagues, old and new, throughout the conference and we hope you'll be able to join us for the BSG NIGHT as we come together to celebrate ”



BSG GLOBAL GRAND ROUNDS

The BSG Global Grand Rounds is an online webinar series brought to you by the BSG International Committee. This series aims to cover the SCE curriculum giving an international perspective on common gastro-intestinal conditions.

Each episode features a presentation from an international expert, followed by a panel discussion, and is designed to provide high quality education for both UK and overseas gastroenterology trainees.

The first season began in May 2023, and featured stimulating presentations and discussions on the following topics.

Bile Salt Malabsorption

Prof Michael Camilleri, Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Endoscopic diagnosis of early upper GI neoplasia

Prof Philip Chiu, Chinese University of Hong Kong

A practical approach to diagnosis and management of NAFLD

Prof Ian Cua, Head, Institute of Digestive & Liver Diseases, St Luke's Medical Centre, Manila

Reducing colorectal cancer risk in IBD

Prof Ida Hilmi, Consultant Gastroenterologist, University of Malaya

Updates in eosinophilic oesophagitis

Prof Javier Molina Infante, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Hospital Universitario San Pedro De Alcantara, Caceres

Colorectal Cancer Screening: An international perspective

Dr Ganiyat Oyeleke, Gastroenterologist, Lagos University Teaching Hospital

Pancreatic exocrine insufficiency

Dr Analia Pasqua, Gastroenterologist, Hospital Italiano De Buenos Aires

COVID-19 and its impact on the GI tract

Associate Prof Anahita Sadeghi, Digestive Disease Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Diagnosing and Managing constipation

Associate Professor Rebecca Burgell, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Alfred Health & Monash University, Melbourne, Australia



Series two will launch in 2024, and feature presentations on the following:

- Oesophageal manometry
- Obscure GI bleeding
- The diagnosis and management of infective diarrhoea
- Updates in the management of alcoholic hepatitis
- Abnormal LFTs in pregnancy
- Endoscopic disease activity assessment in Ulcerative Colitis
- Endoscopy training
- Equality in gastroenterology
- IBD in pregnancy
- Diagnosis/management of H pylori; non invasive biomarkers and premalignant gastric lesions
- Disconnected Pancreatic Duct
- Updates in the management of IBS
- Updates in the management of UGI bleeding
- The diagnosis and management of pancreatic cysts

Look out for updates from the BSG announcing the launch of series two. You can also watch series one [here](#).



SABINA BEG

Americas & Caribbean Zonal Lead for BSG International

BSG GUIDELINES UPDATE

BSG LIVE'23 in Liverpool was a hugely successful conference, and there was a packed hall for the CSSC Guidelines symposium.

The focus last year was on Endoscopy and Hepatology, with 4 important guidelines presented:

- Endoscopy Consent Update
- Sedation during GI Endoscopy
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Adults
- Risk assessment of patients with cirrhosis prior to elective non-hepatic surgery

Guidelines/Guidance published in Gut this year:

- Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Cholangiocarcinoma
- Guidelines on Sedation in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Guidelines/Guidance published in Frontline

Gastroenterology this year:

- Risk assessment of patients with cirrhosis prior to elective non-hepatic surgery
- Best Practice Guidance on the outpatient management of cirrhosis

Guideline endorsed and submitted for publication in Gut:

- The use of faecal microbiota transplant as treatment for recurrent or refractory

- Clostridioides difficile infection and other potential indications (joint guideline with Healthcare Infection Society)
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Adults

The NICE accreditation term for BSG Guidelines has been extended; in order to ensure that we stay aligned with NICE, we are reviewing options for the provision of training in GRADE methodology for Guideline Development Groups (GDGs).

Guidelines are a hugely important part of the BSG's service to the speciality, and its members. The development of each guideline involves a tremendous amount of work by the GDGs. As some feedback on the value of their work, the table below shows citation and download metrics from *Gut* and *Frontline Gastroenterology* for guidelines/guidance published in 2019 – 2022.

Finally, we plan to appoint a Deputy Guidelines Lead to commence in June 2024.



PERMINDER PHULL

Guidelines Lead

Article Title	Journal	Year	Total Cites	Altmetric Score	Views / Downloads
Deep sedation and anaesthesia in complex gastrointestinal endoscopy: a joint position statement endorsed by the BSG, JAG and RCoA	Frontline	2019	32	25	12089
British Society of Gastroenterology consensus guidelines on the management of inflammatory bowel disease in adults	Gut	2019	958	476	713344
British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines on the diagnosis and management of patients at risk of gastric adenocarcinoma	Gut	2019	252	132	216977

Article Title	Journal	Year	Total Cites	Altmetric Score	Views / Downloads
Diagnosis and management of acute lower gastrointestinal bleeding: guidelines from the British Society of Gastroenterology	<i>Gut</i>	2019	129	306	339486
British Society of Gastroenterology and UK-PSC guidelines for the diagnosis and management of primary sclerosing cholangitis	<i>Gut</i>	2019	111	46	107662
British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines for oesophageal manometry and oesophageal reflux monitoring	<i>Gut</i>	2019	39	14	35111
BSG-led multisociety consensus care bundle for the early clinical management of acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding	<i>Frontline Gastroenterology</i>	2020	21	137	30971
British Society of Gastroenterology guidance for management of inflammatory bowel disease during the COVID-19 pandemic	<i>Gut</i>	2020	180	112	55350
Guidelines for the management of hereditary colorectal cancer from the BSG/ACPGBI/UKCGG	<i>Gut</i>	2020	168	101	98935
BSG/ACGBI/PHE post-polypectomy and post-colorectal cancer resection surveillance guidelines	<i>Gut</i>	2020	164	90	90411
Guidelines on the use of liver biopsy in clinical practice from the BSG, the RCR and the RCPATH	<i>Gut</i>	2020	114	101	95046
Adaptations to the BSG guidelines on the management of acute severe UC in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: a RAND appropriateness panel	<i>Gut</i>	2020	26	38	24291
British Society of Gastroenterology position statement on patient experience of GI endoscopy	<i>Gut</i>	2020	6	4	4604
The management of adult patients with severe chronic small intestinal dysmotility	<i>Gut</i>	2020	23	76	99319

Article Title	Journal	Year	Total Cites	Altmetric Score	Views / Downloads
Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic stent- shunt in the management of portal hypertension	<i>Gut</i>	2020	67	156	34431
Guidelines on the management of ascites in cirrhosis	<i>Gut</i>	2020	155	134	295660
Standards for the provision of antenatal care for patients with inflammatory bowel disease: guidance endorsed by the BSG and the BMFMS	<i>Frontline Gastroenterology</i>	2021	17	20	4975
British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines on the management of irritable bowel syndrome	<i>Gut</i>	2021	124	258	223720
British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines for the management of iron deficiency anaemia in adults	<i>Gut</i>	2021	49	215	112716
Endoscopy in patients on antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy: BSG and ESGE guideline update	<i>Gut</i>	2021	25	30	85099
Faecal immunochemical testing in patients with signs or symptoms of suspected colorectal cancer: a joint guideline from the ACPGBI and the BSG	<i>Gut</i>	2022	23	73	113756
BSG and BSPGHAN joint consensus guidelines on the diagnosis and management of eosinophilic oesophagitis in children and adults	<i>Gut</i>	2022	22	99	54396
British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines on the management of functional dyspepsia	<i>Gut</i>	2022	15	159	485742

WHY BECOME A BSG MEMBER

Being a part of the BSG means discounts of up to 30% off BSG-endorsed events, discounted tickets for BSG LIVE and BSG Campus, and a [30% discount on the publishing charge](#) for *BMJ Open Gastroenterology*.



BSG GUT HIGHLIGHTS

We're bringing *Gut* and BSG members closer by highlighting the best and most interesting articles published in [this series](#) each month. Our team of Ambassadors will write summaries of papers from basic science papers to clinical original research, and from all subspecialties and subsections.

BSG IBD COMMITTEE REPORT

A busy year for the IBD section comes to an end, where we delivered a very successful educational agenda. The monothematic day in Liverpool focusing on improving quality of care and novel service delivery models was well attended despite a national rail strike and received excellent feedback.

For BSG LIVE'23, we delivered 7 symposia, most of which were extremely well attended with great feedback. We covered core BSG priorities including EDI and sustainability in our main symposia. Our joint symposium on liver disease and IBD provided key insights in this tricky field. The most up to date management of acute severe colitis highlighted the well-known evidence-based guidance and discussed hot new topics that may revolutionise future care. Our BSG Campus 2023 programme was highly interactive with great MDT style discussion of complex cases.

The updated IBD main guidelines are progressing well and are really taking shape now. We had a very successful face-to-face voting meeting and voted on GRADE statements with rock solid methodology. The guidelines are on track with a planned completion date of Q4 2024 and publication in 2025. Watch this space. A joint guideline development group for IBD surveillance colonoscopies has been established under the auspices of the endoscopy committee and the work has now commenced.

The BSG involvement as a society and by individual members has been key to the successful role out of the 2022 IBD patient survey and service self-assessment with over 15,000 responses. We are looking forward to seeing the results early in 2024. The BSG IBD KPIs have been agreed and published. In a fast-changing

“ We are exploring ways to promote IBD as a specialty as despite the increasing demand, fewer trainees chose IBD compared to other subspecialties ”



QI environment, we are now exploring how to shape the future of QI in terms of KPI data collection and QI support for sites with partners involved in IBD UK.

There is a great demand for future IBD clinicians and leaders. We are exploring ways to promote IBD as a specialty as despite the increasing demand, fewer trainees chose IBD compared to other subspecialties. We plan to develop webinars, outreach to trainee events, and highlight career opportunities. The BSG endorsement of [IBD fellowships](#) has been very popular and we are aiming to promote these posts to allow for additional training. We are also planning to develop more online content for trainees and IBD nurses.

As section chair, I have represented the BSG in the House of Lords enquiry to examine failing in home care services and have engaged with the other professional organisations to advance the matter. The House of Lords report has endorsed our critical views and [set out much needed steps to improve the homecare experience](#) for patients and clinical teams.

The committee has worked with the Joint Committee on vaccinations and immunisations to gain access for IBD patients on immunosuppressive therapy for the Shingrix vaccine. This has now been offered to over 50-year-olds rather than just to those over 70s only. Finally, you will have heard about all the novel therapies entering the IBD arena. As a committee, we have submitted comments on all the NICE approvals for these novel IBD therapies.



CHRISTIAN SELINGER
IBD Chair



The BSG Mentoring programme aims to help our members with their career growth and development by strategically matching those who are looking for additional knowledge or advice with suitable mentors. [Find out more and sign up to be a mentor or mentee today.](#)



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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