

Chair's Message: British Society of Gastroenterology International Committee

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) International Committee for the 2025–2027 term. Alongside Deputy Chair Dr. Umesh Basavarajah and our dedicated Zonal Leads, we continue to advance global gastrointestinal and liver health through high-quality education, sustainable capacity building, and strategic global partnerships.

Strategic Partnerships & Global Integration

2025 has been a landmark year for formalizing our international collaborations. We are proud to announce the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese Society of Gastroenterology (CSG), marked by a successful hybrid symposium held in June 2025. Furthermore, we have reached a consensus with the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG); we look forward to the official signing during their Annual Conference this December, with celebrations to follow at BSG Live '26.

We also continue to revitalize our long-standing partnerships in Bangladesh, where our support has facilitated the delivery of basic endoscopy training and the implementation of Medilogic reporting software.

Education, Accreditation, and International Meetings

A major achievement this year was the UEG-BSG ESEGH Exam Masterclass held in Manchester on December 4th. Supported by a grant from UEG and delivered in partnership with the Malta Gastroenterology Association, this course provided critical psychological and technical preparation for international trainees.

Looking ahead, we are finalizing the 2nd BSG International Gastroenterology Meeting in Dubai (May 2026) and developing a new digital hub to highlight endorsed international events from our partner regions.

Collaborative Research and Grant Impact

Our biennial grant program remains a cornerstone of our mission, providing up to £10,000 per project. Recent successes include:

- Africa: Completion of endoscopy mentorship in Rwanda and ongoing service improvement in Zambia.
- Middle East: Successful completion of colorectal cancer screening initiatives in the MENA region.
- Future Cycles: Five new projects were awarded in May 2025, covering endoscopy training in Pakistan and nursing education in Nigeria.

Membership Growth and Inclusivity

We are encouraged by the steady growth in our international community, which reached 120 members by October 2025. To ensure equitable access, we are currently reviewing our International Strategy to launch a Low-Income Countries (LIC) membership scheme in 2026, allowing colleagues from regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Bangladesh to more easily access BSG benefits.

Dr Omar Elshaarawy

Chair, BSG International Committee (2025–2027)