



Training Committee

Strategy 2025 - 2028



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Introduction

We remain committed to advocating for and supporting the education and training our current and future workforce; and that commitment extends to not only those currently training but those wishing to advance within the specialty in the future.

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. This independence puts us in prime position to advocate for high quality training, identifying what high quality looks like in real measurable standards to benchmark what is being delivered across the country. The responsibility for this not only relies on the continued commitment of our trainees but on the many committed trainers, departments and organisations where we work. There is immense power when a group of people with a shared interest and passion get together to work towards the same goal, and we have the privilege to play a key role in this.

Whilst much of the work of the Training Committee relates to supporting gastroenterology higher specialist training, we remain committed to working with other committees and groups within the BSG including the Education Committee, Nursing Committee and International Committee.

The Training Committee supports the BSG ED&I Strategy and within this recognises the need for equitable opportunity for all healthcare professionals. Our membership extends across the four nations, and the chair of the Training Committee works with other organisations such as JAG to support delivery of training. This is particularly relevant for advanced endoscopy training and specifically ERCP and EUS training where a designated training pathway is lacking. All

organisations wish to offer opportunities for all as we know that diversity within the specialty improves patient care and drives innovation and performance.

Update from the previous document

Since the last version of this document was published, we continue to welcome new trainees, highlight career opportunities beyond the training program, and provide a blend of formal talks from senior experts and informal discussions in small groups via our annual National Introduction to Gastroenterology Day event, and recognise the hard work of our trainees and trainers via its involvement with the Dame Parveen Kumar Award for Education and Training and the Barbers' Company Award for Trainees in Gastroenterology.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Rees'.

Prof Colin Rees
President of the BSG



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Clark'.

Dr Katie Clark
Chair, BSG Training Committee



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 that aim to produce a highly skilled consultant workforce. It provides a forum for key stakeholders to come together to share challenges and opportunities in 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.

Strategic Priorities for Training

Strategic Priority No. 1: **Advocating for delivery of high-quality Gastroenterology and Hepatology Training**

Trainee surveys from the GMC, BSG Trainee Committee, and JRCPTB have highlighted concerns, particularly around balancing GIM and Gastroenterology training. *'The British Society of Gastroenterology survey of UK gastroenterology trainees 2024: how is training shaping up?'* document highlights that many respondents' rotas (81.7%) exceed the indicative 25% IM training requirement, which significantly impacts their procedural and specialty training.

Training Programme Directors and educators within the Trusts work incredibly hard to deliver high quality training yet at present there remain no nationally agreed standards upon which to benchmark local standards of training. In response to this in September 2024 the BSG established a Short Life Working Group (SLWG). The aim of the working group was to understand the current training challenges and to suggest solutions to safeguard high quality gastroenterology training via the publication of BSG endorsed quality standards providing national support for organisations, trainers and trainees.

These quality standards are based upon the content of the 2022 gastroenterology curriculum document that was last revised in 2024. They will be refined through a modified Delphi process to ensure they represent a broad consensus within the field. Whilst being unable to mandate the implementation of these, we hope that they provide a resource for Heads of School (HoS), Training Programme Directors (TPDs), Directors of Medical Education (DMEs), Educational Supervisors (ES), and Clinical Supervisors (CS), and Higher Specialty Trainees (HSTs) to standardise and support the implementation of best practices that promote a high-quality gastroenterology training experience. Once published we will assess response via the Training and Trainee committees.

We also wish to continue to maximise the training opportunities and support BSG can provide via bursaries, taster visits, the annual Management and Leadership course and BSG endorsed post CCT fellowships.





Strategic Priority No. 2: **Supporting New Consultants**

It is recognised that preparing for the transition from registrar to consultant can be an anxious time; it represents a move from the relatively protected position of a 'trainee' to a role as a senior member of the team, with all the responsibilities that entails.

The Committee has developed a New Consultants Advisory group supporting that transition and provide an inclusive forum to discuss issues pertinent to New Consultants via its Terms of Reference. We are delighted that we now have regional representation from nearly all the deaneries and recruitment remains on going. The group wishes:

- **to inform the membership engagement strategy for the Society acting as a specific focus group for this career stage**
- **to provide ideas for future initiatives**
- **to provide feedback to the Society on any matter considered important by the group, through the Training Committee**
- **to comment on existing strategies and Society priorities through the Training Committee**

The group now has established a dedicated webpage via the main BSG site via which trainees can access useful resources including the CCT in Gastroenterology Final Year Checklist and How To Guide which includes helpful hints to ensure a satisfactory portfolio and final ARCP in addition to a timeline for that final 12 months.

In stark contrast to the 75% of respondents across all medical specialties to the Royal College of Physicians 2023 and 2024 post-CCT surveys who applied for a consultant post, less than one third of newly awarded CCT holders applied for a consultant post.

In response to this, the group has produced a survey aiming to identify the factors contributing to this so that gastroenterology trainees nearing their CCT can be better supported in achieving their desired career progression.

Finally, the group aim to broaden the reach and are developing a post CCT Leadership and Management course supported by the BSG specifically focussing on some of the challenges that are unique to the specialty.

Strategic Priority No. 3: Responding to the Leng Review

We acknowledge current PAs for their contribution to gastroenterology and hepatology and we are aware of many instances where the role of PAs is working well and improving patient care. Yet we remain sensitive to the concerns of BSG members, particularly our trainees, about the potential expansion of the scope and number of Physicians Associates.

The discussions around PAs and their roles have highlighted the broader challenges our trainees face in accessing training (particularly in GI endoscopy). The Training Committee want to reassure our members and medical trainees that we remain committed to supporting them via the mechanisms outlined in priority 1.

The Leng review, published in July 2025, has provided a list of key recommendations designed to reset the hostility surrounding the debate around the role of PAs and stimulate effective collaboration



for the future. As an organisation we welcome the opportunity to be involved with national organisations and professional bodies to support those already in post for example by contributing the ongoing training and development of current PAs in the context of a formal certification and credentialing programme whilst balancing the needs of our medical trainees. We will work with the membership and other partners to develop a position statement in response to the Leng review ensuring that the interest of our members and good patient care is carefully considered.

