

Prof Matt Rutter

Election statement:

A BSG that Works for You

Our wonderful specialty faces unprecedented pressure. NHS challenges, workforce shortages, burnout and the lingering pandemic impact have created an environment where survival dominates strategy. I am standing for President because I believe I have the strategic vision and practical experience to help us navigate these challenges and build a sustainable future for UK Gastroenterology.

My track record is built on leading national multidisciplinary teams through complex challenges to deliver change. I believe in leadership that listens, then acts - consulting our frontline community to understand the issues and ensure solutions are effective. This enabled me to transform the ambitious vision of a National Endoscopy Database into reality by uniting clinicians, industry and regulators. It also defined my work leading both JAG, and ESGE's (European) Quality Committee, building consensus to improve patient care. Drawing on my experience across BSG IBD/endoscopy/research committees, and now as a Council member, I will bring this inclusive, implementation-focused approach to every BSG section.

Prioritising our workforce

Gastroenterology thrives on the dedication of its diverse workforce, yet we are overstretched. I will prioritise staff wellbeing - the foundation of patient safety. I will advocate for:

- Flexible careers and expanded consultant posts, particularly in under-served regions.
- The "Getting Ahead of the Curve" recommendations, including separating gastroenterology from General Internal Medicine, where desired, to reduce burnout.
- Increased National Training Numbers, enforcement of the 75%/25% gastroenterology/GIM split, mandated course funding, and ensuring protected exposure to hepatology, nutrition, immersion/academies and GI bleed endoscopy.
- More flexible, competency-based JAG certification.
- Dedicated career pathways and study leave funding for speciality nurses and AHPs.

All members valued

The BSG must represent all its multidisciplinary members. Whether a IBD nurse in London or a hepatologist in Stirling, every voice matters. I will:

- Implement the external EDI review's plan to embed inclusion across all activities.
- Establish Shadow Boards to bring junior and under-represented members into decisionmaking roles.
- Ensure the Nursing Section and Supporting Women in Gastroenterology have strong leadership voices.
- Strengthen regional forums and roles to ensure members from all four nations are heard.

Delivering high quality care

Working in Teesside, I understand the reality of health inequality. The BSG must ensure that excellence is deliverable in every locality, not just the best-resourced, through practical solutions that improve quality and save time. I will:

- Democratise guideline development by engaging members to define the key clinical questions.
- Bridge the gap between publication and practice by equipping members with multimedia toolkits and practical implementation packs.
- Reduce the burden: promoting an evidence-based "Less is More" strategy to cut low-value interventions.
- Introduce CPD points for on-demand web content.
- Support Innovation Hubs to develop IT systems that actually work for clinicians.

External advocacy

I will utilise our record membership's collective power to present a unified voice to government on workforce resources. Finally, I endorse the IBD Committee's bid to host ECCO's 2030 congress in Glasgow.

I would be honoured to serve as your President. Thank you for reading my statement - your vote means a lot to me.