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Election statement:

The next President-Elect of the BSG will help lead a vibrant and influential organisation at a pivotal moment. Our specialty, our members and our patients face significant challenges: rising demand and complexity driven by an ageing population, pressures on training quality and consistency, workforce shortages, constrained funding, and low morale with increasing burnout.

If elected, my priorities would be to support sustainable, rewarding and varied careers; advocate nationally for high-quality, consistent training and workforce expansion; strengthen communication and inclusivity across the BSG; and guide the delivery of high standards of care for gastroenterology and hepatology patients.

Sustainable, rewarding and varied careers

Building on the success of Project 90, I will prioritise practical career development resources for all members that reflect modern career patterns. These include portfolio careers, development of subspecialty interests, transitions into leadership, education, research and national roles, and flexible working, including less than full time working.

The BSG has a strong track record of supporting research through scholarships, mentorship, and grant-writing support, which will remain vital for early-career researchers navigating the challenges of permanent posts.

Given the high workloads many members face, I believe the BSG should also play an important role in providing guidance on job planning, particularly during transitions to substantive roles and for those working less than full time. In partnership with the RCP, we should support trainees and new consultants in managing challenging professional issues including investigations, complaints and Coroner's inquests.

Training and workforce

Variation in training experiences remains a major concern. I strongly believe the BSG must continue to advocate for consistent, high-quality training across the UK, sharing best practice, for example, in endoscopy training, championing protected training opportunities and promoting continuity of care and effective teamwork that improve both learning and outcomes. Beyond delivering excellent training courses in gastrointestinal bleeding, the BSG should also promote structured pathways to independence, mentoring and clear standards for safe progression for trainees and new consultants.

To meet unprecedented future demand, we must promote sustainable, family-compatible job plans to support staff and advocate for expansion of the multidisciplinary workforce across gastroenterology and hepatology. Embracing innovation through guidelines, research and service improvement will also be essential to managing demand.

Communication and inclusivity

In a large and diverse organisation, effective communication is vital. I would suggest strengthening the role of regional BSG representatives as local contacts, alongside open forums with BSG officers to enhance engagement and dialogue. Nursing and Allied Health Professional members have highlighted feeling less visible within the Society; improving inclusion and establishing clear, accessible communication pathways would be a priority.

High standards of care

BSG guidelines are held in high regard both within and beyond the Society. I would build on this success by enhancing their consistency and robustness through increased methodological support, training, and meaningful patient involvement, while also ensuring they are operationally deliverable. Improved dissemination and implementation, using targeted resources such as podcasts and practical implementation strategies, will maximise benefits for both members and patients.