NewWave

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GI PHYSIOLOGY



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BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

AGIP

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AGIP Council Members 2026

Role	Council Member
President	Dr Rami Sweis
Upper GI Representative	Dr Jamal Hayat
Chair	Samantha Scott
Consultant Clinical Scientist Fellow Advisor	Warren Jackson
Education Secretary	John Gallagher
Deputy Education Secretary	Naomi Rune
Communications Officer	Andres Vales
Accreditation Officer	Tanya Miller
Deputy Accreditation Officer	Joanne Hayes
Publication Secretary	Gemma Willis
Lower GI Representative	Mark Scott
Symposium Secretary	John Hayman
IQIPS Representative	Gianni Raise
Minutes Secretary	Luisa Keen
Paediatric Representative	Lucy Griffin
National Standards Officer	Samantha Morris
Trainee Representative	Eve Self

From the Editor

Gemma Willis, Publication Secretary, AGIP



Welcome to the Autumn issue of NewWave!

With the end of the year fast approaching, this issue brings together some of the latest developments from AGIP, alongside information about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

We have an update from the September AGIP Council meeting, covering ongoing work around national guidance, education and training, accreditation and workforce development. We've also included information about the BSG Mentorship Programme, which is being extended to AGIP members, and details of the AGIP conference bursaries available for 2027. There's also a reminder about the AGIP Honorary Fellow Award and an opportunity to nominate someone who has made an outstanding contribution to our specialty.

We're once again highlighting an important campaign led by the Academy for Healthcare Science, calling for Clinical Scientists and Biomedical Scientists to be included within the legal framework for Patient Group Directions. This is an issue that could have a significant impact on how we deliver our services, so please take a moment to read about the campaign and consider showing your support.

Our feature article for this edition comes from Kirsty Wright, who shares her experiences of developing a Clinical Scientist-led sacral neuromodulation service in Glasgow. Kirsty reflects on the challenges involved, the development of a new approach to service delivery and the research that followed, culminating in the publication of their findings earlier this year. It's a great example of the innovation taking place within our profession, and I'd like to thank Kirsty for sharing her story with us.

As always, we're keen to hear from members who have news, research, service developments or experiences they'd like to share. NewWave relies on contributions from across our community, so please do get in touch if there's something you'd like to see featured in a future issue.

Happy Reading!

Gemma

Upcoming Events 2026/2027

A selection of upcoming courses, conferences and educational events to support professional development and keep AGIP members up to date with upcoming learning opportunities

November 2026	**The Pelvic Floor Society Annual Meeting & Study Day** 4th–6th November 2026 Guildford, UK. The Pelvic Floor Society **European Foregut Society Annual Congress** 11th—13th November 2026, Zurich. Course information. **St George's Upper GI Physiology Training Day 20th November 2026** London. Course information and booking **BSG Webinar: The Road to Leadership** 24th November 2026 Online. BSG Events **UCLH Oesophageal Physiology Virtual Symposium** 30th November–1st December 2026 Online. Course information
December 2026	**BSG Webinar: Perianal Crohn's Disease** 7th December 2026 Online. BSG Events
January 2027	**Pelvic Floor Diagnostics & Sacral Neuromodulation Masterclass** 9th January 2027. Part of Dilemmas & Debates in Colorectal Surgery Course information and programme **Neurogastroenterology Question Time: Referring to a Neurogastroenterologist or Neurogastro MDT** 11th January 2027 Online. BSG Events **26th International Conference on Gastroenterology and Hepatology.** 25th–26th January 2027. Edinburgh, Scotland. Conference information
March 2027	**BSG Gut Microbiota for Health Conference** 1st–2nd March 2027 Birmingham. BSG Events
April 2027	**33rd UKCS Annual Scientific Meeting** 21st–23rd April 2027 Glasgow. UKCS 2027
May 2027	**Digestive Disease Week (DDW) 2027** 15th–18th May 2027 Washington DC, USA. DDW 2027
June 2027	**BSG LIVE 2027** 21st–24th June 2027 SEC Glasgow. BSG LIVE
July 2027	**NeuroGASTRO 2027 — Biennial Meeting of the European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility** 8th–10th July 2027 Leuven, Belgium. NeuroGASTRO 2027
October 2027	**UEG Week 2027** 16th–19th October 2027 Copenhagen, Denmark. UEG Week

AGIP Council Update

The AGIP Council met in September to review progress on several ongoing initiatives and discuss priorities for the months ahead. Discussions focused on developments in clinical guidance, education and training, workforce planning and professional recognition, with several projects progressing towards their next stages.

Standards & Guidance

Work is continuing on national guidance for hydrogen and methane breath testing, with the aim of supporting a more consistent approach to patient preparation, test performance and interpretation across services.

Council also discussed the existing oesophageal manometry protocols, particularly the requirement to perform testing in both upright and supine positions. Members considered whether routine testing in both positions is necessary when appropriate provocative testing, including solid swallows, is undertaken. It was agreed that the guidance should be updated to reflect this approach, with oesophageal impedance also considered as an adjunctive measure.

Further work is ongoing to develop paediatric pH-impedance reporting guidance. Additional paediatric resources have recently been made available through the AGIP website.

Workforce Development

Work continues to develop alternative accreditation pathways and increase assessor availability to support the national assessment process. Feedback on the continuing professional development (CPD) process was positive. National GI Physiology banding guidance is undergoing final review ahead of submission to NHS England, supporting efforts to achieve appropriate professional recognition. Opportunities to strengthen representation through national specialty advisory roles were also discussed.

Education and Training

Following a successful initial trial, Council discussed plans to develop regional training hubs, enabling trainees to gain experience and access specialist learning opportunities across different departments. This approach could help broaden training opportunities and support services that may not have access to all aspects of GI Physiology within their own department.

Council also reviewed feedback from the AGIP symposium at BSG LIVE 2026. Suggestions for future educational sessions were discussed and will help inform programme planning. Preparations for future AGIP Masterclasses are also continuing, with further opportunities for members to engage in specialist education and professional development.

International Representation

Council welcomed Jenny Myers, Senior Clinical Medical Scientist at the University of Adelaide, as AGIP's international representative, helping to strengthen professional links with colleagues overseas.

Next AGIP Council Meeting
Monday 7 December 2026

The BSG Mentorship Programme

Help to support professional development through mentoring!

The BSG Mentoring Programme provides healthcare professionals with opportunities to share experiences, develop skills and support one another's professional development. With a dedicated programme now being introduced for AGIP members, GI Physiology professionals have an exciting opportunity to become involved.

What is the mentorship Programme?

Launched in September 2022, the programme aims to support professional development through structured mentoring relationships. It provides a platform for individuals seeking guidance, as well as experienced professionals interested in supporting the development of others.

The programme has grown steadily, with more than 72 mentors involved and 42 completed mentoring relationships reported in the October 2026 update.

Why consider mentoring?

Mentoring can offer valuable support at different stages of a professional career. Whether navigating new responsibilities, exploring leadership opportunities or developing confidence in a specialist area, having someone to share experiences and perspectives with can be extremely beneficial.

For experienced professionals, becoming a mentor also provides an opportunity to share knowledge, encourage colleagues and contribute to the development of the wider workforce.

Getting Involved

The BSG is introducing a dedicated mentoring programme for AGIP members in October 2026, providing GI Physiology professionals with access to mentoring opportunities through its established online platform.

The programme will initially invite AGIP/BSG members who are interested in becoming mentors to register and create a profile. It will then open to members wishing to participate as mentees.

The platform matches mentors and mentees according to their professional interests and aspirations. Mentees can review suitable mentor profiles and choose whom they would like to approach. Mentoring meetings can take place remotely or face to face.

How to get started

1. Visit the BSG Mentoring Programme website.
2. Sign in using your BSG account.
3. Access the mentoring platform and follow the instructions for creating your profile.

Find out more:
https://www.bsg.org.uk/bsg-mentoring/

Access the mentoring platform:
https://bsg.onpld.com/mentor/profile

Upcoming Mentoring Training

An introductory mentoring training webinar is scheduled for **Friday 20 November 2026**, providing an opportunity to learn more about mentoring and the skills involved. **Register here!**

AGIP Conference Bursaries 2027

Supporting professional development and education!

AGIP is pleased to continue offering conference bursaries to support members with their professional development, providing opportunities to attend national and international conferences.

International Conference Bursary

For 2027, applicants are no longer restricted to specific conferences. Instead, members can choose the international conference they wish to attend, allowing them to pursue opportunities most relevant to their professional interests and development.

Expressions of interest (EOI) must be submitted by 31st December 2026 for international conference attendance in 2027.

National Conference Bursaries

8 bursaries are available for BSG LIVE 2027.

AGIP will continue to offer eight national conference bursaries to support members attending BSG LIVE 2027.

Applications must be submitted by 16th April 2027.

Who can apply?

AGIP conference bursaries are available to accredited AGIP members and STP/ASP trainee members.

How to apply

Members wishing to apply for an AGIP conference bursary should email **Joanne Hayes** with the following information:

- Name
- Organisation
- AGIP membership status
- Job title
- Proposed conference and accepted abstract title (if applicable)

Application Requirements

International Conference Bursary

Once submitted, EOIs will be reviewed and, where applications exceed the number of bursaries available, successful applicants will be selected by random ballot. Bursaries will be awarded provisionally, subject to confirmation of an accepted conference abstract. Evidence of abstract acceptance must be provided before funding is released. Successful applicants must also submit a conference report for publication in *NewWave*.

National Conference Bursaries – BSG LIVE 2027

Priority will be given to applicants with an accepted abstract, with any remaining bursaries allocated by random ballot. Successful applicants will be required to submit a short report on a relevant conference presentation for publication in *NewWave*.

Bursaries will be paid via BACS upon submission of appropriate expense receipts and the required conference report or abstract.

AGIP Honorary Fellow Award

Who deserves recognition for their contribution to GI Physiology?

Following the introduction of the AGIP Honorary Fellow Award earlier this year, we would like to remind members that nominations are welcomed for individuals who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution to GI Physiology. The award recognises those who have gone above and beyond in advancing the specialty, whether through clinical excellence, leadership, education, research, service development or wider professional influence.

Do you know someone who has made a lasting difference to GI Physiology? We would love to hear from you!

Who can be nominated?

Nominations are welcomed for individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional contribution to GI Physiology. This may include colleagues who are:

- Currently in post and actively contributing to the specialty.
- Retired, but whose legacy and impact continue to be recognised.
- Individuals who have significantly influenced clinical practice, professional standards or education within GI Physiology.

How to nominate

AGIP members are invited to submit nominations to the AGIP Council for consideration.

Nominations should include:

- The nominee's contribution to GI Physiology.
- The impact of their work on the specialty or wider profession.
- Any significant achievements in leadership, innovation, education or service development.

Nominees do not need to hold a specific role or title but should demonstrate a meaningful and lasting contribution to the profession.

Selection Process

All nominations will be reviewed by the AGIP Council, with selection based on the nominee's achievements, professional impact and contribution to GI Physiology.

Help Us Recognise Excellence

Many individuals have made significant contributions to the development of GI Physiology, helping to improve clinical practice, advance the specialty and support the future generation of professionals.

This is an opportunity to recognise those contributions and celebrate the people who have helped make GI Physiology what it is today.

If someone comes to mind, we encourage you to put their name forward!

Support the Call to Extend Patient Group Directions to Clinical Scientists

AGIP members are encouraged to support the Academy for Healthcare Science petition campaign!

What is the petition calling for?

The AHCS is calling for support for a UK Government petition, created by its President, Professor Chris Hopkins, seeking to extend the legal framework for Patient Group Directions (PGDs) to include appropriately trained Clinical Scientists and Biomedical Scientists.

The AHCS has asked professional bodies to encourage their members to sign and share the petition.

What are Patient Group Directions?

A PGD is a written instruction that allows specified registered healthcare professionals to supply and/or administer medicines to a predefined group of patients without the need for an individual prescription.

PGDs are subject to strict legal requirements and can only be used within an approved governance framework by appropriately trained and competent healthcare professionals.

Why is this important?

Clinical Scientists already deliver highly specialised diagnostic services, make complex clinical decisions and work autonomously within multidisciplinary teams.

With appropriate training, competency assessment and governance, extending PGD use to Clinical Scientists and Biomedical Scientists could improve timely access to medicines for diagnostic procedures and treatment, reduce unnecessary delays and support more efficient patient pathways.

Current Position

The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) considered this issue in 2023 and supported extending the use of diagnostic PGDs to Clinical Scientists and Biomedical Scientists, subject to appropriate governance, training and competency requirements.





Sign Here! After signing the petition, you must enter your email address and click the confirmation link sent to your inbox. **Your signature will not be counted until you have completed this step.**

Developing a Novel Approach to Sacral Neuromodulation

Kirsty Wright, Clinical Scientist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

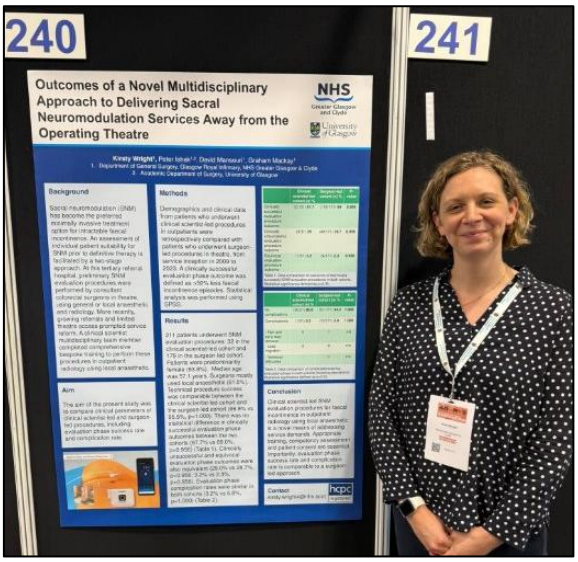


From developing anorectal physiology services to pioneering a clinical scientist-led approach to sacral neuromodulation, Kirsty Wright reflects on her professional journey and the research that followed.

The past ten years as a Clinical Scientist have flown by. Along the way I've helped reinstate and develop the anorectal physiology service at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, contributed to redesigning our colorectal sacral neuromodulation (SNM) service, supported upper GI services, and taken on mentoring and networking roles. It's certainly been a varied and rewarding journey.

One area that particularly captured my interest early in my career was sacral neuromodulation. As a tertiary referral centre for Scotland, we see many patients with faecal incontinence who are being assessed for this treatment. SNM begins with a test phase known as a peripheral nerve evaluation (PNE), where a temporary wire is placed alongside a sacral nerve and connected to an external stimulator for around two weeks. If symptoms improve significantly, as they do for around 70% of patients, they can progress to a permanent implant. For many patients, the results can be life changing.

Keen to learn more, I spent time attending consultant-led procedures, clinics and reprogramming sessions. The more I saw, the more fascinated I became by both the treatment itself and the service surrounding it.



> *For many patients, the results can be life changing.*

A few years later, an opportunity arose to do something different. Rising referrals, increasing pressure on theatre capacity and surgeon workload, and a desire to improve the patient experience prompted us to explore new ways of delivering the service

At the time, clinical scientist-led PNE procedures were unique, and there was no training blueprint to follow. Together with colleagues, we developed a robust training and competency programme from scratch, ensuring all governance requirements were met.

It took more than a year to complete, but it laid the foundations for something truly innovative.

The result was a Clinical Scientist-led PNE service delivered under local anaesthetic in an outpatient radiology setting. Supported by a nurse, radiographer and company representative, I performed the procedure, set up the device, provided patient education and arranged follow-up assessment. Patients embraced the streamlined approach, and the service ran successfully for over a year before being interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Naturally, we wanted to know whether this approach was as safe and effective as traditional consultant-led procedures performed in theatre. The questions we asked eventually led to a series of audits, a poster presentation at ACPGBI 2025, and ultimately publication of our findings in *Colorectal Disease* in July 2026.

Seeing that paper in print was a proud moment. It represented years of hard work, collaboration and support from colleagues who believed in the project from the outset. More importantly, it demonstrated what clinical scientists can achieve when given opportunities to develop and innovate.

Our healthcare system faces significant challenges, but the healthcare science workforce has enormous potential to help meet them. I hope my experience encourages others to seek out new opportunities, push boundaries and make full use of the skills we bring to patient care. I believe we'll continue to see clinical scientists taking on increasingly advanced roles in the years ahead, and that's something worth being excited about.

If you'd like to learn more about this novel service delivery approach, including how it was delivered and additional outcomes, please read our freely accessible journal article.



[Outcomes of a novel multidisciplinary approach to delivering sacral neuromodulation services away from the operating theatre - Wright - 2026 - Colorectal Disease - Wiley Online Library]

Get Involved

Have something to share?

NewWave welcomes contributions from colleagues across GI Physiology. Whether you've been involved in an interesting project, introduced a new service, attended a conference or have news from your department, we'd love to hear from you.

We'd love to hear about…

Research & clinical practice	Research findings, accepted abstracts, case studies and service evaluations
Quality & service improvement	New services, pathway changes, audits and quality improvement projects
Education & events	Conference reports, study days, training opportunities and upcoming events
People & departments	Team updates, appointments, awards, achievements and retirements
Ideas & innovation	New technologies, equipment, patient engagement projects and opinion pieces

Advertising

NewWave also welcomes advertisements from organisations promoting products, services, courses, conferences or recruitment opportunities relevant to GI Physiology. Please get in touch to discuss advertising opportunities.

Get in Touch

If you'd like to contribute to a future issue, submit an article, advertise, or simply discuss an idea, please contact ***Gemma Willis***, Publication Secretary, AGIP

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

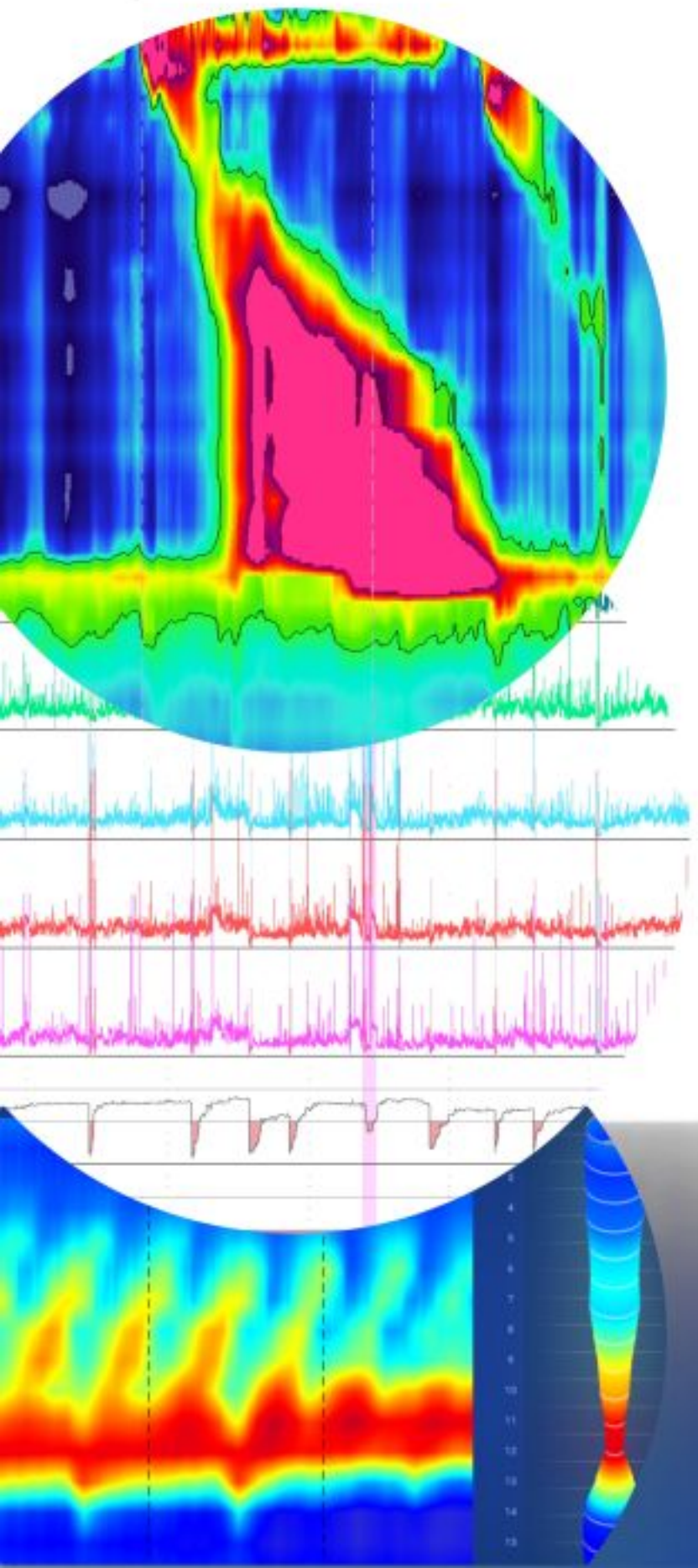
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UCLH OESOPHAGEAL PHYSIOLOGY VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2026

30th November & 1st December 2026 (CPD applied for)

Oesophageal physiology is a unique blend of science and art within medicine. This virtual course will explore the latest evidence in the diagnosis and management of oesophageal disorders. Participants will develop their skills in interpreting high-resolution manometry, 24-hour pH-impedance, wireless pH monitoring and EndoFLIP data, progressing from fundamental principles to complex clinical cases.





Dr Rami Sweis
Consultant
Gastroenterologist



Dr Asma Fikree
Consultant
Gastroenterologist



Dr Natalia Zarate-Lopez
Consultant
Gastroenterologist



James Endersby
Clinical Scientist



Charlotte Orledge
Clinical Scientist



Dr Radu Rusu
Consultant
Gastroenterologist

Course Fees
One day: £100
Two days: £150

Link: www.uclhcharitycourses.com/courses
Email: HRMSymposium@outlook.com

Course Schedule

DAY 1
Basic HRM & reflux testing

08:45–09:00 Registration & welcome

09:00–10:00 How to investigate benign oesophageal disorders in 2026
Dr Rami Sweis

10:00–10:45 A normal HRM trace + common variants & artefacts
James Endersby · Charlotte Orledge

BREAK 10:45–11:00

11:00–11:40 HRM example cases (CC4)
James Endersby

11:40–12:40 Management of achalasia & common motility disorders
Dr Rami Sweis

LUNCH 12:40–13:20

13:20–14:20 Background & principles of reflux testing (Lyon 2.0 & beyond)
Dr Natallia Zarate Lopez

14:20–15:00 Analysing pH-impedance traces + common variants & artefacts
Charlotte Orledge

BREAK 15:00–15:15

15:15–16:15 LPS/LPRD + case examples
Dr Radu Rusu · James Endersby

DAY 2
Advanced testing

08:45–09:00 Registration & welcome

09:00–10:00 Provocative testing in HRM (CCv4 and beyond)
Dr Rami Sweis

10:00–10:30 Provocative testing in HRM: examples
James Endersby

BREAK 10:30–10:45

10:45–11:45 Principles of EndoFLIP + example cases
Dr Rami Sweis · Dr Radu Rusu

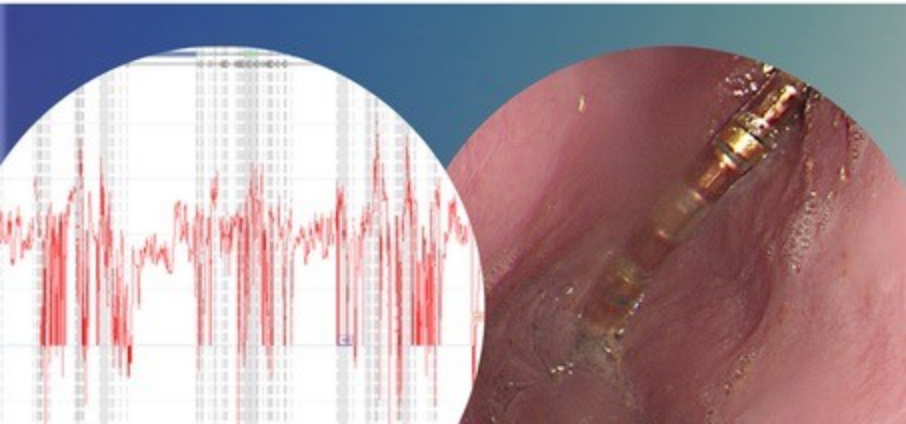
11:45–12:30 Principles of prolonged wireless pH monitoring
Dr Natallia Zarate Lopez
Charlotte Orledge

LUNCH 12:30–13:15

13:15–14:30 Testing, diagnosis & management of functional oesophageal disorders From medical to behavioural therapy and everything in between
Dr Asma Fikree

BREAK 14:30–14:45

14:45–16:15 Complex cases: from diagnosis to treatment
All faculty

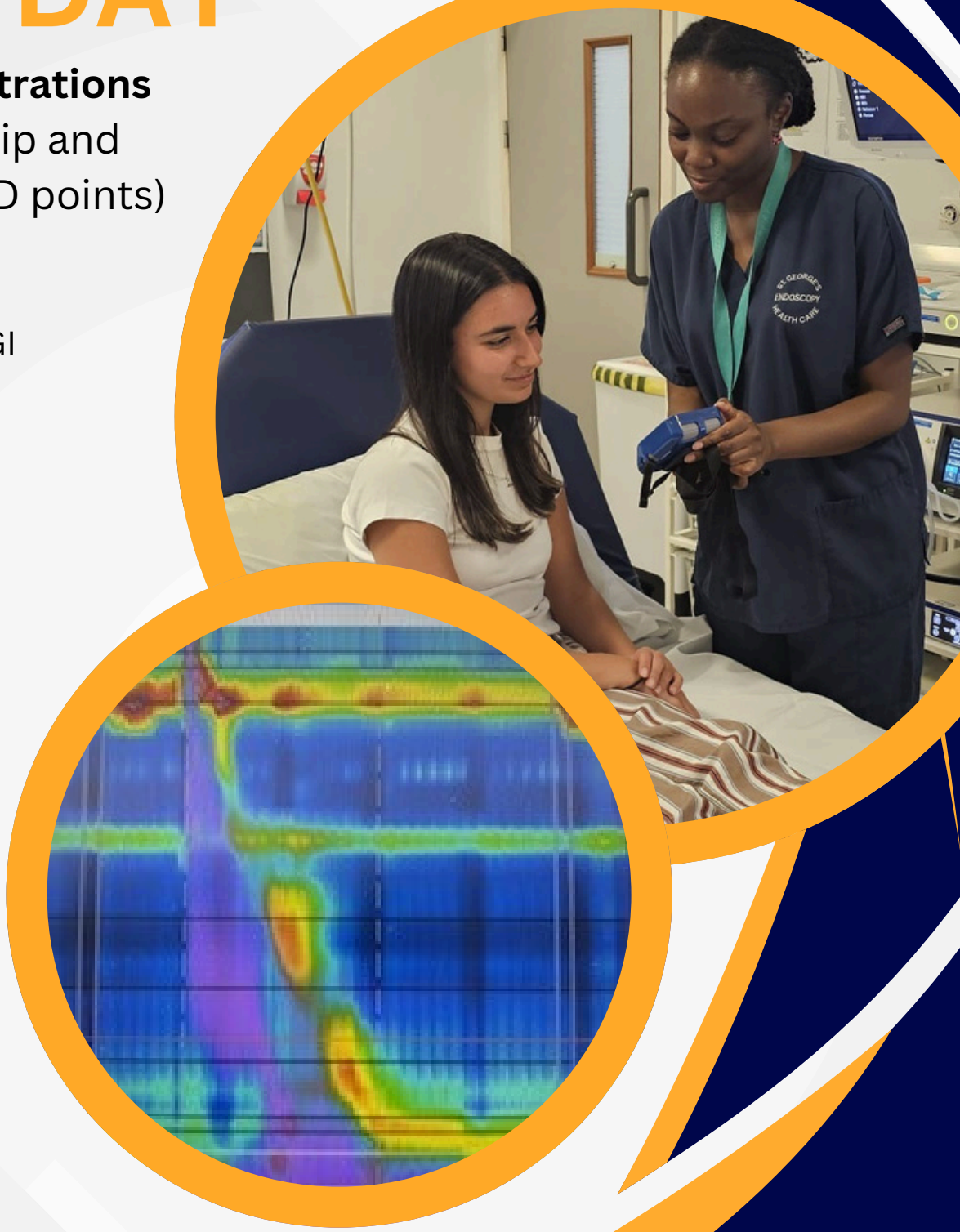


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UPPER GI PHYSIOLOGY TRAINING DAY

Join our training day with **live demonstrations** of High Resolution Manometry, EndoFlip and 24hr & prolonged pH monitoring (5 CPD points)



Learning Objectives

- Understand the principles of setting up a GI Physiology unit
- Enhance knowledge of performing high resolution manometry (HRM), wireless pH monitoring and EndoFlip
- Knowledge on interpretation of HRM and pH monitoring
- Identify and manage common complications

Workshop Details

- 20th November 2026
- 09:00 - 16:30
- St Georges Hospital, Tooting

RSVP & More Information

- £50, lunch included
- Please register here
- endoscopycourses@stgeorges.nhs.uk