

## BSG International – a message from the Chair

As Chair of the BSG International Committee, I start by thanking Dr Neil Hawkes for his invaluable work over many years and welcoming Dr Omar Elshaarawy as Deputy Chair. The International Committee has been recognised as a Higher Committee for almost three years and the dedication and contribution of all our volunteer members, including Zonal Leads, is immeasurable – thank you.

Hearing what our global partners need and want is key, but hearing what they have to share with us is just as important in the work of the Committee. Communicating that knowledge is vital and to that end we've delivered a successful series of nine [international grand rounds](#) in 2023, a further series 2 was launched in 2024 with excellent feedback and good viewership. We had expert speakers from over 20 different regions and countries sharing their expertise in topics based around the curriculum of RCP Specialty examinations. We acknowledge the work that Dr Sabina Beg and Dr Dave Nylander have put into producing this high quality series and we recently gained more visibility via [WGO education and training portal](#)

A total of 7 international grants were given in early 2023 to carry out BSG member led international projects which covered endoscopy, inflammatory bowel disease, liver and bowel cancer screening, with a mix of training, service improvement and primary research goals. Most of those projects are all either completed or nearing completion, and the reports can be found [here](#). Grants have provided opportunities to be presented via BSG led communications and BSG live International symposium. In late 2024 the committee initiated new cycle of grants and the applications received will be judged by a group of members from the International Committee with members from the Research Committee and Council to make the process effective and well governed. We've received a broad variety of projects covering various areas of gastroenterology and hepatology across many geographical regions and will be awarding 5 successful grant recipients by early May 2025.

The committee is committed to consolidating and expanding collaborations with other international organizations. We are strengthening the existing MOUs with China and Bangladesh; besides this we are in advanced discussions with the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG). We are also in discussions with GESA (Gastroenterology Society of Australia) and it is anticipated that an MOU will come to fruition in 2025.

The agreement of tailored rates of BSG membership for international countries has been reached and introduced in February 2024. It included member rates of 70% of the UK consultant and trainee rate and just £28 for international nurses. Resident nurses and trainees from Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) will be eligible for free membership and access to BSG online educational events, whilst consultant LMIC staff will pay just £70.

None of our work could be done without partnership – not just with other countries and Societies, but with collaboration between the other Committees and Sections of the BSG and affiliated organisations. Collaboration with the CSSC Committee will lead to the translation of Guidelines into key languages, and the potential benefits of translating high-quality patient information leaflets is being considered.

The challenge of best supporting our international members and informing current BSG members about our work continues and we look forward to continuing our strategy aim of

“[providing] the best care and achieving the best outcomes for patients with GI and liver diseases in global settings”.

**Dr Mo Thoufeeq**

**Chair, International Committee**