



Working with children with digestive, nutritional and liver disorders

British Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

BSPGHAN Strategy

2023-2025



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British Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

The national, professional and academic society which represents specialty colleagues working for infants, children and young people with digestive, nutritional and liver disorders.

BSPGHAN supports clinical research, training and education for all our members with the aim of promoting optimal care for our children and their families.



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Introduction

Dr Keith J Lindley, President of BSPGHAN

BSPGHAN is an evolving society. It started in the 1980s as a small scale predominantly Consultant led society meeting regularly but for just a few hours each year to a Society with a membership of over 500 comprising Senior and Junior doctors and AHPs, the latter making up about a third of the membership. Whilst the society is small in comparison with other organisations it is committed to enthusing, educating and training our junior doctors to become career paediatric gastroenterologists, working closely with our AHPs to provide ongoing education and to improve the quality of care delivered to our patients and working increasingly closer with our charities to improve patient experience and to meet their needs.

BSPGHAN has regular strategy meetings, usually undertaken and agreed with the incoming President before he/she takes up office. Until now the thinking behind the strategy has been kept within Council members. This year, for the first time, we have chosen to publish out 3 year strategy. In comparison with our sister organisations we have spent a lot less time and money in developing our aims but with our commitment to annual review it is a forgone conclusion that with time the strategy will evolve and mature to the mutual benefit of our membership and the patients we treat.

The strategy presented herein is very wide ranging and no doubt will evolve over time. Its breadth incorporates many key areas including reducing carbon footprints, ethnicity and diversity, supporting patients and ongoing education of the

membership. Many of the issues discussed herein have been debated at a number of virtual and face to face Council meetings, but the definitive meeting was held face to face in London in January 2023. We, as a Council, are committed to providing an annual progress report with regards to achieving strategic milestones laid down within this document.

It is essential that the Society functions as a fair and inclusive Society and has strong Governance in place.

The Society stands for the provision of high standards of patient care in paediatric Gastroenterology, development of state of the art clinical services, promotion of paediatric GI related clinical and basic science research and of course enthusing and educating our juniors to ensure sustainability of our discipline. The Society will support its members to help them deliver the best possible care to Paediatric GI patients across the UK.



Dr Keith J Lindley,



BSPGHAN Strategy

Council has discussed a variety of strategic ideas over the last 12 months culminating in the writing of a strategy document following a formal strategy meeting held in January 2023. The strategy envisages initiatives in 3 key areas.

1. Sustainability

We will strive to ensure that BSPGHAN is a sustainable charity which supports and develops its professional membership, strives to reduce the environmental impact of the activities of its membership, strives to maintain the financial viability of the Society and audits and improves the Society's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

a) Carbon footprint: The Society is committed to the notion of "Green endoscopy". A national audit of endoscopy practice is to be

undertaken. The Society will move towards a paperless annual meeting including the introduction of e-posters

b) The society is committed to Equality Diversity and Inclusion. An audit of the membership is ongoing with the aspiration to make appropriate improvements

c) The financial sustainability of the Society is key. Initiatives are being put in place to reduce unnecessary expenditure whilst maintaining or increasing income from commercial organisations to support the

expenses of the annual meeting, other educational events and research grants (see initiative 3)

- d) Supporting the workforce is key to delivery of healthcare by the membership. Initiatives are being put in place to provide mentorship and peer support to members of the Society and to support colleagues to ensure that time management is appropriate to patient complexity.

An initiative to ensure that Societal support is available for complex and perplexing cases (including generation of new TOR). A re-audit of the Quality Standards recommendations published in 2022 will be undertaken in 2025). Discussions will be held with the BSG with regards to workforce strategy including, role of physician associates / ANPs in delivery of clinical care.





2. High quality education and research

This broad initiative aims to facilitate the ongoing education of all professionals at all levels within our disciplines through a variety of educational activities in a range of formats appropriate to the target audience. Working Groups will be encouraged, where necessary or appropriate, to produce Societal position papers for peer review and publication. The Society will also continue to fund research grants in a variety of forms. Specifically we propose to:

- a) Modernise the website clinical guidelines with critique of international / adult guidance where appropriate. A subcommittee comprising the Research and Education Chairs amongst others will formally evaluate all evidence based guidance.
- b) A new autumn virtual event entitled the "Scientific basis of Paediatric Gastroenterology" will be introduced.
- c) It is undertaken that the Society will continue to offer BSPGHAN research grants within the constraints of the budget.
- d) The highly successful weekly virtual teaching sessions will be internationalised to include guest lectures from colleagues across Europe, the USA and elsewhere as appropriate.
- e) Council is developing an online course / toolkit to encourage General Paediatric junior trainees into a career in gastroenterology

3. Engagement with other gastroenterological entities external to BSPGHAN

This initiative aims to enhance our communication engagement and interaction with agencies external to BSPGHAN to improve the quality of patient care, to increase educational opportunities and aid the personal development of BSPGHAN members.

a) ESPGHAN has a quality standards initiative (quite different to the BSPGHAN initiative of the same name) looking at adherence to clinical guidelines in the treatment of Paediatric GI disorders. Only 2 UK centres have engaged with this so far. It is proposed that the members of the Society are encouraged to participate.

b) The Society will continue to work with charities and other patient support groups to facilitate patient education and to understand the needs of service users

c) The Society would like to see better engagement with the BSG on multiple matters including transition,

workforce (see above), Paediatric GI presence at the BSG annual meeting and BSG membership for members of BSPGHAN.

d) The Society will advocate closer working with BAPS re mutual education and guideline development.

This document has set out our vision to support and further develop the Society for the benefit of its members and our patients over the next 3 years. Integral to this is building on relationships we already have with our partners outside of the Society. We will strive to work with the membership, our patients and the respective professional and patient groups to achieve this vision.





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