

The British Photodermatology Group 2019-20

The British Photodermatology Group (BPG) is an affiliated Special Interest Group of the British Association of Dermatologists. The BPG aims to further understanding of clinical photodermatology through clinical activities, research and education and it acts as a forum for all those with an interest in photodermatology, with dissemination of cutting edge clinical and scientific knowledge and research in photobiology at the Annual Meeting of the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) and at the British Society for Investigative Dermatology (BSID). Our Membership currently stands at 77 and includes a range of members across clinical and scientific dermatological disciplines. I took over as Chair of the BPG in July 2019 and I am supported by Dr Hiva Fassihi as BPG Secretary and Dr Sophie Weatherhead, as Treasurer and I am most grateful to them for their ongoing hard work. On behalf of the BPG, I would also like to thank the previous Chair, Dr Victoria Goulden for her excellent leadership and dedication.

The BPG has had an active and productive year. Contribution to development and review of photodermatology guidelines is a key role of the Group, with current update of BPG/BAD UVB Guidelines ongoing, led by Dr Tsui Ling and Dr Victoria Goulden. We have BPG Committee photodermatology representation on the SCE Question Writing Group through Dr Adam Fityan. BPG Workshops have an important function in furthering knowledge and expertise and the 2019 BPG/BAD Photodiagnostic Services in the UK workshop, was presented at the EADV in Madrid, 2019 and the aim is to publish the findings as a consensus guide to the availability and nature of photodiagnostic centres of expertise in the UK. **The revision of the pre-CCT and establishment of post-CCT photodermatology curricula are in the final stages of approval and we are most grateful to Professor Lesley Rhodes and Dr Jean Ayer for leading on this major project.** The BPG is also undergoing review of photodermatology position statements, which will be available in updated form on the BPG website. We are most grateful to Dr Robert Sarkany for representation of the BPG in his continued leading role in the BAD Clinical Standards for Phototherapy Working Group and for his ongoing links with the BPG with respect to this essential project. We are also delighted to report that the BPG/BSF grant awards (two awards of up to £10K each) will be available in 2020 and Dr Sarkany continues as ex-officio BPG Committee member, specifically with regards to his roles in the BSF grant awards programme and the BAD Clinical Standards in Phototherapy Working Group. Professor Ibbotson has also become BSF Grants Committee Member in 2020, thus further strengthening the links between the BSF and the BPG. We are also most grateful to Dr Tsui Ling for taking on the role of oversight and update of the BPG website.

The BPG Meeting at the 2019 Annual BAD Meeting in Liverpool was well attended with most impactful guest lectures from Professor Nick Reynolds who gave an excellent cutting edge presentation on the use of UVR therapies in eczema and from Dr Susie Morley, who gave a fascinating presentation on ocular damage and photoprotection, particularly in the context of her extensive experience in xeroderma pigmentosum. Best Presentation was awarded to Dr Mieran Sethil who presented her work on metalloproteinases and UVA1. A Scientific Committee from the BPG was involved in judging the BAD posters relating to photodermatology.

Unfortunately, due to the corona virus pandemic, the BSID Annual Meeting was cancelled and the BPG guest lecture, which was to be given by Professor Rachel Watson, did not go ahead. We are grateful to Rachel for agreeing to present this at the 2021 meeting instead. We are also most grateful to Professor Antony Young (Impact on melanin depends on endpoint: comparison of DNA photodamage and vitamin D synthesis in extreme skin phototypes) and Dr Ewan Eadie (What's new with Light – new development in light sources for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes) who are our invited BPG Speakers for the BAD Annual Meeting 2020, which will now be delivered virtually. In the light of the pandemic, the BPG has also now developed factors to consider and guidance for those involved in reinstating phototherapy, photodynamic therapy and photodiagnostic services in the UK, taking into account individual case-by-case risk/benefit assessment of severe COVID-19 against proceeding or not with these services and of the essential need for minimising risks through social distancing and screening measures for any face to face consultations and hospital visits. This information is available on the BAD and BPG websites (**Tsui is it possible to add these three statements to the BPG website and add the links here? Many thanks!**).

We are most grateful to La Roche Posay for the generous ongoing support that enables us to continue to offer our Photodermatology Fellowships, with increased funding (total £10K to be awarded in celebration of the 100th BAD year) available for 2020. These Fellowships are available to support specialist education and training in photodermatology and are open to trainees, nurses, consultants and scientists and we are most grateful to Dr Adam Fityan for his continued hard work in leading this Fellowship programme. Details about the Fellowships and how to apply are available on our website (<http://bpg.org.uk/bpg-and-la-roche-posay-fellowship-awards/>). In 2019 Fellowships were awarded to Dr Victoria McGuire, Principle Clinical Scientist to support her attendance at a number of national and international porphyria conferences; Katherine Hamilton, Staff Nurse in Phototherapy to support attendance at phototherapy related educational events and to be used to visit and learn from other Photodermatology Units; Dr Parastoo Babakinejad, Specialist Registrar in Dermatology for support to attend the National Xeroderma Pigmentosum unit; Dr Liezel Griffin, Consultant Dermatologist, used her Fellowship to attend a number of national and international Porphyria units and conferences.

The BPG continues to have collaborative relationships with international photodermatology groups, with Professor Ibbotson also being European Society of Photodermatology Committee member and with close international links with the XP Society (Dr Fassihi and Dr Sarkany) and ERN-Skin (Dr Sarkany, Dr Fassihi, Prof Ibbotson) and membership includes subscription to the Photodermatology Photoimmunology Photomedicine journal. The BPG continues to have a close working relationship with the BAD and this has been of significant benefit to both Societies. We are grateful to the BAD for its continued financial and organisational support.

Professor Sally Ibbotson, Chair, BPG