

The British Photodermatology Group 2020-21

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 93 and includes a range of members across clinical and scientific dermatological disciplines. I am the current Chair of the BPG and I am hugely 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. We additionally have a most dynamic Committee membership.

The BPG has had an active and productive year despite the pandemic. Contribution to development and review of photodermatology guidelines is a key role of the Group and at present the updated BPG/BAD UVB Clinical Guidelines, led by Dr Tsui Ling and Dr Victoria Goulden, are under review by relevant stakeholders prior to publication in the British Journal of Dermatologists. The 2019 BPG/BAD Photodiagnostic Services in the UK workshop was presented at the EADV in Madrid, 2019 and is under review for consideration of publication in the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology. The purpose of this publication is to define areas of consensus practice and accepted variation and to serve as a basis for minimum standard setting in photodiagnostic services. The pre-CCT and post-CCT photodermatology curricula are approved and were developed under the leadership of Professor Lesley Rhodes and Dr Jean Ayer and form the essential core of training in clinical photodermatology. Dr Adam Fityan continues as the BPG Committee photodermatology representative for the SCE Question Writing Group. The BPG has also updated the photodermatology position statements, which are available through the BPG website. In the light of the pandemic, the BPG produced guidance for those involved in delivery of phototherapy, photodynamic therapy and photodiagnostic services and this guidance has been updated as we move into the recovery phase of the pandemic and is available via the BAD and BPG websites.

We are most grateful to Dr Robert Sarkany for representing 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 2021 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 is also a BSF Grants Committee Member, thus further strengthening the links between the BSF and the BPG. Dr Tsui Ling continues to update and manage the BPG website and we are most grateful to her for this.

We had excellent BPG/BAD invited speakers last year, with Professor Antony Young presenting on the influence of skin phototype on DNA photodamage and vitamin D synthesis and Dr Ewan Eadie presenting on new developments in light-based technologies at the virtual BAD Annual meeting in July 2020. Dr Kirsty Rutter was awarded the Best

Presentation prize for submitted abstracts at the BAD Annual meeting 2020, for her presentation on “Photoaggravated Atopic Dermatitis”. Professor Rachel Watson, gave an excellent invited BPG Guest Lecture on “Cutaneous Photodamage” at the virtual BSID Annual Meeting in March 2021. Dr Simon Meggitt (Phototriggered Connective Tissue Diseases) and Dr Ljuba Novakovic (Vitiligo Guidelines) are our invited BPG Speakers for the virtual BAD Annual Meeting in July 2021. Many thanks go to all our invited speakers as they really showcase cutting edge photodermatology research and clinical developments.

We are most grateful to La Roche Posay for the generous ongoing support that enables us to continue to offer our Photodermatology Fellowships, with a total budget of £10K this year. These Fellowships are available to support specialist education, training and research 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 2020 Fellowships were awarded to Dr Sheila McSweeney for her research in solar urticaria and Dr Orlagh Mulholland for her research with vitamin D and skin tumours.

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 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

9.6.2021