

BAD AGM 2023 - Annual Report

The British Photodermatology Group 2022-2023

The British Photodermatology Group (BPG), as an affiliated Special Interest Group of the British Association of Dermatologists, aims to further understanding of clinical photodermatology through clinical and academic activities (<https://bpg.org.uk/>). We make important contributions to the BAD Annual meeting through the BPG symposium and to the BSID through our invited speaker programme. Membership includes clinical and non-clinical members with photodermatology interest. I am grateful to Dr Sophie Weatherhead, the current Secretary, Dr Vicky McGuire, the Treasurer, and to the enthusiastic and engaged BPG committee for all their support and input during my term as Chair.

An important function of the BPG is contribution to the development of photodermatology guidelines and standards. The updated guidelines for narrowband ultraviolet B phototherapy (Goulden V. *et al.* Br J Dermatol. 2022 Sep; 187(3):295-308) and guidelines for the management of people with vitiligo (Eleftheriadou V *et al.* Br J Dermatol. 2022 Jan; 186(1):18-29) have been recently published. Following workshops, the BPG has also produced and regularly updates position statements (<https://bpg.org.uk/bpg-position-statements/>) on a number of topics which were the subject of frequent enquires from the media and other groups. The statements are principally aimed at the media, non-dermatology specialist medical groups and expert patient groups. Over the last two years, there has been a lack of sunscreen options on NHS prescription for patients. Following support by the BPG and many patient support groups, we are delighted that La Roche Posay Anthelios Hydrating Lotion SPF50 (250ml) has been accepted by the ACBS and will be available on prescription by June/July 2023.

Both pre-CCT and post-CCT photodermatology curricula are established and available for clinical training, but unfortunately there are currently no post-CCT fellowship positions available because of a lack of funding. A BPG Dermatology Trainee Handbook is being finalised in order to provide practical advice to complement clinical experience gained during specialty training in photodermatology and phototherapy. We are grateful to Dr Adam Fityan who continues as the BPG Committee photodermatology representative for the SCE Question Writing Group.

The BPG symposium at the BAD Annual Meeting in Glasgow in 2022 was well received, with excellent virtual presentations by Prof Yolanda Gilaberte (University Hospital Miguel Servet, Spain) on photoprotection, and Prof Jean-Charles Deybach (Centre de Référence Maladies Rares Porphyries, France) with an update on emerging therapies for porphyria. Of those attending in person and online, over 90% rated this meeting as good or excellent. Best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Alison Havelin on the study titled 'Optimization of narrowband ultraviolet B for psoriasis using a precision medicine approach: PHOTO-OPP study (PHOTOtherapy Optimization Protocol in Psoriasis)' and best poster presentation to Dr Fiona Campbell for her work on longitudinal variation in phototherapy cabinets. Many thanks to Dr Ewan Eadie (University of Dundee) who gave an excellent invited BPG Guest Lecture titled 'Far-UVC: It kills viruses but what does it do to my skin?' at the BSID annual meeting in Glasgow in March 2023, which was followed by a thought-provoking question time highlighting the levels of interest in the topic.

We are grateful to La Roche Posay for the generous ongoing support that enables the BPG to offer Photodermatology Fellowships, with a total annual budget of £10K. These Fellowships are available to support specialist education and training in photodermatology and are open to trainees, nurses, consultants and scientists. Many thanks to Dr John Ferguson for leading this Fellowship programme. Details about the Fellowships and how to apply are available on the BPG website

(<https://bpg.org.uk/bpg-and-la-roche-posay-fellowship-awards/>). Congratulation to Dr Marese O'Reilly and Dr Albert Sonwang who were successfully awarded Fellowships in 2022.

The BPG continues to have collaborative relationships with international groups including the European Society of Photodermatology, the European Society of Photobiology, the European XP Society and the British and European Porphyrin Networks. BPG membership includes subscription to the Photodermatology Photoimmunology Photomedicine journal on line. The BPG continues to have a close working relationship with the BAD and is grateful to the BAD for its continued financial and organisational support.

Finally, it's with great sadness that we note the passing of Prof John Hawk in December 2022. (John Hawk: global ambassador for photodermatology, BMJ 2023; 380 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.p662>). He was the founder of the BPG and a major figure nationally and internationally in Photodermatology. For over 30 years, he was head of the Photobiology Unit at St John's Institute of Dermatology, and he set up the highly acclaimed annual Photodermatology course at St John's which still runs today. He was a friend and a mentor to many colleagues, a number of whom have gone on to run their own photobiology departments all over the world. He will be deeply missed.

Dr Hiva Fassihi

Chair of the British Photodermatology Group

Head of Photobiology Unit, St John's Institute of Dermatology, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust

30 May 2023