

## **BAD AGM 2024 - Annual Report**

### **The British Photodermatology Group 2023-2024**

The British Photodermatology Group (BPG), as an affiliated Special Interest Group of the BAD, aims to further understanding of clinical photodermatology through clinical and academic activities ([British Photodermatology Group – A Special Interest Society of the British Association of Dermatologists \(bpg.org.uk\)](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 recently updated guidelines for narrowband ultraviolet B phototherapy and those for the management of people with vitiligo can be accessed on the BPG website. Following workshops, the BPG has also produced and regularly updates position statements ([BPG Position Statements – British Photodermatology Group](#)) on a number of topics 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 SPF50 (250ml) has been accepted by the ACBS and is now available on prescription for eligible conditions ([BPG information on Prescription Sunscreens – British Photodermatology Group](#)).

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.

The BPG symposium at the BAD Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June 2023 was well received, with an excellent presentation by Dr Albert Wolkerstorfer (Amsterdam University Medical Centre) on Home Phototherapy. Dr Adam Fityan (University Hospital Southampton) highlighted educational cases from the UK National Photosensitivity MDT which he set up over 5 years ago. Best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Marese O'Reilly on the efficiency of Dupilumab in chronic actinic dermatitis, now published (Marese O'Reilly *et al.* Dupilumab in Chronic Actinic Dermatitis: a retrospective case series. *Br J Dermatol.* 2024). The Photodermatology Poster walk was led by Dr Robert Sarkany and myself, and the best poster presentation was awarded to Dr Sareena Gajebasia for her work on sunscreen use in solar urticaria. Many thanks to Prof Sean Whittaker (St Johns Institute of Dermatology, Kings College London) who gave a stimulating and thought-provoking invited BPG Guest Lecture on 'UVR and T cells' at the BSID in Southampton in April 2024.

We are grateful to La Roche Posay for the 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 ([The La Roche-Posay Photodermatology Awards – British Photodermatology Group \(bpg.org.uk\)](#)). Winners give a short presentation at the end of the BPG session at the BAD annual meeting each year.

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.

**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

**29 April 2024**