

BAD AGM 2025 - Annual Report

The British Photodermatology Group 2024-2025

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 (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. Guidelines for narrowband ultraviolet B phototherapy (2022) and for the management of people with vitiligo (2021) can be accessed on the BPG website. Guidelines for the safe and effective use of psoralen-ultraviolet A therapy, last published in 2015, are currently being updated. 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. In the recently updated position statement on sunbeds, the BPG advocate for a complete ban on commercial sunbeds in the UK to protect public health and reduce the incidence of skin cancer and eye disease. A working group has been set up by the BAD to consider better regulation of commercial sunbeds in the UK and work towards a possible ban following the example set by other countries such as Australia and Brazil.

In January 2025, a one-day BPG workshop began a project on producing a Delphi consensus on the clinical features and diagnostic criteria for Chronic Actinic Dermatitis. This meeting highlighted the variation in photodiagnosics across the six main Photodermatology Units in the UK. The group has agreed that standardising phototesting in the UK will be important for patient management and research in years to come.

After a few years without access to sunscreen options on NHS prescription, La Roche Posay Anthelios SPF50 (250ml) was accepted by the ACBS in 2022 and is now available on prescription for patients. The BPG has compiled a list of eligible conditions ([BPG information on Prescription Sunscreens – British Photodermatology Group](#)) for which sunscreens can be prescribed.

Both pre-CCT and post-CCT photodermatology curricula are established and available for clinical training. The Photodermatology Unit in Dundee welcomed the first 12-month post-CCT fellow, Dr Chee Hian Tan, in October 2024, accredited by the BAD. The Photodermatology Unit at St John's Institute of Dermatology has secured funding for a post-CCT Photodermatology fellow and hopes to appoint in 2025-2026.

A BPG Dermatology Trainee Handbook was completed in 2024 and is available as a hard copy and a PDF online. This book provides practical advice to complement clinical experience gained during specialty training in photodermatology and phototherapy. Feedback so far has been very positive. A copy of this book will be available on the BPG website.

The BPG symposium at the BAD Annual Meeting in Manchester in July 2024 was well received, with excellent presentations by Prof Sally Ibbotson (School of Medicine, University of Dundee) on 'Photodiagnosics' and Dr Martin Josso (Paris, France) on 'How to create a new sunscreen'. Joint best oral presentations were awarded to Dr Navandeep Thumber (Characterisation of demographic, clinical and photobiological features of solar urticaria: a UK multicentre cross-sectional

study) and Dr Farrah Bakr (Normal phototests in five patients with Bloom syndrome). The Photodermatology Poster walk was led by Dr Robert Sarkany and myself, and the best poster presentation was awarded to Dr Jessica McKeever (Photosensitivity diseases in children: 10 years' experience from a tertiary photodiagnostic service). 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 \(bpg.org.uk\)](https://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 Porphyrria Networks. Dr Adam Fityan (University Hospital Southampton) continues to run the now 'International' Photosensitivity MDT virtually every 3 months which he set up over 5 years ago. At this meeting specialist Photodermatology teams can discuss the diagnosis and management of complex cases. 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

11 March 2025