

BAD AGM 2026 - Annual Report

The British Photodermatology Group 2025-2026

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 Rachel Montgomery, the current Secretary, Drs Vicky McGuire/ Ewan Eadie, the outgoing and new Treasurer, and to the enthusiastic and engaged BPG committee for all their support and input.

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, and this position has also now been adopted by the BAD. We are grateful to the BAD for all the recent support working towards a complete sunbed Ban, and are delighted with the proposed government ban on unsupervised sunbeds.

In January 2025, a BPG workshop began a project on producing a Delphi consensus on the clinical features and diagnostic criteria for Chronic Actinic Dermatitis, and the group met again to further the discussions in January 2026. These meeting highlighted the variation in photodiagnostics 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. This Delphi consensus is currently in its 2nd round and we hope to publish agreed diagnostic criteria in the near future.

La Roche Posay Anthelios SPF50 (250ml) was accepted by the ACBS in 2022 and is now available on prescription for certain 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 completed the first BAD accredited 12-month post-CCT fellow in October 2025, and the candidate (Dr Chee Hian Tan) completed this successfully. The Photodermatology Unit at St John's Institute of Dermatology has recruited the second post-CCT Photodermatology fellow who will start later in 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 is freely available on the BPG website.

The BPG symposium at the BAD Annual Meeting in Glasgow in July 2025 was well received, with excellent presentations by Dr Thomas Tull (St Johns, London) on 'An update on the role of ultraviolet

radiation in the pathogenesis of cutaneous lupus erythematosus' and Prof Craig Sinclair (Melbourne, Australia) on 'Australia's sunbed ban: lessons learnt to inform future international policy reform.' Best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Sam Hughes (Liver fibroscanning identifies hepatic fibrosis at an early stage in erythropoietic protoporphyria: a new analysis of 132 patients). The Photodermatology Poster walk was led by Prof Sally Ibbotson, Dr Jean Ayre, Dr Amaani Hussain and Dr Rachel Montgomery and the best poster presentation was awarded to Dr Chee Tan (Clinical features and prognosis of actinic prurigo in Scotland).

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 for 2025, and plans to increase this to £15k for 2026. The calibre of applications for 2025 with extremely high and very competitive. 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 \(bpg.org.uk\)](http://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 Porphyria 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 Sophie Weatherhead

Chair of the British Photodermatology Group

Head of Photodermatology, Newcastle-upon Tyne

12th February 2026