



Dr Trevor Smith
BAPEN President

An Update from BAPEN

Time has flown since I last wrote this column, I hope everybody is managing to have some kind of summer after a difficult start to the year. We have been very busy at BAPEN in recent months, and I wanted to share a round-up of our activity.

Our Trustees

As many of you know, we welcomed three new Trustees to BAPEN during our AGM in November. I recently caught up with Phil, Roger and Dianne to discuss their thoughts on joining the Board of Trustees and what they are particularly excited for. Do have a read: www.bapen.org.uk/about-bapen/about-us/trustees/getting-to-know-the-new-bapen-trustees.

President Elect position

As you may have seen, BAPEN is seeking candidates for the post of President Elect. This involves a tenure of one year working alongside me, leading on to a three-year term as the BAPEN President. I would like to encourage anyone who is interested to apply; I would highly recommend the position! I've been President during an extraordinary time, and I feel even more strongly now about what we do, having seen how everyone within the BAPEN family has come together during the COVID-19 response. This is a fantastic organisation, and as President, I have had the opportunity to work with brilliant people, to partner with fantastic organisations, and it has been inspiring and beyond rewarding. If you are interested in hearing more about my time as President, do have a read of this recent interview: www.bapen.org.uk/about-bapen/about-us/executive/getting-to-know-the-bapen-executive-team.

Other BAPEN news

BIFA has published new guidelines on the *Management of Central Vein Thrombosis in Patients Receiving Home Parenteral Support*. Have a read here: www.bapen.org.uk/news-and-media/news/889-management-of-central-vein-thrombosis-in-patients-receiving-hps.

The Malnutrition Action Group will soon be publishing the report from Screening Week (during UK Malnutrition Awareness Week) last year. It is great that this is the second year running that we have taken the temperature during October, and we look forward to doing it again this year. Please help us collect valuable data by contributing during the week – this is one of the most important ways you can get involved in UKMAW, so please mark 11th–17th October in your diaries now.

Don't forget to get ready for Conference too! It's a rather special one this year as we get the chance to celebrate 25 years since the formation of BANS! So, party hats on for 30th November – 1st December.

What else has been happening that I wanted to call your attention to?

Dietitians Week/Carers Week/Nutrition & Hydration Week

June was a busy month this year. We were pleased to lend our support to Dietitians Week, Carers Week, and Nutrition & Hydration Week.

The BDA's Dietitians Week always provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the dietetic profession. The BDA's coveted photo competition was used to demonstrate just how much dietitians love food. The shortlisted 'showstoppers' were certainly impressive! The emphasis this year was on celebrating the diversity of roles within the profession, and I hope many of you enjoyed taking part and took pride in showcasing your role.

BAPEN is proud to have supported Carers Week, the theme of which was *Making Caring Visible and Valued*. Carers play a vital role in helping people manage their health and care requirements, and I would like to thank carers across the UK for their service. Caring has a strong link to nutrition, as carers often help during mealtimes. I would like to remind carers, and everyone, of the Self-Screening Tool which we have designed to identify those living in the community who are at risk of malnutrition: www.bapen.org.uk/screening-and-must/malnutrition-self-screening-tool.

Having been rescheduled owing to COVID pressures in March, I am so glad Nutrition & Hydration Week was able to go ahead in June. The campaign is committed to deepening understanding of nutrition and hydration as critical pillars in health and social care settings. Nutrition & Hydration Week has been running annually since 2012, and it is great to see how the campaign has grown.

IBD UK National Report

In April, IBD UK launched a report entitled '*Crohn's and Colitis Care in the UK: The Hidden Cost and a Vision for Change*'. BAPEN is pleased to have endorsed this report and I urge you to read and share it among colleagues. A finding of particular note to CN readers is that just 28% of those who had been recently diagnosed reported signs of malnutrition and/or nutritional deficiencies had been assessed. Furthermore, the report found that just 7% of IBD services across the UK reported having enough dietitians to meet the IBD Standards. These are worrying statistics. Despite malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies being common in patients with IBD, nutritional assessments and access to specialist advice were not commonplace. The full report is available here www.ibduk.org/reports/crohns-and-colitis-care-in-the-uk-the-hidden-cost-and-a-vision-for-change.

HAN week

PINNT run HAN week annually in August and I am really looking forward to the upcoming campaign as it seeks to raise awareness of Home Artificial Nutrition through the sharing of patients' personal experiences. At BAPEN, we are committed to supporting the needs of people who rely on artificial nutrition. I urge you to get involved!

I would like to reiterate my well-wishes for your summers. Keep well.

For our COVID-19 resources visit:
www.bapen.org.uk/resources-and-education/education-and-guidance/covid-19

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