



**BAPEN**  
*Putting patients at the centre  
of good nutritional care*  
1992 - 2022



**Dr Trevor Smith**  
BAPEN President

# An Update from BAPEN

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather the summer is bringing. I am pleased to share a round-up of various activities over the past few months, as well as highlight a couple of upcoming plans that I hope many of you will get involved in.

## **NNNG Conference Week 2022 and #BSPGHAN2022**

NNNG's Conference Week is taking place very soon and I am certain it won't disappoint! The event will cover the diverse and complex world of nutrition and nutrition support, with award winning, experienced speakers from across the spectrum of healthcare delivering some fantastic sessions underpinned by the latest clinical expertise and insight. Sessions include nutritional screening, clinical workshops, Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition, and nutrition in COPD, long-covid, and dementia. I look forward to following the Conference over the coming days!

It's been great this year to see the success of our Core Groups' Conferences so far this year – #BSPGHAN2022 towards the end of April was a real success, and it was great to see the execution of the event in person in Birmingham! #BSPGHAN2022 welcomed a range of keynote speakers in the paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition space, and the engagement and buzz generated on social media was inspiring to see.

## **Parliamentary activity**

Towards the end of April, it was great to see a debate in Parliament about the direct impact that malnutrition has on our NHS and to consider some of the ways that the Government could potentially mitigate those negative impacts. Martyn Day MP tabled the debate and referred to the malnutrition screening survey BAPEN runs every October to support his case. Raising awareness of malnutrition in different settings, with different audiences, is crucial for improving nutritional care and access. In May, there was a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Food and Health, which is chaired by Martyn Day MP. The meeting focused on 'Changing dietary needs as we age' and included Dr Sorrel Burden, Professor Alexandra Johnstone, and Dr Miriam Clegg as guest speakers. I am really pleased this vitally important issue is being raised in a Parliamentary setting and look forward to exploring avenues to maintain this momentum.

## **Inequalities in Health Alliance recent activity**

In 2020, BAPEN joined the Inequalities in Health Alliance (IHA). This May, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) published a media story showing that more than half of people (55%) surveyed in a YouGov poll feel their health has been negatively affected by the rising cost of living. A particularly worrying statistic was that, of those who reported their health getting worse by the cost of living crisis, 78% said it was

a result of the rising cost of food. In light of this data, the IHA – and therefore BAPEN included – emphasised its call on the government to ensure that reducing health inequalities is a key priority in their levelling up agenda.

Consistent screening for malnutrition risk across all care settings continues to grow in importance, as does the need for Nutrition Support Teams (NST). NST's are multi-disciplinary and should include at least a doctor, nutrition nurse specialist, dietitian and pharmacist to support hospital staff in the provision of nutritional therapy at a ward level. In 2018, 80% of Trusts reported having a NST, but with only 48% of those trusts having a doctor, nutrition nurse, dietitian, and pharmacist in their NST. Getting It Right First Time published a report on Gastroenterology in March 2021 which found that one in six Trusts do not have a NST. This means that, disappointingly, there are significant gaps in nutritional care in acute hospitals.

BAPEN, as a member of the Inequalities in Health Alliance, wholeheartedly supports the tackling of health inequalities and what this would mean for improving nutritional care across the country. Access to effective nutritional care through NST's should not be a postcode lottery, and levelling up to improve geographical disparities should be prioritised.

## **BAPEN's Annual Conference**

It's with great excitement that I ask you to save the dates for BAPEN Conference 2022 – 29 & 30 November 2022 at the Hilton Brighton Metropole. I am delighted that we're able to hold our Conference in person, allowing us to meet again face-to-face which really can't be replicated. I know the Conference Committee are working hard on the programme to ensure sessions represent the breadth of our discipline and membership, so keep your eyes peeled for more information to follow. In the meantime, abstract submissions have opened and more information can be found here: [www.bapen.org.uk/resources-and-education/meetings/annual-conference/abstract-submission-process](http://www.bapen.org.uk/resources-and-education/meetings/annual-conference/abstract-submission-process).

Conference allows us to celebrate the multidisciplinary nature of our organisation, as we welcome attendees from a range of inter-connected disciplines. Conference provides a setting where we are able to share best practice, learn from one another, and further improve patient care – the importance of doing this together, as a collective multidisciplinary team, cannot be overstated.

BAPEN's 2021 Webinar Series available on demand: [www.bapen.org.uk/resources-and-education/meetings/annual-conference](http://www.bapen.org.uk/resources-and-education/meetings/annual-conference)  
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