



BAPEN
*Putting patients at the centre
of good nutritional care*



Dr Trevor Smith
BAPEN President

An Update from BAPEN

As 2023 draws to a close, I hope you have fun festive plans to look forward to, whether that's spending time with family and friends or simply enjoying a well-earned break. As we race towards the new year, I'm pleased to round up recent BAPEN activities, starting with our superb Annual Conference in November.

BAPEN Annual Conference

On 28th and 29th November, we gathered in Scotland's capital for BAPEN's Annual Conference, hosted at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. We enjoyed another spectacle of wide-ranging expertise and fascinating discussions, as we embraced a diverse range of topics across the two-day event.

We were able to reflect on progress made and look ahead to future plans. In 2022, we launched a new strategy, setting out ambitious plans for growth in membership, reach, impact, knowledge and longevity for BAPEN. In Edinburgh, we were pleased to highlight the many milestones BAPEN has achieved, contributing towards our strategic priorities. One such milestone is the launch of the new BAPEN website, boasting a new look and feel, alongside streamlined navigation to vital resources. The improved layout facilitates significant progress to ensure that important information is accessed by all those that need it, across all care settings and in the community. If you haven't already, please take some time to explore it: www.bapen.org.uk.

Every one of us working within nutritional care in the UK is seeking to continually improve it and the recent Annual Conference was a welcome reminder of the vast talent and dedication showed each and every day across the UK.

UK Malnutrition Awareness Week 2023

It was terrific to see the return of UKMAW for another year in November. The annual campaign continues to go from strength to strength by attracting support from Co-op and Waitrose, both signposting the resources available to shoppers at their stores and highlighting their wider commitments to help those at risk of malnutrition.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the sharing of messages, advice, guidance and best practice in order to help people realise that malnutrition is everybody's business.

BAPEN Podcast

BAPEN launched its first ever podcast series this year exploring the British Intestinal Failure Alliance's (BIFA) Top Tips. In the newest episode, alongside expert guests, Anne Holdoway explores the management of distal enteral feeding in clinical practice. To find out more and listen, visit our website, Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

National Screening Survey

Another annual milestone took place last month in the form of Malnutrition Action Group's (MAG) National Screening Survey. This survey was open to anyone working in health or social care, and invited them to submit screening data on their patients.

Thank you again to all those who spread the word, completed the survey, and helped to build a better picture of the scale of the malnutrition problem in the UK. You can check out results from the 2022 screening survey on the BAPEN website.

BAPEN Joins UKHACC

BAPEN and its Core Groups understand the importance of sustainability and the role it plays within all elements of care, including nutritional care. BAPEN also affirmed its pledge to protect the environment by identifying sustainability as a strategic priority within the latest five-year BAPEN Strategy launched in 2022.

In a recent step towards fulfilling this commitment, BAPEN is pleased to have joined the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, an alliance bringing together health professionals to advocate for just responses to the climate and ecological crisis. We're looking forward to raising awareness, empowering people and influencing change, together.

Quality Standards for Nutritional Support in Adults

BAPEN has also jointly launched a new resource with PINNT for healthcare professionals, developed by a dedicated Patient Network Group, including representatives from BAPEN and each of our Core Groups.

It covers the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) quality standards for adults who are receiving oral, enteral or parenteral nutrition support, and offers a useful resource enabling healthcare professionals to identify key standards for care. Find out more by visiting the BAPEN website.

Finally, I'd like to end by reiterating the huge privilege it has been to lead BAPEN over the last 5 years. I'm immensely grateful to the Executive team and Council members that I have worked with and send my very best wishes to Dr Nick Thompson as the new President, and to all BAPEN members.

BAPEN's new strategy, 2022-2027: www.bapen.org.uk/pdfs/bapen-strategy-2022-2027.pdf

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