



Dr Nick Thompson
BAPEN President

An Update from BAPEN

After the first few busy months as President, I am pleased to bring you an update on what we've been up to.

BAPEN's Sustainability Special Interest Group (SIG)

In my last column, I announced one of BAPEN's new Special Interest Groups, focusing on Sustainability, S-SIG. I'm delighted to welcome Ashley Bond as the new group's Chair. Ashley is a Consultant Gastroenterologist, specialising in intestinal failure, based at Salford Royal Hospital. I'm very much looking forward to supporting Ashley in his new role, and the increased focus he and the team will bring to such an important pillar of our Strategy.

With Jane Fletcher, I attended a meeting of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, an organisation BAPEN has become a member of. The message was stark – global warming is real and accelerating due to a number of positive feedback loops and we all need to make change urgently. Suggested changes that were discussed included **making sure we get our electricity from 100% renewable sources, moving away from banks that invest in fossil fuel extraction and travelling in as sustainable a way as possible** – avoiding flying when we can. Food production accounts for 34% of all green-house gas emissions and this is greatest in raising animals – so to **eat local, seasonal and plant-based foods** when we can.

UKMAW 2024

I'm pleased to announce that UK Malnutrition Awareness Week will be returning for its seventh year this autumn. Please do mark the dates 11th–17th November 2024 in your diaries. We will be collaborating with the Malnutrition Task Force once again to bring an awareness campaign around malnutrition and highlight the importance of screening. Our annual screening survey will, as ever, be an important part of the campaign and a valuable way that anyone working in a health or social care setting can contribute. This survey is integral for identifying malnutrition prevalence and the nutritional care plans that are in place in various care settings around the country.

Speaking of this survey, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our top screeners from 2023 – a big thank you to Dan Griffith from Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham; Jennifer McClorey from NHS Dumfries and Galloway; and Thomas Cooze from the Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli. By screening a large number of people across the UK, we look to build a better picture of the scale of the malnutrition problem and understand the treatment that people are receiving. Could you be our top screener in 2024? More information to follow about how to get involved!

BAPEN Conference 2024

After a hugely successful 2023 Conference, where we welcomed the highest number of attendees for BAPEN conferences, we're gearing up for the 2024 Conference in Gateshead. This will be the first time BAPEN has visited North East England and demonstrates our commitment to host conferences all around the UK. Taking place between 5-6th November, this will be a great opportunity to hear the latest updates in nutritional care and share best practice amongst colleagues up and down the country. Do watch out for registration details and programme updates via our website and social media channels.

Small grants for quality improvement and research

BAPEN is in the fortunate position to be able to offer grants of £1,000-£25,000 this year. Please look out for details and think how this could help you carry out that project which you have been thinking about for the last couple of years!

Diversity

Dan Rogers, our Secretary, has produced an insightful paper looking in depth at diversity representation at a senior level in BAPEN, especially regarding gender – see the website for details. The paper shows that while we haven't yet had a female President, of the last eight Secretaries/Treasurers, five were female. Furthermore, at the 2023 BAPEN Conference, 42 of 70 Conference speakers and 11 of 18 session chairs were female. Of those honoured by BAPEN (John Lennard-Jones Medal/Roll of Honour/Pennington Lecturer) 44 of 82 recipients have been female. We have further to go, including looking at representation of the other protected characteristics. Please help us make progress by getting involved and joining groups, such as our SIGs.

A personal journey – not metaphorical but a real journey!

I write this as I embark on a 60th birthday hike, walking the Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome. The first leg of this journey should end in Lausanne in mid-June, and the second is to follow in the autumn. I encourage you to follow the progress on my Instagram channel (@2000k.to.rome). My fellow hikers and I are using this opportunity to raise money for two charities involved in clinical nutrition: PINNT, the brilliant support group for patients who need artificial nutrition support, and clinical nutrition research at Newcastle Hospitals & University. If anyone would be kind enough to sponsor us, they can do so via our JustGiving page here:

<https://justgiving.com/team/2000k-to-rome>.

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

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