



BAPEN

Putting patients at the centre
of good nutritional care



Dr Nick Thompson
BAPEN President

An Update from BAPEN

I hope you're all getting a chance to enjoy the warmer weather this summer, spending time with friends and family, and taking a well-earned break where possible. As always, it is my pleasure to recap some recent activities from BAPEN and point you in the direction of some exciting milestones taking place later in the year.

Strategy Delivery Report

During BAPEN's Annual Conference 2022, BAPEN launched our next five-year strategy. With 2023 marking the first year under this new focus, we have made good progress against our commitments to deliver for our members and patients and have developed as an organisation. Our recently published Strategy Delivery Report takes each of our strategic priorities into consideration, reflecting on and analysing activities, resources and events that have furthered our knowledge, reach and sustainability aims. The first of these annual reports is available via: <https://bapen.org.uk/pdfs/bapen-annual-strategy-delivery-report-2024.pdf>, and I encourage you have a read through. It has taken a great amount of effort from all those involved with BAPEN to realise these milestones, and we're proud of what has already been accomplished. Of course, there is always room to improve, and we hope that over the coming years we can achieve even more together.

Awareness Milestones

It was a pleasure to see the return of Dietitians Week earlier in June. This year's theme, *'From classroom, to clinic and beyond'*, was an opportunity to go right back to the start, from early days studying dietetics, to revisiting those first roles as a registered dietitian or support worker. Organised by the British Dietetic Association (BDA), as usual there were lots of activities to dive into throughout the week, including a welcome return of the Dietetic Bake Off. A huge well done to all those involved with the planning and delivery of the awareness week, and we look forward to celebrating a career in dietetics once again in 2025.

Looking ahead, make sure you save the date for HAN Week 2024, 5th-11th August. Home artificial nutrition (HAN) is vital for thousands of people in the UK to sustain life via special medical nutrition being prescribed when the normal route of eating and drinking is compromised. This awareness week is focused on raising awareness of people who are receiving HAN, and those who care for them. More details will be announced very soon, so please keep an eye out for news via the PINNT website: <https://pinnt.com/Home.aspx>. Remember, it's never too early to start thinking about how you can get involved during HAN Week.

BAPEN Conference 2024

We're eager to build on the record-breaking attendance of BAPEN's Annual Conference in 2023 by attracting even more delegates to

Gateshead this year. Don't miss out on this terrific opportunity to hear the latest updates in nutritional care and share best practice amongst colleagues from across the UK. As always, remember to keep an eye out for registration details and programme updates via our website and social media channels. We hope to see you there on 5-6th November 2024!

General Election

After six weeks of campaigning, polling day is finally closing in. At BAPEN, we hope that the incoming government places a focus on addressing the serious public health challenge of disease-related malnutrition. This challenge is expected to increase with the ageing population, but we know that cost-effective interventions can be made now. For instance, more support for healthcare professionals to routinely screen and monitor patients for risk of malnutrition, integrating nutrition during initial patient assessments and into every disease pathway, and highlighting the requirement for nutritional care needs to continue as patients are discharged into a social care setting. BAPEN welcomes engagement with incoming policymakers and parliamentarians to help address the prevalence of disease-related malnutrition, thereby delivering for patients and freeing up much needed NHS capacity.

An Update on My Fundraising Mission

On a personal note, I'm delighted to share that my fellow hikers and I have successfully completed the first half of our fundraising mission of walking the Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome. The first leg of this journey ended in Lausanne, and we're excited to pick up the trail once again in the autumn.

If you want to take a look at some of the highlights of our trip so far, I encourage you to follow our progress on my Instagram channel ([@2000k.to.rome](https://www.instagram.com/2000k.to.rome)). If willing and able to do so, you can also help us in raising money for two amazing charities involved in clinical nutrition: PINNT, the support group for patients who need artificial nutrition support, and clinical nutrition research at Newcastle Hospitals & University. Please visit our Just Giving page for more information on how to sponsor us: <https://justgiving.com/team/2000k-to-rome>. We've already raised an incredible £7000, so a huge thank you to all those who have already donated.

Once again, I hope you enjoy the remainder of summer and look forward to catching up soon.

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

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