

An Update from BAPEN



Dr Nick Thompson
BAPEN President

As we progress through 2025, I'm excited to share some updates from BAPEN as we continue to support our members in delivering high quality, timely nutritional care. We're constantly working to develop as a charity, listening to our members and offering opportunities for you to join the team and network with colleagues, wherever you are in the UK. With that in mind, here's a quick overview of what's been happening and what is to come from BAPEN in the coming months!

Update from CATA

The involvement of the Covid Airborne Transmission Alliance (CATA) in the Covid Public Inquiry recently came to a close in March, and we now await the publication of the final report by Baroness Hallett. As many of you will be aware, CATA has been working since the start of the pandemic in 2020 to campaign for improvements in current IPC guidance to protect healthcare professionals. Dr Barry Jones, BAPEN stalwart, has been at the helm for this effort and I'd like to extend my huge thanks to his tremendous, ongoing work to advocate for healthcare professionals to have the appropriate protection equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively, particularly relevant for BAPEN members passing nasogastric tubes, providing central line care or dressing percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tubes.

I encourage you to read the most recent update from Barry on the latest work from CATA leading up to the close of the Module 3 investigations as part of the Inquiry: <https://bit.ly/4i5Wi2M>.

Join the BAPEN team!

We have an exciting opportunity to join our brilliant team, and be involved in helping organise BAPEN's Conference – one of the highlights in our calendar. Our Programmes Committee is looking for an enthusiastic person to join as Chair Elect, which means supporting in the delivery of an informative Conference that meets the educational needs of our multidisciplinary membership and the wider community of HCPs working within the field of disease-related malnutrition. The current Programmes Chair, Pete Turner, is a brilliant mentor and there will be a significant period of learning and support to ensure you feel comfortable in the role. Visit our website for more information: <https://bit.ly/42lyqlR>.

BAPEN Connect

As an organisation, we are continually looking at ways that we can offer more for our members – so that they feel empowered, inspired and supported in their professional roles. I'm delighted to announce that we will be introducing a new webinar series moving forwards: BAPEN Connect.

The idea behind this is to deliver bitesize, educational sessions for all members of the multidisciplinary team on topics that are relevant and interesting. These sessions will be led by external speakers, experts in their fields, and be open for any healthcare professional to attend. The first of these webinars will take place towards the end of April and

will focus on 'nutritional inflammatory bowel disease'. Keep your eyes peeled for registration details, and please do let us know if there's a topic you'd particularly like us to cover in future sessions.

Upcoming regional BAPEN events

On top of our Annual Conference, we also hold a number of regional events throughout the year. I'd like to draw your attention to our Kent and Sussex Regional BAPEN Study Day which is taking place on 24th September. More details will follow soon, but if this is local for you – save the date and keep an eye out on our website and social channels for more information to come! Do keep an eye out for other regional meetings through the website.

Grant scheme

Do you have a quality improvement project or a research idea that you would like to pursue but need some funding?

I'm pleased to share that BAPEN is awarding grants of up to a total of £60,000 for a range of different projects, led by BAPEN members. We're interested in supporting projects that will impact on the improvement of clinical care, management, health and wellbeing of people with nutritional care needs. So if you think you have an idea, I encourage you to have a read through the full application information on our website: <https://bit.ly/4jnxWmk>.

The deadline for sending in applications is Monday 30th June.

Call for papers – BMJ Open Gastroenterology

Lastly, I'd like to share an opportunity for you to profile your work through a guest-edited publication. *BMJ Open Gastroenterology* is open for papers on advancing nutritional support and best practices in nutritional care to optimise patient outcomes and improve healthcare efficiency. They are welcoming contributions from a wide range of article types, including original research studies and quality improvement reports to systematic and narrative reviews, as well as clinical guidelines.

I'm looking forward to reviewing entries to this topic collection, all about promoting advancements and best practices in nutritional care to optimise patient outcomes and improve healthcare efficiency.

If you're considering a piece of work to submit, visit: <https://bit.ly/4iefbRj> for more information.