

An Update from BAPEN



Dr Nick Thompson – BAPEN President

As we move into the summer months, there is a strong sense of momentum across the clinical nutrition community – bringing together patient voices, professional development, and a growing evidence base to strengthen the case for action on malnutrition.

Looking ahead: HAN Week 2026

Next month will see the return of Home Artificial Nutrition (HAN) Week, led by PINNT, taking place from 3rd–9th August 2026.

HAN Week remains an important moment in the calendar to shine a light on the realities of living with artificial nutrition and the essential role these interventions play in enabling people to live well and maintain independence beyond hospital settings.

This year's campaign, 'HAN. Seen. Unseen. Support it all.', reflects the full reality of life with artificial nutrition – what is visible, and what often goes unnoticed. From the clinical interventions that sustain life, to the day-to-day adjustments, emotional impact and resilience required behind the scenes, HAN Week invites us to recognise the whole experience.

For healthcare professionals, HAN Week offers a moment to pause and reflect – not only on clinical practice, but on how we listen to, learn from, and support patients in more holistic ways. For the wider community, it is an opportunity to build understanding, challenge assumptions, and amplify patient voices.

BAPEN is proud to support HAN Week and encourages members to get involved. Check out the PINNT website: <https://pinnt.com/HAN-Week-2026.aspx>.



We are delighted to be welcoming Dr Trevor Smith to present the Pennington Lecture this year. He will share his journey in clinical nutrition and the impact his work has had on patient outcomes and experiences, which will no doubt be a highlight of the event. Early-bird registration is still available for a limited time (until 29th August), and full details on key dates and registration can be found on the BAPEN website: www.bapen.org.uk/bapen-news/bapen-opens-registrations-for-the-2026-annual-conference/. I very much hope to see as many as possible of you in Bournemouth this November.



Reflecting on Edgbaston: Building stronger teams

May saw the successful delivery of BAPEN's Edgbaston Clinical Nutrition Team Development Course. A three-day, team-based learning experience designed to strengthen multidisciplinary working in nutrition care. We had teams from Scotland, north-east England, the Midlands and Cornwall.

Bringing together teams of dietitians, nurses, pharmacists and physicians, the course provided a valuable space not only to deepen clinical knowledge across areas including enteral and parenteral nutrition, but to enhance the way teams collaborate in practice. Importantly, the Edgbaston course reinforces a key principle: effective nutritional care is never delivered in isolation. It requires coordinated, confident teams who can work seamlessly across disciplines, settings and patient pathways. Thank you to those who attended!

New faces

We are delighted to have had some new faces join the BAPEN team, including Tarryn Guttenberg as Communications Associate, Anita Sangera as Professional Affairs Officer, and Colette Kirk as Deputy Lead for Education. Many thanks for all Ash Bond's work as the first Chair of our Sustainability SIG – following his decision to stand down we're delighted that Louise Davey-Hewins will take over the role. A very warm welcome to Tarryn, Colette and Louise!

Together, these initiatives remind us that progress in nutritional care depends on sustained collaboration, shared learning and a commitment to seeing the full picture. As always, thank you for your continued engagement, and I hope to see many of you soon at Conference.



Registrations are open for BAPEN Conference 2026

Planning is well underway for the BAPEN Annual Conference, taking place 10th–11th November 2026 in Bournemouth.

This year's programme promises two days of insight, collaboration and innovation, bringing together clinical nutrition professionals from across the UK to share best practice, emerging evidence, and practical solutions to improve patient care.