



**British  
Pharmaceutical  
Students' Association**

## **Introduction**

*Dear Reader,*

Welcome to the first report of the 81st BPSA Executive 2022–2023. This document aims to provide insight into the work undertaken by the Executive during the period of July 2022 – December 2022. The team has worked on various projects, events, and initiatives as highlighted. We are particularly proud of our campaign work, the focus of which has been governed by policies passed by BPSA members and current topics of significance to pharmacy students and trainees.

In this mandate, the Executive is continuing a hybrid approach of online and in-person delivery of content and events. Acknowledging the importance and its benefit towards engagement with BPSA members, we have moved towards running in-person events, whilst retaining online events such as Webinar Wednesdays for accessibility.

The work of the Executive is underpinned by the principles of advocacy, representation, and support for all BPSA members. We welcome any feedback, contributions, and interest in collaboration. We would particularly direct your attention to the 'help needed' section towards the end of this document.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the work of the BPSA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Patel', is displayed on a light grey rectangular background.

**Priyanka Patel**  
**President 2022–2023**



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## **Executive members**

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Southern Area Coordinator – Raffaella Woolmer (RW) – [southernac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:southernac@bpsa.co.uk)

Annual Conference Organisers – Sant Kaur Ghai (SKG) & Kieran O'Brien (KO) – [conference@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:conference@bpsa.co.uk)

Competitions Coordinator – Ema Damyanova (ED) – [competitions@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:competitions@bpsa.co.uk)

Engagement Officer – Saffron Paul (SP) – [engagementofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:engagementofficer@bpsa.co.uk)



## **Meetings/events attended**

As an association, we are involved in a number of meetings and events, both internal and external. We hold regular events for our members to attend and benefit from; these are currently in a hybrid format to improve accessibility and retain high standards.

The BPSA aims to actively engage with the wider profession and undertake meetings with various stakeholders and external organisations to represent the voice of our members. The meetings and events attended by the Executive team to date are highlighted below:

- 09/07/2022, 10/07/2022 - 1st Executive Changeover Meeting, Brighton (PP, TE, TA, NA, KJ, AL, PCa, CN, RS, CAN, EO, BK, KO, ED)
- 12-15/07/2022 - IPSF European Regional Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey (AL)
- 19/07/2022 - UK Commission into Pharmacy Professional Leadership meeting, Online (PP)
- 27/07/2022 IETP Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting, Online (TE)
- 13-21/08/2022 - IPSF World Congress, Hurghada, Egypt (PCa)
- 03/09/2022, 04/09/2022 - 2nd Executive meeting, Leicester (PP, TE, TA, NA, PCh, AL, PCa, DN, CN, RS, EO, RB, BK, RW, KO, ED, SP)
- 05/09/2022 - GPhC Feedback Meeting, Online (PP, TE)
- 06/09/2022 - UK Commission into Pharmacy Professional Leadership meeting, Online (PP)
- 07/09/2022 - Advice on Oriel Webinar, Zoom (PCh, KJ, DN, CN, RS, CAN, BK, RW)
- 10/09/2022 - IPSF Online General Assembly, Zoom (PCa)
- 22/09/2022 - IETP Advisory Group Meeting, Online (PP)
- 28/09/2022 - GPhC Feedback follow-up meeting, Online (PP, TE)
- 29/09/2022 - Joint National Pharmacy Board Meeting, Online (PP)



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- 05/10/2022 - How to Campaign Webinar, Zoom (DN, CN)
- 16-17/10/2022 - Pharmacy Show, Birmingham (PP, TA, PCh, KJ, PCa, DN, CN, EO, RB, BK, RW, SKG)
- 19/10/2022 - Patient centred care for LGBTQ+ patients webinar, Zoom (KO, CAN)
- 22/10/2022 - Black History Month Conference, Zoom (DN, CN, RS, EO)
- 24/10/2022 - Scope of practice of future pharmacy professionals working group, Online (PP)
- 25/10/2022 - UK Commission into pharmacy professional leadership meeting, Online (PP)
- 26/10/2022 - Anti-Racism in Pharmacy, Zoom (DN, CN, RS, EO)
- 29/10/2022, 30/10/2022 - 3rd Executive Meeting, Liverpool (PP, TE, TA, NA, PCh, KJ, AL, PCa, DN, CN, RS, CAN, EO, RB, BK, RW, SKG, KO, ED, SP)
- 01-06/11/2022 - EPSA Autumn Assembly, Athens, Greece (PP, AL)
- 02/11/2022 - First Year Webinar: Starting Your Journey, Zoom (CN, RS, CAN, RB)
- 09/11/2022 - Foundation Pharmacy - FPROG Meeting, Online (PP)
- 09/11/2022 - Day in the Life of a Day Lewis Trainee: Becoming a Community Pharmacist, Zoom (PCh, CN, RS, EO, BK, KO)
- 11/11/2022 - RPS Annual Conference, London (PP, TA, NA, CN, BK, RW, KO)
- 18/11/2022 - IETP Advisory Group Meeting, Online (PP)
- 18/11/2022 - C+D Awards Ceremony, London (PP, TE)
- 19/11/2022 - IPSF Contact Person Meeting, Zoom (PCa)
- 19/11/2022 - Autumn Southern Area Conference, "Let's learn about frailty", Kingston University (EO, RW, PCa)
- 19/11/2022 - Autumn Western Area Conference, "Diabetes: Education to protect tomorrow", Aston University (BK)
- 23/11/2022 - Antimicrobial Pharmacy Webinar, Zoom (PCa, CN)



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- 26/11/2022- Autumn Northern Area Conference, "Business/Industry: Is this the right path for me?", Newcastle University (CAN)
- 26/11/2022- Autumn Eastern Area Conference, "Sickle cell anaemia", University of Nottingham (EO)
- 27/11/2022- Autumn Pennine Area Conference, "All about skin!", Keele University (RB)
- 28/11/2022 - IETP Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting, Online (TE)
- 28/11/2022 - Vision for Community Pharmacy Advisory Panel, Online (PP)
- 28/11/2022 - Pharmacy Genomics Workforce Round Table, Eastside Rooms, Birmingham (RB)
- 03-04/12/2022 - 4th Executive meeting, Cambridge (PP, TE, TA, NA, CN, PCa, CAN, RB ,KO, BK)
- 06/12/2022 - Tips and Advice for Trainee Pharmacists Webinar, Zoom (KJ, ED)
- 08/12/2022 - UK Commission on Pharmacy Professional Leadership Meeting, London (PP)
- 14/12/2022 - Let's Talk: Day Lewis Community Pharmacists - Opportunities for Career Advancement, Zoom (ED)
- RPS x BPSA meetings - ongoing (PP)





## **Internal affairs**

### **Executive Support (PP, TE)**

Supporting the BPSA Executive team has always been, and continues to be, a key priority. To ensure that this was fulfilled, PP and TE conducted 1-2-1s with each member of the Executive to discuss plans and goals for the year, encompassing their professional role, what they would like to work on outside of their role and personal development. A summary of these discussions was shared with the individual Executive members and will serve as a touchpoint throughout the rest of the year. Pastoral support has been put in place to ensure that each individual Executive member is empowered.

With the view of supporting the Executive, an outline of the mandate was produced early on. This was shared with each member of the team to set clear expectations and map the year out from the onset.

### **Executive Collaboration (PP)**

The BPSA Executive is geographically spread out across Great Britain, meaning the role consists largely of remote working. Working as a team is made possible largely through weekly meetings conducted via Zoom. These enable discussion on various agenda points, and action points from each meeting are collated in the Google Task space. In order to ensure the entire team is up-to-date with activities of other Executive members, a live weekly updates document is completed, allowing meetings to be reserved for discussion points rather than individual updates. These measures enable larger projects to be successfully executed and maintain a collaborative working relationship within the Executive.

### **Executive Function and Administration (NA)**

At the beginning of the mandate, a Google Drive folder was created to store all of the Executive's general administration. The folder was shared with the whole Executive and contains admin-related information such as the BPSA's branding guidelines, meeting minutes and an oversight document containing other general admin information.



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The Executive fill in weekly updates to summarise the work they have achieved, ensuring transparency and helping identify where support can be directed from the rest of the team.

The Executive holds weekly online meetings via Zoom to discuss ongoing and upcoming work. The link to join the weekly meeting has been added to all Executive members' calendars. The link is also shared ahead of the meeting in an email that also includes the agenda for the meetings, a link to the agenda points submission form and meeting apologies form.

Three Executive meetings of this mandate have taken place in person in Brighton, Leicester and Liverpool. In-person meetings are organised by the Executive Top Table, with the meeting room, accommodation and travel being arranged for all Executive members. In-person meetings are used to discuss agenda items that require longer and more in-depth discussions, and typically guide some of the BPSA's larger projects, such as BPSA roadshows, area conferences and the Annual Conference.

All BPSA meetings are minuted and circulated to the whole team via email and added to the "meeting minutes" section in the Executive admin folder.

## **Working Party**

At the BPSA's 80th Annual Conference, the following motion was passed:

"This Association believes that a governance working party should be set up at the start of the 22/23 Executive mandate." [2022]

The working party was created in line with this, with the objective of evaluating and updating the BPSA's current constitution and regulations. This work is being headed by previous Executive and Honorary Life Members of the BPSA, who will be working on this throughout the mandate and beyond with the aim of presenting proposed changes at the 82nd Annual Conference.

## **Advocacy and Campaign Work**

Advocating for the improvement of education and experiences of our members and the causes they believe in remains at the heart of our work. During the BPSA



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Annual Conference, delegates voted on a number of policies ranging from reform of the pharmacy curriculum to include more holistic and inclusive teaching practices, to policies relating public health and our stance as an Association on important and prominent socio-political matters. Detailed below are a number of our current policies and the work we have done to action them at this stage in our mandate.

### **IPSF Development Fund**

Policy 2.11 states 'This association believes that the association should make a direct annual donation to the 'IPSF developmental fund' [2021].

The IPSA development fund aids eligible students from IPSF member organisations from low and lower-middle income countries to participate in IPSF programmes such as SEP and attend IPSF events such as the Annual World Congress or Regional Symposia. The BPSA Executive voted unanimously to donate £100 to the IPSF development fund and is currently in the process of actioning this.

### **Inclusivity and Diversity**

This mandate, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Forum has been relaunched. The purpose of the forum is to evaluate the work that the BPSA is currently undertaking towards increasing inclusivity and diversity in pharmacy education and the wider profession, particularly in relation to the specific EDI policies that members have voted in. The forum will be chaired by an ex-Executive member and HLM, Wendy Dadeboe, who was awarded the HLM position for her EDI work whilst on the BPSA Executive. The forum will aim to gather views directly from members and will be led by a committee of selected BPSA members who will meet fortnightly. The application to join the EDI committee has now closed.

### **LGBTQ+**

A webinar was held on "Patient Centred Care for LGBTQ+ Patients" built upon the following BPSA policies surrounding LGBTQ+ healthcare and education voted on by our members;

*This Association believes that the MPharm programme should have more LGBTQ+ representation and awareness [2021]*



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*This Association believes that Education surrounding gender and gender expression should be included within the MPharm. [2021]*

*This Association believes that conversion therapy should be banned [2022]*

The aim of the webinar was to focus on healthcare equality barriers in transgender patients and how the pharmacy profession can work to challenge these. The webinar finished with a brief section on current treatments available and considerations to be made by healthcare professionals when treating these patients. The hope is that this will be the first in a potential series of webinars on LGBTQ+ education.

## **Webinar Wednesdays**

### **Advice on Oriel**

This webinar was an introduction to current Oriel candidates and applicants on starting their Oriel applications. The webinar covered preferencing, both numeracy and SJT sections of the Oriel exam, holding offers, and accepting with upgrades. KJ, ED and RS chaired this webinar and shared their respective experiences as trainee pharmacists from both hospital and community sectors, followed by a Q&A session. The webinar was well received by attendees, with a high level of participation and many questions regarding the exam preparation.

### **First Year Webinar: Starting Your Journey**

This webinar was aimed at first year students to talk about settling into university life and a professional course. The webinar contained a short presentation on key things to remember when moving away from home, study tips for a professional course and how to get involved in university societies. We highlighted the BPSA as an avenue of support and development throughout the journey to becoming a pharmacist. Members of the Executive drew upon their personal experiences to answer questions from students.



### **Day in the Life of a Day Lewis Trainee: Becoming a Community Pharmacist**

The webinar explored the roles of trainee pharmacist and community pharmacists at Day Lewis and the services offered at community pharmacies. A panel discussion and presentation on the personal experience of a pharmacy manager and two trainee pharmacists provided insights into working in community pharmacy. The webinar was very informative and well-received by participating members.

### **Antimicrobial Pharmacy**

For World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) a webinar was hosted to raise awareness and educate our members on the global phenomenon of antimicrobial resistance. Additionally, to educate our members and the wider IPSF community on the responsibility and duty we have as future pharmacists to combat the overconsumption and misuse of antibiotics.

Three leading antimicrobial pharmacists from different areas of pharmacy participated in this webinar. Mr. Stephen Hughes, an Antimicrobial Consultant Pharmacist from Chelsea and Westminster, educated our members on antimicrobial prescribing advice, antimicrobial stewardship in an acute NHS trust, and antibiotic therapy in paediatrics. Dr. Ricarda Micallef, an Associate Professor at Kingston University London and a Pharmacist with Antibiotic Research UK. She educated our members of how Antibiotic Research UK is working to prevent antibiotic resistance. Finally, Ms. Laura Whitney, an Antimicrobial Stewardship Lead for NHS England informed our members on how NHS England is implementing measures to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

It was a great pleasure to host this important webinar for all members and the wider IPSF community. All members who attended found it very beneficial and worthwhile. This webinar has had the highest recorded attendance of the mandate thus far.



## **Healthcare Inequalities**

The majority of the BPSA's campaign work falls under reducing healthcare inequalities. The BPSA is currently creating and collating materials which can be distributed amongst pharmacy students and those in the pharmacy profession to educate the wider pharmacy community on healthcare inequalities faced by different communities.

## **Disability Campaign**

A Disability Campaign will be held by the Association in the upcoming months. During this time several activities will take place, such as:

- Webinar: Discussing destigmatising disabilities in the workplace, as part of the Webinar Wednesday series
- Social media: A video for social media with sign language for the use of healthcare professionals, where members of the Executive team will demonstrate various phrases using sign language.
- Publication: An interview with a pharmacist and pharmacy students discussing their own experience with disabilities.
- Website: A compilation of resources will be set-up on the BPSA website, which will contain important information around disabilities.
- Informational fact sheet: to direct members to the compilation of resources on the website.

## **Black History Month (BHM) Campaign**

This year, we ran the BPSA's second month long black history month campaign. As the first campaign of the mandate this was an excellent opportunity to kick start our advocacy work. The theme for the campaign was: '*Educate, Advocate and Celebrate*'. We wanted to use this opportunity and our platform to showcase the amazing achievements of our members and black pharmacy professionals, as well as educate and advocate on the issues faced by the black community.



## **Social media**

Throughout the month the Executive created and distributed educational story quizzes around symptom presentation on darker skin tones, facts and debunking common misconceptions of sickle cell disease, and pharmacological interventions specifically for patients of African or Caribbean descent. We also used our platform to spotlight and celebrate students, trainees and pharmacy professionals and the work they have carried out.

## **Halo Code**

As an Association this year we signed the Halo Code pledge in line with our following policy:

*This Association believes that the Association should sign and support the 'Halo Code' pledge. [2021]*

The Halo Code protects the rights of students and employees to freely wear their natural hair and protective styles associated with their cultural, racial and religious identities. By signing and supporting this as an Association, the Executive wants to ensure that our events remain a safe space for our members to freely and authentically express themselves and we hope to work with pharmacy schools and stakeholders for them to adopt this.

## **Webinars and Anti-Racism Toolkit**

We hosted two webinars during our campaign; the first titled "How to campaign" where we launched our advocacy campaign and discussed different forms of campaigns, aspects of campaigning and were joined by Adanna Anthony-Okeke who shared her experiences and campaign work that she carried out during her time at University and advice for members looking to plan and carry out similar work.

The second webinar "Anti-Racism in Pharmacy" was focused on exploring racism at university and in pharmacy. We introduced our [anti-racism toolkit](#), a resource we hope will be widely used to support anti-racism work within Pharmacy schools across the UK.



## **Competitions**

During our 80th Annual Conference our delegates voted in the following policies:

*This Association believes that more proactive measures need to be taken to tackle health inequalities within the NHS. [2022]*

*This Association believes that where possible a diverse range of skin tones should be used in advertising for pharmacy [2022]*

In line with these policies we organised and ran two concurrent competitions during this month. The first was an advocacy competition which gave our members an opportunity to select a cause or healthcare inequality they would like to tackle. The winner of this campaign then would have the opportunity to run their campaign with the support of the BPSA during this mandate. The second was an essay competition where applicants were tasked with researching and writing about health inequalities. The winner would receive a ticket to the BPSA's Awards Night during our 81st Annual Conference.

## **Black History Month Interview with Executive Members**

Black members of the current Executive team were interviewed by Publications Officer RS to explore their experiences and journey throughout university and into foundation training. The interview offered a chance to discuss important topics including racism, hopes and visions for the community, the meaning of Black History Month personally and professionally, imposter syndrome and more. The interview is available to watch on our youtube channel and the publication written following the interview can be found on our website.

## **Black History Month Conference**

To close our campaign, the BPSA held a Black History Month conference. The conference included a panel of current and future leaders of pharmacy in which topics ranging from cultural competency, racism in the workplace to health care inequalities and mistrust and vaccine hesitancy within the Black community were discussed. Guest speakers, Elsy Gomez Campos and Dr Esther Gathago, shared their experiences with their members and the amazing work they have carried out throughout their careers. The second panel featured students and executive members in different stages of their MPharm degrees and explored their journeys





so far, student experiences and offered a chance to discuss the nuances of navigating the different aspects of university and student life as a black Pharmacy student. A session focused on the awarding gap, its history and effect on students and the importance of tackling it was also held.

## **Finances (TA)**

A financial report is presented to the Executive team at the end of each month to ensure transparency within the team.

The budget for this mandate was accepted at the 80th Annual Conference. It has proven difficult to adhere to the budget due to unexpected factors such as inflation. For example, the google suite and zoom package almost doubled in price this year. Accommodation prices are also on the rise affecting the 81st Annual conference budget. The budget is constantly being reviewed to reflect current circumstances and to ensure it is being utilised efficiently to benefit BPSA members. The BPSA is in a manageable financial position this year.

Claims are gathered electronically using Google Forms. The evidence and numbers are uploaded onto a spreadsheet for accounting purposes. Xero accounting software is being used to help manage finances which has been working efficiently.

Finances from the previous mandate need to be tied up and closed. As this work is time-consuming and response-dependent, it has been steadily taking place thus far in the mandate.

We gave an opportunity to the Executive to decide whether they wanted a BPSA garment (hoodies/sweatshirts). The majority of the team opted in, and the BPSA are once again using Red Oaks Roller to supply the garments.

## **Sponsorship (PCh)**

The start of the mandate included introductory and onboarding meetings with existing sponsors and the collection of unpaid invoices. The aim is for all invoices to be received within the calendar year.



## **Sponsorship Brochure**

With a view to supporting this mandate's goals, objectives and campaigns, the sponsorship items were revised to offer sponsors flexibility and transparency when deciding the extent to which they would like to engage with the BPSA, and there are items which fit into an any-size budget. Competitions, publications, webinars and various BPSA Annual Conference packages have remained within our sponsorship offer from last year. Sponsoring area conferences, Executive meetings, and social media packages have been implemented in this mandate. Pricing for all items has been reviewed and adapted with the addition of a two-page rate card to aid decision-making. Pricing is now itemised and supports a "build your own package" approach, along with three new curated VIP bundles: gold, silver and bronze, which offer a taster across our packages at an exclusive price. The sponsorship brochure has been distributed to existing sponsors and is an essential tool for prospective sponsors too. Only two copies were printed for the purposes of in-person shows/ fairs, such as the Pharmacy show and RPS conference; however, in order to support a BPSA sustainable policy, recycled paper was used, and the brochure is otherwise distributed electronically and via QR codes. Sponsors and the Executive team have appreciated this sustainable approach to distribution. The vision for sponsors remains: to retain our existing sponsors whilst initiating new relationships within community pharmacy, various training providers and local sponsors at the next Annual Conference location.

Sponsors are generally responding well to the return of in-person events and engagement with the BPSA remains positive.

## **Role Development**

Away from sponsors, there has been a focus on improving the administrative processes of the external relations officer role. Together with the IT officer, designs for a reworked external opportunities page have been agreed upon.

Documentation has been a key area of improvement with the creation of a "new sponsor set-up form", a new quote template, a more structured PO and an invoicing process that has been agreed to be actioned upon with the Treasurer.



## **Annual Conference (SKG & KO)**

This year the 81st Annual Conference (AC) will be held at the University of Portsmouth (UoP), with the theme 'The Wider World of Pharmacy'. The pharmacy course lead and contact lecturer for the BPSA have been informed and are more than happy to help with the event. SKG and KO are also working closely with Portsmouth Student Union regarding food licensing, union room booking and potential sponsorships from the University.

Various venues have been contacted for the evening events. The accommodation for the conference has been thoroughly investigated and meetings have been planned for further discussion. Meeting rooms are in the process of being booked; the venues department of the University has been contacted and awaiting their response.

Annual Conference Organisers (ACOs) have been liaising with the ERO and Treasurer to organise sponsored nights and discuss the budget respectively. ACOs have been in contact with the course lead at UoP to discuss potential local sponsors. The SEP community pharmacies in Portsmouth are also being considered for further local sponsorships.

A timetable for the social media posts and promotional videos is being formulated in conjunction with the dates of the ticket release and other relevant benchmark dates.

Additionally, ACOs have been working very closely with the Area Coordinators to establish relationships with University contact lecturers. Moving forward, the team will be working with BPSA Representatives and Liaisons to help promote the Annual Conference.

4 main keynote speakers from diverse backgrounds have been confirmed, each of whom has agreed to partake in a short presentation about their work, followed by a Q&A with the delegation.

Miscellaneous tasks that ACOs have also been working on include: working closely with the IT Officer in updating the Annual Conference website and completing the delegate handbook ready to be proofed and printed.



## **Graduate Members (KJ)**

There are currently 140 BPSA Graduate members as of November 2022. There has been a gradual, sustained increase in Graduate members in the past months.

## **Trainee Tuesday Quizzes**

Trainee Tuesday Quizzes were initiated in September 2022 and produced 30 practice questions over ten weeks. Survey forms were sent out through social media channels to gain feedback on the Trainee Tuesday Quizzes, and the responses were generally positive. Notable feedback was to increase the number of weekly questions and reduce the questions' difficulty. KJ intends to keep the number of weekly questions the same to maintain the quality of the quizzes. However, KJ will work with CN to find a solution to provide Trainee Tuesday Quizzes via other social media channels to increase engagement.

## **GPhC registration assessment**

The BPSA has also released a survey to gain feedback on the June and November GPhC registration assessment. A report on the June GPhC registration assessment was created and sent to the GPhC as well as published for the public to view. There have been similar trends in both feedback surveys so far, and KJ will work to produce another report for the November sitting once the survey closes. A meeting with GPhC was set up in September 2022 to discuss the June GPhC registration assessment to voice our concerns and propose recommendations to be implemented for future assessments, including the upcoming November sitting. As a result of this, positive changes, including assessment centre allocation and an increase in the quality of invigilation in the test centres, were made.

The BPSA has issued a statement for the timing of results to be released within conventional working hours, enabling the availability and accessibility of support for trainee pharmacists who may require it. Unfortunately, this has not been achieved nor adhered to by the GPhC. BPSA will continue to voice the concerns of graduate members and work on having these changes implemented for the health and well-being of trainee pharmacists.



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## **Graduate Newsletter**

The first graduate newsletter will be sent to graduate members in November 2022. The newsletter will be used to drive engagement with the graduate network and keep graduate members updated on events and information that would be of benefit and relevance to them.

## **Trainee Spotlight**

KJ and ED are working towards creating a 'Trainee Spotlight' platform to highlight the achievements of trainees within or outside their workplace, recognise their excellence, and inspire other BPSA members. We plan to deploy this project over the coming months.

In the coming year, the BPSA intends to partner with key sponsors and stakeholders to offer trainee pharmacists beneficial educational resources, such as webinars and practice questions.

## **European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (AL)**

### **EPSA Annual Congress**

On behalf of the BPSA, PP and AL attended the EPSA Autumn Assembly in Athens, Greece as official delegates from 1st November to 5th November. PP and AL represented the BPSA on EPSA internal affairs such as financial matters and reports. Furthermore, the BPSA was promoted to EPSA members in a booth set up in one of the sessions during the Assembly and encouraged participation in Webinar Wednesdays which are available to all EPSA and IPSF members. Positive feedback has been received from fellow EPSA members.

The BPSA aims to promote equality in pharmacy and, driven by one of the policies passed by members, a motion was proposed for EPSA to publish a statement supporting and advocating for the LGBTQ+ community in pharmacy, which was seconded by the Austrian Pharmacy Student Association. Unfortunately, this motion was not passed and was later altered to a motion surveying the matter due to a lack of data within EPSA on the topic. Two further motions were proposed



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regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between EPSA and IPSF. Due to opposition from the EPSA Executive team and the consideration of future healthy negotiations between both EPSA and IPSF, these motions were withdrawn by the BPSA.

### **Liaison Secretary (LS) Work**

There has been a blend of online and physical LS meetings. For online meetings, the BPSA was invited to discuss topics such as advocacy platforms, and preparation meetings prior to the EPSA Autumn Assembly. AL attended the physical LS day in Athens, Greece which was hosted a day before the Autumn Assembly. During this, soft skills training on project management as well as discussion around challenges and the experience of each LS's national work was covered.

### **Other EPSA work/activities**

The BPSA is looking into ways to collaborate with EPSA and produce effective and impactful work. This includes, but is not limited to: hosting online EPSA training sessions during Webinar Wednesdays, inviting EPSA trainers to one of the Spring Area Conferences, collaborating with EPSA on advocacy work and hosting webinars. The main goal is to bring awareness of EPSA to our members and establish the BPSA and its members on a European level.

## **International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (PCa)**

### **Committee**

The IPSF Committee this mandate consists of the BPSA Contact Person (CP) and the Student Exchange Officer (SEO), where the CP fills the Executive position as the IPSF officer. This structure was established at a previous mandate and has continued owing to its success. In particular, allowing the more senior BPSA members to train and mentor their SEO and support them throughout the mandate. The current Student Exchange Officer is Shemsa Bizimana, a 4th-year student at the University of Birmingham.



Local Exchange Officer (LEO) applications opened at two different stages this year. The LEO position was sought after by members and 9 LEO applicants were received, all of whom were successful. London, Portsmouth and Birmingham were retained as SEP hosting cities and new host cities gained include Leicester, Reading and Lincoln. The Social Media Coordinator (SMC) role was introduced for the first time to the IPSF sub-committee. The role supports PCa and the SEP team in the production of promotional material for the sep.in.uk Instagram page. The social media posters vary from SEP promotional material to IPSF campaigns that the BPSA has taken part in. There were 2 applicants for this role, both of whom were successful. This provides further opportunities for our members to work and develop the skills to run campaigns and programmes.

The LEOs began their mandate by finding potential SEP host placement providers in their local areas to prepare for the upcoming Winter and Summer SEP placements. Currently, the LEOs are preparing the placement itineraries for incoming IPSF members.

### **Student Exchange Programme (SEP)**

BPSA hosted incoming IPSF members for the Summer SEP 2022. This proved to be very successful, with the BPSA hosting 23 international IPSF members from 12 different countries; Portugal, Hungary, South Korea, France, Egypt, Poland, Costa Rica, Canada, Turkey, Spain, Indonesia and Malaysia. The IPSF international members undertook their SEP in four locations across the UK: London, Portsmouth, Birmingham and Essex. The majority of students completed SEP in the community pharmacy sector and some students in the hospital sector.

Applications for BPSA members to take part in Summer SEP 2023 opened in mid-November and will close on the 31st of December 2022. This was advertised in the BPSA newsletter and on our social media channels. IPSF has informed us that 71 BPSA members can be sent out on a SEP placement in this mandate. This is the highest recorded quota offered to the BPSA.

Applications for incoming international IPSF students for Winter SEP 2022 have now closed.



## **IPSF members accessibility to BPSA**

BPSA has an open–invitation policy on our webinars for IPSF and EPSA members. At times, international members are unable to attend due to time zone differences, however all BPSA webinars are uploaded onto Youtube allowing members to watch it in their own time. To increase the engagement of IPSF members at BPSA events, BPSA webinars and events have been shared through IPSF CP email threads. This enables CPs to promote and share BPSA webinars with their fellow IPSF members.

## **IPSF World Congress and IPSF EuRO Regional Symposium**

Registration for both of these events will commence in early 2023. Both the World Congress and the European Regional Symposium will be promoted via IPSF social media platforms and BPSA social media platforms, BPSA Newsletter and the sep.in.uk instagram page. Additionally, members will be also informed of the 'Leaders in Training' professional development event which takes place a week earlier.

## **IPSF Activities**

'Trainers Development Camp', 'Patient Counselling Event', 'Clinical Skills Event' and 'Compounding Event' are all IPSF activities that BPSA members can participate in. This will be shared and promoted on IPSF and BPSA social media channels.

## **Website and Technology (CN)**

The BPSA website is being reviewed for a potential upgrade, with the objective to introduce more integration. This would enhance the current services and allow for fluid interaction and an overall more user–centred experience.

Taking into account anecdotal feedback, the template is being adapted to conform to window sizing and improve navigation across any device. This would require resizing the main pages and adapting any existing integration. The purpose of this is to revive the homepage and allow for better redirection to relevant sections within the platform.

The BPSA social media channels reported many achievements, thanks to the pool of material displayed. We aim to transfer a similar concept on the web page to





increase outreach and implement more interactive elements on the website. This would also ensure continuity of activities provided from alternative platforms and serve as an information database for the members.

## **Publications (RS)**

The aims of publications during this mandate are to explore a wide range of topics that our members will find helpful as both students and trainees, as well as focusing on social issues that we are championing in our policies.

The first publication of the mandate covered foundation training year applications through non-conventional (or non-oriental) pathways.

In October, our biggest campaign was Black History Month. Our BHM publications included an interview with NA, CN, DN and EO about what this month means to them and sharing their experiences as black pharmacy students. We also interviewed Oninye Ndefo, a specialist haematology pharmacist about sickle cell disease and how we can support patients with their care.

A big project carried out during BHM was creating the first ever BPSA anti-racism toolkit. Preparing this toolkit was very rewarding, with a vast array of research, ideas and references being incorporated. This tool aims to supplement the Anti-Racism Webinar which took place on the 26th of October and provide longevity to our inclusion and diversity work beyond the campaign period.

Presenting our members with various opportunities and perspectives is an important function of our publications. Liaising with sponsors from CPPE, C+D and Pharmacist Support about collaborating on potential publications allows for this. Additionally, liaising closely with CN and SP has been key for the successful promotion and publication of various pieces on the BPSA website and social media platforms.

## **Area Coordinators**

### **Roadshows**

Roadshows are the perfect opportunity to introduce first-year students to the BPSA and the benefits provided by membership for both current studies and



future prospects. Overall, roadshows were widely successful, with an improvement of engagement with the BPSA across many universities. All roadshows were held in person where feasible, and moving back to in-person roadshows for the first time in 3 years following previous COVID-19 restrictions aided engagement with members.

In addition to delivering roadshows, a BPSA stall was arranged at UCL School of Pharmacy. This provided an opportunity to engage students and discuss the benefits of BPSA membership and engagement, share personal experiences and assist students in the sign up process. This proved highly successful, with many students later applying for representative and liaison roles. Following on from this success, the BPSA plans to increase our presence at careers fair in the upcoming months.

### **Liaisons and Representatives**

The recruitment of liaisons and representatives across the universities in the areas commenced after roadshows were completed in mid-October. The engagement from the roadshows was evident seeing the numerous responses received for both Liaison and Representative applications. Applications have been re-opened at Schools of Pharmacy where positions remain unfilled.

After the recruitment process, ACs led a Liaison and Representative training session for all 5 areas via Zoom. This enabled Liaisons and Representatives to gain a clear understanding of their role and expectations, as well as providing an opportunity to meet and have discussions with their wider team. The general feedback from the Liaisons and Representatives was that the training sessions were beneficial and they felt more confident within their role. A handbook was put together by ACs summarising the session and was distributed to both Liaisons and Representatives.

One common piece of feedback from various BPSA Liaisons and Representatives was the idea of pushing for every university to have at least one BPSA stand, which would give students first hand experience of what the BPSA has to offer. Overall, they were all excited to embark on their various roles and look forward to engaging with and increasing awareness of the BPSA and its opportunities.



## **Autumn Area Conferences**

### **Northern area (CAN)**

Autumn Northern Area Conference: The conference was held on Saturday 26th November from 10am to 2pm, on the topic of 'Business/Industry - is this the right path for me?' The conference included speakers from the business and industry sectors talking about their experience in their respective fields as pharmacists and a presentation for students that provided tips and tools to apply for job opportunities in industry/business.

### **Eastern Area (EO)**

The Autumn Eastern Area Conference on 'Sickle Cell Anaemia' took place on Saturday 26th November 2022 from 10am to 4pm. The aim of the area conference was to spread awareness of sickle cell and help acknowledge important aspects within the life of a person with sickle cell disease. The conference was kindly greeted with an amazing lineup of speakers that included: Professor Ambassador Dr Augusta Elizabeth Koroma, the director of health promotion Education and support at European Sickle Cell Federation, Claudine Matthews, a registered dietician and nutrition consultant in sickle cell disease, Seyi Afolabi the parliamentary and policy officer at sickle cell society and Executive officer at CPA UK and John James OBE, the CEO of Sickle Cell Society. The conference was also joined by a panel of brave patients who discussed the lifestyle aspect of living with sickle cell disease. It was an experience that fully demonstrated the exemplary work people are doing within the various sectors of their expertise. The variation of expert speakers and panellists was a complementary blend within the conference that enabled the attendees to get different perspectives on the implications of sickle cell disease.

### **Pennine area (RB)**

The Autumn Pennine Area Conference was titled 'All About Skin' and took place at Keele University on Sunday 27th November from 11am - 4pm. This topic was chosen due to its lack of coverage in great depth on the MPharm course as well as the career path of a pharmacist going into aesthetics and skincare, which is becoming increasingly popular. The event included 3 speakers who discussed



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different topics of skin and their careers which students found engaging and informative. Neil Grazier discussed the structure of skin and demonstrated an app that was developed to help students revise. Szu Shen Wong gave an informative presentation on the pharmacist's role in skincare and pharmaceuticals vs cosmetics. Pavan Viridi, CEO and creator of SkynMaps, discussed her inspiring journey from studying pharmacy at university to her interesting career now. The conference also included a quiz to get students to think about how conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and acne would appear on different skin tones.

### **Western Area (BK)**

The Western Autumn Area conference was held on Saturday 19th November 2022. The topic was "Diabetes: Education to protect tomorrow" and this was chosen in the honour of World Diabetes day on November 14th. We were fortunate to have such a diverse group of pharmacists and nurses who could each bring a unique perspective to the subject of Diabetes and its management. The main topics covered in the conference were: Diabetes and Health inequalities, a day in the life of a diabetic pharmacist and a perspective of different medications used for diabetes and their advantages/disadvantages. This conference was organised with the intention of helping pharmacy students understand the value of patient-centred care and how prescribing various medications can affect diabetes and its complications.

### **Southern Area (RW)**

The Southern Area Autumn Conference, "Let's learn about frailty", was held on Saturday 19th November at the University of Kingston. The topic of frailty was decided as elderly care is an area of patient care covered in limited detail during the MPharm programme and frailty is a commonly misunderstood syndrome with many considerations. The aim of the conference was to provide an opportunity for continuing professional development for students, but also improve understanding and appreciation for frailty and the implications that this has on pharmaceutical care. The guest speaker lineup was met with good response from attendees and included Aziza Qureshi, lead hospital pharmacist for frailty and older people at NELFT who provided an in-depth and fascinating introduction to frailty. Brendon Jiang provided a presentation discussing his experiences as a pharmacist on frailty from a primary care perspective, and also discussed his roles on the English Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and his



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role as a NICE Medicines and Prescribing Associate. The final speaker was Dr Graham Stretch who provided a thorough presentation titled "Walk a mile in my shoes - Understanding frailty and avoiding medication harms", and brought a frailty suit to allow attendees to understand first hand the challenges faced by frail patients.

## **Competitions (ED)**

The mandate started with finalising the results from the Day Lewis Public Health Poster Competition, liaising with Day Lewis and announcing the winner on our social media.

As part of the Black History Month Campaign, the first two competitions were launched - an essay competition and an advocacy competition on 'Health Inequalities'. The deadline for the Advocacy competition was extended to the 30th November to allow more submissions, as the winning campaign proposal will be run by the winner with the BPSA during this mandate.

Applications for the Competitions Sub-Committee were opened in After a thorough review of the applications, 3 sub-committee members were appointed. The Sub-Committee will be aiding in organising the competitions such as developing the competition materials. Monthly group as well as individual meetings with the Competitions Coordinator are held to promote effective communication and smooth running of the competitions.

The aim for this year is to maintain the established success of sponsored competitions, as well as organising competitions as part of the campaigns run by the BPSA. The competitions will aim to raise awareness and improve students' and trainees' understanding and knowledge about the profession they are pursuing. Furthermore, a 'Trainee of the year' competition will be introduced to improve engagement and involvement among our Trainee members. Social media, webinars and area conferences will be used to promote all competitions.

## **Engagement and Social Media (SP)**

### **BPSA Newsletter**

This year, we have chosen to maintain the newsletter, with the aim of publishing fortnightly. The newsletter contains the latest news on Executive work, as well as



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any campaigns, upcoming webinars, competitions and any new opportunities that arise such as SEP and applications to join sub-committees. We have also renamed the newsletter, "BPSA Bulletin", and changed the layout, to make it more eye-catching and vibrant, whilst maintaining the BPSA Branding.

## **Social Media**

The number of followers on Instagram and Twitter has increased, with Instagram reaching the 3000 followers mark. All social media requests are made via an email request form. The engagement on stories has also increased with weekly story quizzes and Trainee Tuesday story quizzes.

## **YouTube**

The YouTube platform is being used to upload webinar recordings. Viewers are very keen to rewatch webinars and engagement is good. We have found that scheduling the webinars, prior to them being uploaded, is the best way to ensure a smooth running of the YouTube platform.

## **Story quizzes (ED)**

A new project which has been undertaken by the Competitions Coordinator is creating story quizzes questions which are posted on our social media every Friday. The aim of this is to improve engagement and provide value for members; the questions are based on knowledge learned throughout the MPharm degree to ensure inclusivity and participation of pharmacy students at different stages of their degree.

## **Upcoming**

### **Work**

- 'Trainee of the Year' Spotlight
- Disability campaign
- Climate change campaign
- Mental health campaign
- Health inequalities campaign



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## **Events**

- Day Lewis Webinar – Let's talk: Day Lewis community pharmacists – opportunities for career advancement
- NHS BSA in-person visits. Location: NHS Business Services Authority, Bridge House, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Dates: 15th and 16th December, and 5th and 6th January.
- Spring Area Conferences
- Science into Practice
- Business into Practice
- 81st Annual Conference

## **Support needed**

- Pharmacy professionals for involvement with campaigns in various capacities such as speaking at webinars and writing publications
- Getting in contact with pharmacy societies across Great Britain
- Publicising the roles of Liaisons and Reps are well known across students