

BLNA Committee Member Testimonials – January 2024

"I have been on the BLNA committee since April 2022. It is a very supportive and inclusive team with a large scope of influence. As a BLNA committee we are committed to enhancing nursing within all aspects of liver disease; to lead and strategically develop hepatology, to improve services for people living with liver disease – their carers and the healthcare professionals that work with them. I have been encouraged that there are such passionate committed and credible nurses who are willing to drive and shape the future of hepatology nursing. We are involved in all aspects of the national hepatology networks and continue to push into innovation and research. It has been a busy, fulfilling and supported few months focusing on something that I love".

Katharine Caddick, North Bristol Trust
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"I was voted onto the BLNA committee in 2021. I am currently the nurse manager of the British Liver Trust charity and I manage the specialist liver nurse team. I have greatly enjoyed my tenure as a member and have contributed to BLNA/BASL conference days, webinars and meetings. It is incredibly rewarding to represent liver nurses at a national level and be involved with education and helping to improve standards of patient care. It was wonderful to be able to have a face to face BASL conference this year and to meet up with the other committee members who are so inspiring and supportive. Good luck to anyone applying to join us, you won't regret it!"

Rebecca West, British Liver Trust
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"I joined the BLNA committee in 2020 having being a BLNA member for a number of years and wanted more involvement in the sharing of good practice within liver nursing. In addition, I was keen to learn more about the national agenda for liver nurses. As a committee member there is opportunity to represent the BLNA within other associated groups, for me this is within the liver section of the BSG. From day 1 the committee has been extremely welcoming; providing advice and support on committee duties, especially those I had little or no experience of. It was a little daunting at first, but the support of the committee has enabled me to competently perform those duties with confidence. All potential committee members are likely to have concerns around what is expected of them. Please don't let that dissuade you from joining the committee as we are a friendly bunch with a varied breadth of knowledge & skills that are very happy to support new members."

Dianne Backhouse, Hull
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"I became interested in finding out more about the BLNA committee after attending a BLNA/BASL annual conference. The quality of the conference was impressive and over the years I had seen the difference the committee had made in improving the voice of Hepatology nursing and highlighting the role of nurses in Liver disease and Liver health. I wanted to get involved and find out more about the national platform and how it impacts the quality-of-care liver patients receive from the top down. It took a couple of years before I had the confidence to enquire about the role and I am now glad that I did! The committee offers an opportunity to become directly involved in advocating for liver patients,



advising on advancing clinical practice, education, interprofessional working, sustainable health and much more. It is hard work but definitely rewarding and a great learning opportunity. It is a privilege to feel like I have participated and shared what skills and experience I have to support liver nurses and patients. If you are thinking about joining the committee or would like to find out more, please get in touch, I would be more than happy to give you an insider view”.

Catherine Wood
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust

“I have been a member of the BLNA committee for almost four years now. Each month we have a committee virtual meeting for an hour and a half. In the meetings we discuss education sessions we are planning and projects we are working through with other nursing groups. There are also lots more exciting topics covered! Being on the committee gives you a voice towards the future of hepatology nursing and care for our patients. It can get busy at times coming up to the meetings but we work through it together. Over the time I have loved being a part of the planning of meetings, each with the aim to further the education of hepatology nurses. We are a diverse group from all over the country, each with our own speciality journeys. Each member brings their individual ideas to the table. As a team we then work to provide diverse education opportunities. It’s been an honour to be a part of the ‘behind the scenes’ and work with so many great nurses. I would encourage anyone interested to contact us with any questions”.

Gemma Botterill, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
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