

BLNA Committee Member Testimonials – January 2026

"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 years focusing on something that I love".

Katharine Caddick, North Bristol Trust

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"Having joined the BLNA committee in 2020, I am excited for what 2026 will bring in my new role as Chair. The nurturing and support provided by the BLNA committee over the last 5 years has given me the confidence to undertake this new role. I look forward to working with the wider BASL committee, and collaborating with other organisations committed to liver care. The BLNA committee is a friendly group of dedicated liver nurses who strive to provide support, education, and best practice for the wider liver nursing community".

Dianne Backhouse, Hull

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"I joined the BLNA committee in April 2023 after being a nurse member of BLNA for several years prior to this. I find the team very supportive and inclusive from a wide range of backgrounds and experience in the field of hepatology. The committee meets over teams and face to face to discuss educational needs and forward planning for future events like our yearly educational conference in association with BASL and our virtual webinar conference. As a group of individuals, we are committed to enhancing the education and skills of all nurses and other AHP involved in hepatology and for those living with liver disease and for the carers of those individuals. We are also instrumental in developing and influencing national policy for liver nurses to enhance care and practice and are involved with other hepatology organisations who can influence practice. I would encourage any member of the BLNA to apply to join the committee we are an innovative friendly supportive group of like-minded individuals with a passion for education and research and service development within Hepatology".

Katrina Snowden, Airedale

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"After attending BASL/BLNA conference and seeing the committee in action I knew I wanted to be part of it, so I was delighted to be successful in my application for a place. I have been a member of the BLNA committee since 2022 and am currently in my 2nd tenure. The committee members work in a diverse range of hepatology environments and roles. We come together monthly (virtually) and face to face (2/3 times per year), these meetings have allowed me to network with a supportive, friendly and inspiring group of liver nurses. Being part of the committee has opened up so many incredible opportunities for me. I've attended conferences and seminars, been able to learn and teach, I've joined networks and research groups and been part of a research project that was published in front line gastro in 2024. Most recently I was able to work with the RCN on an update to the liver nursing competency framework. I would encourage liver nurses to apply for a committee place as it's such a fantastic opportunity to expand your role, influence the future of liver nursing and shape the future of hepatology".

*Laura Kent, Swindon
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"I have been on the BLNA committee since April 2024. During this time I have helped with setting up of the annual meeting in Harrogate, presented and chaired a session at the meeting. I have also written an editorial that was published in the GIN journal. There are many opportunities to try new things and expand your own knowledge and work alongside a great group of individuals who will support you along the way. It can feel a bit daunting joining an established committee, however I have found everybody welcoming and extremely friendly and respectful. We are a diverse group of individuals, working across all areas of Hepatology and everyone will have something to offer. The committee meets monthly over Zoom and more frequently during run up to conference so it can get quite busy! It has been great working with those who are genuinely interested in the future of liver nursing on both local and national levels, nurse education and promoting the best liver care for patients and families. I would encourage anyone to contact us if they are considering joining the committee."

*Sandra Walsh, Wrexham
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"These months as part of the committee have been incredibly positive. They have given me the opportunity not only to share experiences with colleagues across the UK but also to learn from them. When we talk about hepatology nursing, we tend to think about those with clinical roles such as clinical nurse specialists or ANPs. I was initially unsure about how my role could fit into the committee, but I was at the same time keen that such an important group of nurses should be an active part of the BLNA. I hope I can continue to increase awareness of the vital role research plays and the positive impact it can have in our patients' journey. It is an honour for me to represent my research nurse colleagues, who work tirelessly to help shape the future care of our liver patients."

*Ane Zamalloa, London
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"I was selected to join the British Liver Nurses Association (BLNA) committee for a 12 month taster experience in April 2024. Being a taster member of the BLNA for one year has been a valuable and fulfilling experience for me. This opportunity allowed me to gain insight into the essential work being done within BLNA and the broader liver service. During this time, I have been able to network with dedicated professionals who are committed to improving liver health outcomes and participate in events that have deepened my understanding of liver diseases and their management. Engaging with expert-led discussions has significantly enhanced my knowledge and practice as a Liver specialist nurse. I had the opportunity to attend the BLNA monthly committee meetings to plan and deliver liver services. This may involve to review posters , abstracts etc , and contributing to plan and support the BASL/ BLNA annual conference.

The team is awesome who provide immense support and guidance to the person in this role. The Team is led by Dianne Backhouse with all the support from other committee members. I was given support to chair one of the session in the BLNA conference and I had the opportunity to deliver an educational session during the BASL/ BLNA annual conference. Currently I also maintain the X (Twitter) account for BLNA. Overall, my experience as a taster member has been incredibly rewarding. It is very much gratifying to see our Teams' collective work translate into better support systems and care pathways for our patients. I am proud to be part of BLNA that plays a vital role in shaping the future of liver nursing and care. If you are interested and have questions please contact me."

Teesha Joshy, Harlow.

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"I joined the BLNA committee as a taster member from April 2025 to April 2026, and the experience has been truly transformative. The role has given me access to exceptional learning opportunities, meaningful collaboration, and the chance to engage with leading experts across the liver field. Connecting with liver nurses from a wide variety of hepatology settings has been energising, and our monthly virtual and in-person meetings have created a motivating and supportive professional community. Throughout the year, I've been able to present at the BASL/BLNA conference, contribute to several exciting projects, review abstracts, expand my networks, and deepen my knowledge through expert discussions. I wholeheartedly encourage liver nurses to apply, this opportunity offers real growth, influence, and the chance to help shape the future of hepatology nursing."

Harriet Goudie, London

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