

END OF LIFE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG): ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

This annual report covers the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.

Membership

The BASL Committee appointed an initial SIG Lead to serve for one year, Dr Mark Wright, Consultant Hepatologist and Gastroenterologist, University Hospital Southampton. During 2018-19, Dr Ben Hudson, Consultant Hepatologist, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, was elected as SIG lead for the period March 2019 to March 2021.

At the time of writing this report, there are 153 individuals included in the member database. 108 (71%) are BASL members and 45 (29%) are non-members.

Meetings

One meeting of the SIG was held during 2018-19 - 20 March 2019, Bristol, 25 participants.

Key achievements

The End of Life SIG had another successful year, with membership continuing to grow. Our annual meeting in Bristol reviewed recent key research outputs, studies in progress and research proposals. These included the development of “question prompt” lists for patients with advanced chronic liver disease attending outpatient appointments, ongoing research into advance care planning in liver disease and parallel studies in chronic kidney disease.

Building on the position statement released after the 2018 SIG meeting, we produced a recent review article (soon to be published in *Frontline Gastroenterology*), summarising salient evidence around managing palliative care needs in patients with advanced chronic liver disease. This provides examples of good practice and describes service models which could be utilised to achieve this. We released prescribing guidelines for pharmacological symptom management in patients with advanced chronic liver disease, aimed at both GPs managing patients in the community and junior ward doctors. Our webpage was updated, and contains many new resources for doctors, nurses and patients – including a patient leaflet “*thinking ahead*”, produced in conjunction with the British Liver Trust. We lobbied for palliative care KPIs to be included within the next iteration of the IQILS standards and received encouraging early responses. We plan to lobby for items around palliative care to be added to the advanced hepatology curriculum.

In the next year we plan to increase our collaborative research efforts, including a scoping exercise of practice across the country. We are considering applying for NIHR funding for the November 2019 round (although this has yet to be finalised). We intend to increase our educational outputs and events, and will continue to update the resources available via our webpage.

Further information

Please visit the SIG webpage at <https://www.basl.org.uk/index.cfm/content/page/cid/33>.