



BASL Priorities 2023

Our People

The support of colleagues and their wellbeing is central to how we function as a friendly, approachable, inclusive, supportive, collaborative and facilitative association. We aim to provide stimulating educational events and annual conferences and encourage professional networking as part of our commitment to our members. We acknowledge that it is not possible for all members to attend venue-based events and shall further develop our virtual activities this year.

We shall work with BSG on recommendations to reduce risk of burn-out and retention of staff, which also feeds into the UKLA workstream on workforce. We shall also further develop the wellbeing agenda within our activities.

We include the BASL Inclusiveness Project ([link](#)) in this section and the use of equality and diversity data to understand the profile of our membership. These datafields are now live and we shall encourage all members to complete them. This will help to encourage and support the development of under-represented groups within BASL and the wider liver healthcare professions.

We aim to provide a source of mentorship to support all our membership groups including trainees and early years consultants, nurses, allied health professionals, and academic and scientist members in this strategy. Our research representatives and SIGs shall offer leadership, support, advice and mentorship to aid effective collaboration, encourage new investigators and deliver strong proposals for the next round of NIHR funded liver research. This strategy also supports activities such as the Basic Science Retreat and ensuring we have sufficient original research content in our activities to be relevant and inclusive to our science members.

Our Patients

BASL is a key stakeholder and founding member of the UK Liver Alliance. Prevention and early detection of liver disease, reducing variation in liver healthcare and outcomes and delivering a workforce fit to meet the needs of patients with liver disease remain the key workstreams of the UKLA and overarching patient need priorities for BASL.

In this section last year we acknowledged the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on liver services and research. The pandemic continues to impact with backlog and delays in our endoscopy and outpatient services, and has contributed to the pressures on our acute hospital trusts. There are

unprecedented numbers of patients with advanced liver disease presenting, not least contributed to by increasing alcohol intake. We shall work in our professional alliances to campaign for better preventative health in the arena of alcohol related liver disease (through the Alcohol Health Alliance) and fatty liver (through the Obesity Health Alliance) with representation being a key responsibility of these SIG leads.

We include reviewing the current “state of the nation” in hepatology and how we can track changes, from reinstatement of services, research and clinical trials to supporting the sharing of new models of care, service delivery and research development. A review and survey of service infrastructure and networked patient pathways will be undertaken in 2023.

We shall continue our collaboration with Dr Falk (education) and The British Liver Trust to deliver new service quality and improvement awards this year to recognise excellence in patient care and disseminate knowledge of services that have the potential to be replicated across the country.

We consider high quality training essential to the future of healthcare for patients with liver disease into the next decade. We therefore include also in this section hepatology training for both medical and nursing/AHP colleagues, support for the School of Hepatology webinar series as well as reinstating a venue-based school, and the integration of multi-disciplinary sessions into our webinars, conferencing and networking activities which links to our inclusiveness agenda.

Our Planet

In this section we acknowledge the contribution of healthcare to adverse environmental impact and the diseases and interventions contributed to this by liver disease. We aim to be leaders in the field of sustainable hepatology, shall continue to support the working group to drive and develop this work and use our presence in the Alcohol and Obesity Health Alliances in this strategy.

Last year we reviewed hepatology’s role in contributing to climate change and evidence for where changes might reduce this impact. We delivered a strategic framework for BASL, a new conference abstract category and symposium. We shall continue to encourage and promote research and service developments that include carbon footprint reduction as a theme and demonstrate service efficiency.

In 2023 we shall concentrate on implementing our Environmental Sustainability Policy and Strategic Framework ([link](#)) and shall inform conference of our progress. Key priorities will be joining the UK Healthcare Alliance on Climate Change, providing BASL members with appropriate information and

education on evaluating climate impact, encouraging climate responsibility into research projects and grant applications, and carbon footprinting some of our activities.