

British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare for older people

BCS

Join us



Who we are

The British Geriatrics Society is the membership association for professionals specialising in the healthcare of older people across the UK.

Founded in 1947, we now have over 3,900 members, and we are the only Society in the UK offering specialist expertise in the wide range of healthcare needs of older people.

Our membership is truly multidisciplinary. It includes consultant geriatricians, nurses, GPs, old age psychiatrists, allied healthcare professionals, and researchers. **Everyone specialising in the healthcare of older people is welcome to join!**

Special Interest Groups within the Society focus on specific conditions including Falls and Bone Health, Oncology, Community Geriatrics, Cardiovascular Disease, Movement Disorders, Diabetes and Dementia.

Our national councils and regional officers cover all of the UK, providing detailed focus on local issues. Other working groups within the Society focus on clinical quality, academic research, education and training, and there are dedicated forums for trainees and nurses.

Find us online at www.bgs.org.uk on Twitter @gerisoc, on Facebook at BGS1947, or email enquiries@bgs.org.uk



BGS membership has been a crucial influence in my career. Our events, newsletter and journal help keep me abreast of new research evidence and innovations in services across the UK. I've used these to improve care for my own patients and leadership for my own service. In leadership roles within the BGS, I've also enjoyed our ability to raise the profile of good care for older people.

Professor David Oliver

Clinical Director, Berkshire, and Clinical Vice President of the Royal College of Physicians



What we do

The BGS promotes excellence in the healthcare of older people. We believe that care should be patient-centred, multidisciplinary, and that health, social and community care should be an integrated, seamless service.

We promote and facilitate high standards of clinical quality and research through our scientific conferences and journal, *Age and Ageing*.

We encourage the sharing of best practice and learning across disciplines, to help foster more integrated and multidisciplinary approaches. Our newsletter, website, blog and e-bulletin keep BGS members updated on the latest news and insights.

We support our members' professional development both through the continuing professional development (CPD) content

of our regular meetings, and by offering grants and prizes at different stages of our members' careers.

We are a leading national policy voice on the care of older people, influencing the development of health care policy across the UK and ensuring the design, commissioning and delivery of age appropriate health services.

We publish best practice guidance on topics including diagnosing and treating frailty, commissioning services for care homes, and improving continence care.

Conferences

Major BGS conferences are held in the spring and autumn of each year. They attract hundreds of delegates and cover the latest advances in research and showcasing the best in clinical quality.

Every BGS conference has a full programme of CPD content, and recent events have featured specific sessions on community geriatrics, dementia, nutrition and end of life care.

We also run smaller and more focused events throughout the year. Several of the society's Special Interest Groups run scientific meetings, for example on falls and bone health, cardiovascular disease and continence.

We've also recently produced a joint conference with the Royal College of Nursing's Older People's Forum and collaborated with AGILE to produce sessions aimed at physiotherapists and occupational therapists, and brought together geriatricians, GPs, directors of adult social services and Department of Health officials to look at the effective commissioning of services for older people with frailty.

Becoming a BGS member offers reduced attendance fees for all BGS events, meetings and conferences, and many other benefits.



The best thing about being part of the BGS is having the support of similar minded doctors, and access to the combined intellectual resources of the Society. Our recent work on stroke and hip fracture, and our current work on frailty, shows the success of this collaborative approach.

Dr Kwasi Debrah

Consultant Geriatrician, Watford, and Former Chair of BGS England Council

Age and Ageing

Age and Ageing is the international scientific journal of the BGS. It publishes refereed original articles and commissioned reviews on geriatric medicine and gerontology.

Journal content includes research, commentary and expert review articles on ageing and clinical, epidemiological, and psychological aspects of later life. It is a leading international clinical geriatric medicine journal and is highly influential with an Impact Factor of 4.013, and is 11th out of 53 journals in the Si: Geriatrics and Gerontology category.

The journal is published six times a year. Most BGS members choose to receive a subscription as part of their membership, which includes online access to the latest material all the way through to the archive of articles dating back to 1972.



Age and Ageing has an international readership with a circulation of over 7,000 and a very high usage rate with over 2 million article downloads a year.

Recent high profile and widely cited articles include:

Jentoft et al (2018) 48 (1): 16-31 *Sarcopenia: revised European consensus on definition and diagnosis*

Schofield et al (2018); 47 (S1): i1-i22 *The Assessment of Pain in Older People: UK National Guidelines*

Clegg et al (2016); 45 (3): 353-360 *Development and validation of an electronic frailty index using routine primary care electronic health record data*

O'Mahony et al (2015) 44 (2): 213-218 *STOPP/START criteria for potentially inappropriate prescribing in older people*

Cesari et al (2014) 43 (1): 10-12 *The frailty phenotype and the frailty index: different instruments for different purposes*

To read a sample of *Age and Ageing* articles for free, visit the Editor's Choice section on the journal website to browse selected content: <https://bit.ly/2s9hmS6>

The journal has also published several free themed collections online:
<http://bit.ly/AAthemedcollections>



Publications and projects

The BGS produces publications including clinical best practice guidance, and is involved with a number of collaborative projects and pilots across the UK. Recent examples include:

Fit for Frailty

This two-part guidance document focuses on improving the care and treatment of older people with frailty, and was developed in close collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners and Age UK.

Part 1 is aimed at front-line healthcare professionals working in community and outpatient settings: social workers, ambulance crews, carers, GPs, nurses and others. Part 2 provides advice and guidance on the development, commissioning and management of services for people living with frailty in community settings.

I'm particularly proud of the BGS Commissioning Guidance for Care Homes, and the work we've done on identifying and managing frailty. They're really practical useful documents, which we know have been widely read and applied. The BGS is increasingly seen as an important and powerful voice advocating for older people.

Dr Eileen Burns

Clinical Lead for Integration, Leeds,
and BGS Past President

Commissioning for Excellence in Care Homes

Around 400,000 older people in the UK live in care homes, comprising nearly 20% of over-85s, and often have complex health and social care needs.

The British Geriatrics Society has produced guidance for commissioners who wish to develop better models of medical care for care home residents.

Integrated care for older people with frailty: innovative approaches in practice

The British Geriatrics Society and the Royal College of General Practitioners have published a joint report on Integrated Care for Older People with Frailty with the aim of sharing best practice in a range of settings. The report provides case study examples that show what an integrated health and social care system looks like in practice and the positive impact it can have.

We hope that practitioners will take ideas and inspiration from the case studies and policymakers will recognise the need to invest in general practice and geriatric medicine so that the initiatives shown in the case studies can be adopted more widely as part of normal working practice.

Providing excellent care requires clinical knowledge, but also an understanding that older people's needs are best met using a multi-professional approach, whether you're a therapist, doctor or nurse. The BGS's multi-professional approach has led the way on dealing with a growing need, and is just one of many reasons why as a nurse I am proud to be a BGS member.

Cliff Kilgore

Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Bournemouth,
and Chair of the BGS Nurses and AHPs Council



Special Interest Groups

In addition to BGS members' broad spectrum of expertise in medicine for older patients, the Society's diverse Special Interest Groups offer scope to practice or research specific clinical and management areas.

Special Interest Groups hold their own annual scientific meetings or feature in parallel sessions at the Society's UK meetings. They also contribute their expertise to BGS responses to government consultation documents, publish guidelines and policy statements.

- Anaemia
- Bladder and Bowel Health
- Cardiovascular
- Community Geriatrics
- Dementia and Related Disorders
- Diabetes
- Drugs and Prescribing
- Epilepsy
- Ethics and Law
- Falls and Bone Health
- Frailty in Urgent Care Settings
- Movement Disorders
- Oncology
- Pain in Older People
- Peri-operative care of older people undergoing surgery (PoPs)
- Respiratory
- Sarcopenia and Frailty
- Telecare and Telehealth



I am proud of being part of the BGS. We're a society that works hard to improve the care of older people, and supports and guides fellow professionals. Our current work on frailty and benchmarking is an example of our collaborative approach, and our important and powerful voice advocating for older people.

Dr Adhi Vedamurthy
Former Chair, BGS Wales Council



Research opportunities and continuing professional development

The BGS administers a number of grants, prizes and awards with a view to encouraging high quality research and furthering the professional development of professionals with an interest in older people's healthcare.

These include:

- Education grants for young doctors
- Study grants for nurses and therapists
- Medical students elective project grant
- Specialist registrar travel and start up research grants
- Masters scholarship Research and travel grants for applicants from Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Awards and essay prizes granted by Special Interest Groups including Movement Disorders, Cardiovascular Health and Falls and Bone Health
- Amulree essay prize for medical and dental students

Leading policy voice

The BGS takes a leading role in policy debates on healthcare for older people, acting as a voice for our members and the speciality of geriatrics.

In our policy and influencing work we promote the need for:

- An end to the divide between health and social care
- Increased investment in health and social care for older people
- Access to comprehensive geriatric assessment, personalised care plans for treatment and follow-up for all older people with frailty, dementia, complex and multiple and long term conditions
- The building of greater capacity in intermediate care
- Staff across all care sectors to develop competencies in the management of older patients
- Measures of care to focus on what matters most to older people and their families

We respond to public consultations to inform and influence the development of healthcare policy with the aim of ensuring that the key changes that we are calling for are addressed. Over the past year we have responded to consultations from the Department of Health, England, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly, and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

We have also submitted written evidence to the Health Select Committee, and the House of Lords Inquiry on the Long-Term Sustainability of the NHS. As part of our policy outreach, we also regularly meet parliamentarians and civil servants.

Media outreach is a key part of promoting and communicating our work and the work of our members. The BGS is regularly featured in both specialist and mainstream media, from local newspapers to prime-time TV.

Recent coverage includes interviews, opinion pieces and news stories in the *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Times*, *HSJ*, *BMJ*, *BBC Today Programme*, *Commissioning Monthly*, *BBC Breakfast* and *LBC Radio*.

Social media also forms a crucial part of our work, follow us on Twitter **@gerisoc** or find us on Facebook at **BGS1947**.

It's great to have the support of BGS to educate and inform health care professionals caring for older people. I value the access to policy papers from across the devolved nations, to help spread good practise and share our experiences from Scotland

Dr Jennifer Burns

BGS President Elect and Former Chair of the BGS Scotland Council

Join the British Geriatrics Society

We welcome all healthcare professionals caring for older people

#jointheBGS

Passionate about improving healthcare for older people? Join us!

Everyone providing healthcare to older people is welcome to join. Student nurses and therapists, medical students and foundation doctors can join free of charge.

Six reasons why you should join the BGS:

- Latest research and best practice for CPD
- Discounts for all BGS conferences: most members recoup their annual fee if they attend just one major meeting
- Our national policy voice
- *Age and Ageing*, our high impact journal, is included for most members
- Networking opportunities at national, regional and Special Interest Groups meetings
- Access research and educational grants



To become a member visit www.bgs.org.uk or email our membership officer at membership@bgs.org.uk for further details. #jointheBGS



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