



British Geriatrics Society  
Improving healthcare  
for older people

## Vice President: Academic Affairs

### Role description

The BGS is recruiting for the post of Vice President for Academic Affairs (VP: AA) which will fall vacant in November 2020, as the current incumbent, Professor Adam Gordon, takes on the role of BGS President Elect. Expressions of interest are now being invited for this position.

The VP is responsible for leading the BGS's work in promoting scientific and clinical research, and encouraging the development of research capacity, skills and partnerships.

It is an important senior role in the Society, providing research/academic leadership to complement the Society's clinical leadership.

This is a voluntary, unpaid role, though travel costs and other expenses will be covered.

The anticipated time commitment is up to one day a fortnight, but this is not spread evenly through the year. The post holder is Chair of the Research and Academic Development Committee, and will also be expected to attend and report to meetings of the BGS Trustee Board four times a year. Administrative support will be provided by the BGS secretariat.

The term of office is three years.

Those interested in discussing the purpose and activities in more detail are invited to contact the Chief Executive, Sarah Mistry, [s.mistry@bgs.org.uk](mailto:s.mistry@bgs.org.uk).

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 9am on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Candidates should send a CV and a statement of no more than 2 pages setting out why they would be suitable for the role to Joanna Gough at [j.gough@bgs.org.uk](mailto:j.gough@bgs.org.uk). Interviews will be held online during the period 21-23 October 2020.

### Purpose

- To promote the importance of research in improving healthcare for older people
- To lead the implementation of the BGS Research Strategy
- To promote and facilitate research relating to ageing and age-related diseases and encourage the involvement of members in the research process.

## **Responsibilities (with scope for possible adjustment by discussion after appointment)**

- To Chair the Research and Academic Development Committee (four times a year), including working with BGS secretariat to prepare for meetings, and between meetings to motivate committee members to complete work taken on;
- To attend and report to BGS Trustee Board meetings and advise on matters relating to academic affairs (four times a year);
- To liaise with trustees, BGS secretariat and other officers on matters of strategic importance in academic affairs;
- To continue the development and implementation of the BGS Research Strategy;
- To oversee policy pertaining to the BGS programme of educational awards, scholarships and educational grants for research;
- To contribute to the BGS's scientific programme and work with the Vice President for Education and Training to develop CPD programmes in liaison with relevant committees and people;
- To maintain a close and productive relationship with the Association of Academics in Geriatric Medicine;
- To liaise with external grant bodies such as The Dunhill Medical Trust; this may require attendance of meetings and grant review boards and interview panels;
- To represent the BGS, when appropriate, at meetings with other organisations such as the NIHR, RCP.
- To contribute to the process by which the BGS awards prizes and fellowships and to identify further opportunities to attract research funding for geriatric medicine
- To promote the value of academic work to clinicians, advocate for academic posts in geriatric medicine and encourage engagement in the research process by multidisciplinary professionals across the UK.
- To foster a productive relationship with the Editor-in-Chief of the BGS journal, Age and Ageing, and BGS staff, in order to maximise opportunities for dissemination, collaboration and encouragement of research activity.

## **Qualifications, experience and desired characteristics**

1. Member of the BGS
2. Research-active geriatrician / other health professional at consultant level
3. Understanding of the research / academic environment
4. Committee team leadership skills: the ability to achieve results by working with and through committee members

5. Commitment, availability and 'bandwidth' to make a success of this crucial senior role
6. Strong Chairing skills
7. A track record of success in research; able to win and keep the respect of BGS's research-active community
8. Accessible, accountable and responsible
9. Strong communication skills and experience of successful collaboration