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**British Association for Sexual Health and HIV**

*Established 2003 through the merger of MSSVD (est. 1922) and AGUM (est. 1992)*

Charity number: 1099301 VAT reg no: 859185278

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e-mail: bashh@rsm.ac.uk
www.bashh.org
Board, Trustees and Professional Advisers

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2011

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dr Keith Radcliffe</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Dr Janet Wilson</td>
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<td>General Secretary</td>
<td>Dr Jan Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Dr Raj Patel</td>
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<td>Conference and Communications Secretary</td>
<td>Dr Elizabeth Foley</td>
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<td>Clinical Governance Committee - Chair</td>
<td>Dr Elizabeth Carlin</td>
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<td>Education Committee - Chair</td>
<td>Dr Karen Rogstad</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Dr Imtyaz Ahmed-Jusuf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative of Doctors - in-Training in GUM</td>
<td>Dr Andy Williams</td>
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<td>HA Rep - Board</td>
<td>Ms Kathryn Kain</td>
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<td>Representative of Nurses</td>
<td>Mr Colin Roberts</td>
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<td>SAS Representative</td>
<td>Dr Helen Mullan</td>
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<td>Dr Cecilia Priestley</td>
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<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Dr Ann Sullivan</td>
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Trustees

Independent Trustee and chair: Prof Jonathan Ross
Immediate Past President: Dr Imtyaz Ahmed-Jusuf
Vice President: Dr Janet Wilson
Member of the Governing Board: Dr Ann Sullivan
Lay Trustee: Dr Richard Lau
Mr Michael Bell

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16 St John’s Lane
London EC1M 4BS

Investment managers
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Juxon House
100 St Paul’s Churchyard
London EC4M 8BU

St James’s Place Wealth Management Group
St James’s Place House
1 Tetbury Road
Cirencester
GL7 1FP

Auditors
Farringdon & Co
The Association has been engaged in an astonishing number, range and quality of activities over the past year. This is truly a tribute to the many individuals who freely give their time, in the face of busy professional and personal lives, to do all this work and of the officers who co-ordinate their activities.

To mention some particularly salient achievements:

- The Media Group, and our professional advisers Munro and Forster, have done a superb job of trying to influence the reforms of the English NHS in a sensible direction.
- A new Clinical Standards Unit is in operation.
- A Public Panel has been established.
- BASHH has adapted the STI Intermediate Competencies training package for use by nurses in GU medicine clinics.

It is important to have professional allies and I am delighted that BASHH has established very healthy working relationships with both the British HIV Association and the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health. Our aims, aspirations and very often our memberships, overlap significantly so it is very important that these positive relationships are maintained and I am sure that they will be.

It is pleasing that our finances remain robust, as reported elsewhere by the treasurer, and that our membership, at over 1,100, is holding up so well.

In difficult times it is all the more important that the specialty has a strong national association to promote awareness of its values and to challenge anything which threatens to interfere with its current high standards; this annual report shows this clearly to be the case.
The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV continues to deliver against its primary objectives, namely:

- To be the lead professional body for those delivering sexual health
- To deliver high quality education and training
- To set and maintain standards in the provision of sexual health and HIV care

The Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation course was established by the association and is maintained by it. Over a number of years this course has provided training principally for those working in primary care raising levels of knowledge and skills. More recently BASHH has identified a gap in training between primary care and more specialised services, and developed an intermediary course, STIF Competencies, to bridge this gap. The association also has worked in collaboration with the Department of Health in developing e-Learning for Health as a modular on-line resource covering all aspects of sexual health and HIV care. Well established training courses continue to be delivered including the use of the microscope in sexual health care and an annual course for specialist trainees prior to their sitting the Diploma in GU Medicine examination.

The ongoing education of health care professionals involved in delivering sexual health care is provided through a number of symposiums and meetings. The regular HIV Masterclass updates physicians on developments in HIV care and treatment and four ordinary general meetings per year provide topic specific updates, one of which is delivered in partnership with the Health Protection Agency. The association’s annual Spring Meeting was this year held in Newcastle and attracted a large number of delegates with excellent feedback suggesting that the educational needs of delegates were being met. A comprehensive portfolio of management and treatment guidelines has been produced and continues to be regularly updated by the association’s Clinical Effectiveness Group.

A newly established public panel is providing advice to BASHH and, although still in its infancy, it is intended that this group will become increasingly involved in determining the objectives and outputs of the association. A series of patient leaflets are being produced on sexual health topics and public involvement has been implemented in the development of new treatment guidelines.

Charitable governance is under a regular review by the Trustees including a schedule to review the Risk Register, Scheme of Delegation, Financial Reports and Conflicts of Interest. In response to these reviews the Association has explored becoming an Incorporated Charity and, after taking appropriate advice, has revised it’s investment policy to maximise returns whilst minimising risk. Our voting procedures have been strengthened through the use of the Electoral Reform Society.

Overall, despite the financial pressures which BASHH has faced in the past year with a reduction in its investment income, the association continues to deliver high quality education and training and has robust structures in place which will allow it to move forward with new initiatives to maximise the benefits to both its members and the general public.

Professor Jonathan Ross
Chair of Trustees

Dr Raj Patel,
Honorary Treasurer

Finance report

Visit the BASHH website www.bashh.org for 2010-11 financial statement and treasurer’s report.
Media, website and public engagement

Media Group
The Media group continues to be very active in a number of areas:

Shaping NHS policy - BASHH has responded to several consultations and inquiries about proposed NHS reforms on commissioning, tariffs, outcomes, public health and HIV. Joint responses have also been made in conjunction with other sexual health charities BASHH Officers and media group members have met with, or had written communication with, a number of Ministers, MPs, and members of the Department of Health.

Regional engagement & advice - BASHH has encouraged, and supported, regions and members in engagement with regional and local directors of public health.

World AIDS Day - BASHH worked with the Royal College of Physicians Press Office to publicise the important messages of the “Time to Test” conference held at the RCP on World AIDS Day.

Support for the use of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine - BASHH has undertaken a number of activities to try to influence the forthcoming decision on which HPV vaccine will be used. A Parliamentary drop in clinic was held to educate MPs about the benefits of the quadrivalent vaccine. Letters were written to key stakeholders including Andrew Lansley MP, and Anne Milton MP. A media campaign was launched on the 14th February securing coverage in nearly 70 national, local, online, print and broadcast outlets including The Observer, BBC, the Daily Mail, the Press Association, the Daily Star, the Metro (Front Page) The Guardian, The Evening Standard, & Radio 1 Newsbeat. BASHH has worked with groups such as Netmums and the Patients Association to gain the public and patient perspectives.

Other media opportunities - A number of other media opportunities and activity have taken place throughout the year including “Beer Goggles Johnny”, a sexual health campaign on condom use for the public and a number of ad hoc media enquiries from several newspapers and magazines.

The Website
BASHH’s website continues to be well used and is the most popular way of members gaining information about BASHH, with the guidelines, conferences and courses and latest news being the most useful areas. The web team continues to look at ways of improving the layout and make it more user-friendly. Consideration is being given on how to provide a more public aspect to website for BASHH. On the advice of the Public Panel, the web team is going to use the social networking site, Facebook, to present content to members of the public.

Public Panel
Public panel meetings have continued throughout the year. The group consists of people from across the UK and although persuading people to attend meetings in London has been difficult there were 11 public members at the meeting in February. The meetings are lively and friendly, and generate helpful discussion in an atmosphere conducive to people being able to express their views. The main remit is input into the BASHH Guidelines and Patient Information Leaflets, but the panel have given advice and input to the web team about BASHH raising its public profile through the website and social networking. Greater social networking presence is seen as highly desirable by the public panel.

The Chair of the Public Panel was part of a short-life working group to develop a strategic approach to Patient and Public Engagement (PPE) in Sexual and Reproductive Health, in London.

Dr Janet Wilson, Vice-President, on behalf of Dr Peter Greenhouse, Chair of the Media Group, Dr Ade Apoola, Webmaster, and Dr Rachel Challenor, Chair of the Public Panel

Dr Janet Wilson and Dr Radcliffe
In 2011 BASHH has held a number of key conference events starting with another successful collaborative meeting held jointly with the FSRH on 21 January at the RSM with a record 249 delegates. The theme for the meeting was ‘Common themes in Sexual Health’ and included popular sessions on clinical conundrums and ‘Attitudes and diversity’.

The conference highlight of the year for BASHH was the annual Spring meeting held at the Sage Gateshead attended by 448 delegates between the 11-13 May. Highlights from the programme included ‘Vaccination against STIs’; ‘the clinical implication of bacterial resistance’ and a lively debate on whether the future of HIV therapy relied on nucleoside analogues entertained the delegates on the final day. There were 186 abstracts submitted of which 20 were selected for oral presentation as well as 6 clinical cases. In addition 6 of the best poster presentations were selected for oral presentation. The social programme included a drinks reception at the Great North Museum and the Gala dinner attended by 240 delegates at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. Particular thanks go to Dr Nathan Sankar from Newcastle for his hard work and help in delivering this meeting.

In July BASHH held a formal dinner for 75 guests at the Apothecaries Hall to celebrate the work of the society. Guests included Lord Fowler, Baroness Gould, Professor Lindsey Davies and Dr Gabriel Scally as well as other key individuals who work closely with BASHH in addition to BASHH members. The highlight of the evening was an excellent speech from Dr Radcliffe.

BASHH has also delivered symposia at other societies meeting through the year including the Annual Professional Development Conference at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the IUSTI World meeting held in New Delhi, India.

Throughout the year there has been a regular column in the journal “Sexually Transmitted Infections” including articles on Electronic Learning and Specialty Training in Genitourinary Medicine by Drs John Evans-Jones, Emma Rutland and Tristan Barber; Challenges facing nurse-led STI care and sexual and reproductive health: education, education, education! by Dr Claudia Estcourt, Claire Tyler, Magnus Nelson and Jane Bickford and National Research Networks and their relation to STI and HIV research by Dr Georgina Morris and Professor Charles Lacey.

In 2012 the joint meeting with the FSRH will be held at the RSM on 20th January and the Spring meeting is being held jointly with the ASTDA in Brighton between 27th -29th June 2012 with Dr Daniel Richardson as the local organiser.

Dr Elizabeth Foley
BASHH Conference Secretary
Membership and Association Activity

Membership

BASHH membership continues to offer discounts on journal subscriptions and meeting registrations. The e-newsletter has been a popular method with members to advertise upcoming meetings, to recruit subjects into surveys and to celebrate achievements. Our regional branch structure also allows for rapid communication between members and central BASHH groups. Email cascades this year included requests for views from members on public health consultations and for urgent dissemination of important public health information such as the new treatment guidelines for gonorrhoea.

Our secretariat, in association with the RSM marketing team led by Janice Liversiedge, designed and distributed BASHH membership cards this year. It is hoped the next generation of these cards may function eventually as “swipe cards” to record attendances at CPD accredited meetings.

New members continued to be attracted during the year, with 61 applications into all categories. There were 34 resignations and one death of a member. Journal costs to BASHH are linked to our membership numbers, so as part of our financial reviews we reconciled subscriptions against the database. This left membership down slightly from the 2010 levels (1128) with a total of 1124 as of August 2011, of whom 429 are fellows and 50 reside outside the United Kingdom. The membership department of the RSM, especially Karen Clark, has been very helpful to us in database management.

Elections

This year we engaged ERS Services (formerly the Electoral Reform Society) to develop and run our elections online. Email notification and web-based access to the nominations eliminated the need for counting of paper ballots and removed the anxiety of coping with postal strikes and other delays. More votes were recorded than in any previous election, with a higher proportion of members taking part. It is proposed to continue with this format for future years.

Secretariat services

BASHH is active at regional and national levels, with specialty groups, courses and conferences active on a wide range of topics. All of this needs administration, and over the years we have developed a spectrum of support services; specialist conference organisers, permanent offices at the RSM and smaller secretariats for courses and specialty groups. A review of current and future requirements is now underway. We acknowledge the support of Liz Odette and her colleagues at the RSM for their work in the central BASHH secretariat.

Our Archivist and Librarian, Dr Michael Waugh, has reviewed the MSSVD and BASHH papers held at the RSM for retention and preservation of important documents.

Incorporation

Work has progressed well towards the incorporation of BASHH as a charitable company limited by guarantee and the creation of a trading company for the commercial aspects of our work. This modernisation of our constitution provides protection from personal liability for our Trustees, and offers benefits such as giving members more voting rights at AGMs through proxy mechanisms, scope to develop different membership categories, and simplification of contractual agreements since BASHH becomes a legal entity.

Annual Report

This new format of annual report, with its supporting full documentation on the BASHH website, has been developed in response to a membership survey. Please visit the BASHH website for more details of regional and specialty group activities, and for our finance reports.

Dr Jan Clarke
General Secretary
The year ending 31 July 2011 has been a busy year for the Clinical Governance Committee (CGC). It has met four times during the year and has also been active between the meetings, as the pace of medico-political change has been swift and the economic climate has been increasingly challenging.

The CGC welcomed the Department of Health’s Public Health White Paper and supported both the inclusion of sexual health as part of the public health strategy and the need for rapid, open access sexual health services. CGC members provided comments during the consultation process to help inform the response from BASHH.

The long-awaited transforming community services process took place in April 2011 and work to integrate sexual health services continues in many areas.

The CGC links the Branches, Groups and Committees reporting through the CGC with the strategic direction of the BASHH Board. Although the main remit of the CGC relates to clinical governance its work is wide-ranging and it has played a major role in obtaining information to update the Board and help members. Over the past year it has conducted surveys and obtained data on commissioning and network arrangements, local CQUINS, and funding restrictions with an emphasis on restrictions resulting in service reductions that could negatively impact on patients.

The CGC provides representation to the Clinical Standards Unit which has promoted the dissemination of standards and equity in health care. The CGC has also provided support to the RCP specialty workforce officer via the BASHH workforce group to obtain improved workforce intelligence. On-line surveys have been conducted with doctors in training and SAS doctors to obtain workforce data and enable future workforce planning. In the CGC prison sub-group there has been further development of sexual health guidance for use within prisons.

The BASHH Committees reporting to the CGC (namely the Clinical Effectiveness Group, the National Audit Group, the BASHH Information Group and the British Cooperative Clinical Group) all continue to be very productive. Key successes include the achievement of NHS evidence accreditation of the BASHH guidelines and the agreement of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQUIP) to commission a new national audit topic encompassing sexually transmitted infections. Further details of their work are outlined in the body of the Annual Report.

I would like to thank Branch Chairs, Group Chairs, and all those who have worked on the CGC sub-groups or on specific pieces of work for the CGC. I would also particularly like to thank Celia Skinner for her work as Secretary to the CGC.
The Education Committee (EC) has a broad remit and the groups that make it up include both specialist interest groups, groups representing different professionals or those delivering courses. Over the past year EC has continued to develop and expand its education portfolio. However its other role as an Advisory body, responding to Consultations and producing guidelines with the CEG of BASHH or with other organisations, has expanded considerably and increasingly more research is being undertaken.

**Education**

The Education committee provides both educational and training events to a wide group of professionals. It continues to deliver a diverse, well-attended programme of 4 OGMs and an HIV Focus meeting over the year, as well as the Annual Spring Meeting and joint ventures with other Specialist Societies. All programmes delivered have learning objectives to meet the CPD requirements of the RCP and/or other professional bodies. Copies of OGM slide presentations are now available through the BASHH website. Members of the EC as individuals and through the SIGs have contributed to National e-learning for health through the eHIV-STI programme which has been led by Jackie Sherrard.

The STI Foundation has continue to develop its educational portfolio and its competency and assessment package has proven to be extremely popular, and a training the trainers course was added to assist those delivering the programme. Additionally, 45 STIF courses ran across the UK, attracting 1375 and 1265 Core and Plus delegates respectively.

The STI and HIV course covers 10 days and is run twice yearly. This year it has provided on-line access to some of the course material to delegates prior to the exam.

The Annual NCCG Conference is now into its 13th year and provided education for 172 delegates, and 2010 saw the 9th annual Doctors in Training weekend. The HIV SIG continues to deliver the Masterclass in HIV which this year was attended by many number of HIV nurses.

**Advisory work, Consultations and Guidelines**

Committee members have contributed to National Consultations run by Government and Professional Bodies including NICE, with further information in individual Specialist Interest Group reports. They have produced National Guidelines for BASHH CEG and in collaboration with other organisations. Members have presented to the All Parliamentary Group on Sexual Health and HIV.

Examples of some of the work undertaken by some of the various groups is given below. This is simply a snapshot of the extensive work that members of the EC produce, and more information is given in the reports on the BASHH website.

**The sexual dysfunction SIG** has produced guidelines on delayed ejaculation, and auditable outcomes for erectile dysfunction, and continues to run a bi-annual ABC course.

**The Pharmacy SIG** has contributed to the publication of 3 open learning CPPE sexual health course books and is co-working with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to develop models for training.

**The Colposcopy and Dermatology SIG** is working on standards of dermatological care in Genitourinary medicine clinics in collaboration with other organisations.

**The Hepes SIG** has provided advice to the CPS and DH over the Justice Department policy on prosecuting HSV transmission.
The Adolescent SIG has been extended to include a sub-group on sexual assault and domestic violence. Work of the 2 groups in the past year includes numerous guidelines, surveys, consultation responses and collaboration with other organisations and an on-going multicentre study into HPV vaccination.

The Bacterial SIG continues to run an annual OGM, microscopy and dark ground courses. Sales of their DVD on Microscopy is more than 500, and a bank of test slides has also been placed on the BSIG webpage. The BSIG contributed to the development of a new screening and testing guideline for gonorrhoea.

The HPV SIG ran a workshop on ‘Surgical techniques in Genitourinary medicine’ in London and has a number of research projects underway with 3 publications.

The HIV SIG has responded to many consultations as well as collaborating on guidelines and producing educational events.

The SAS Group has a national audit of the management of pelvic inflammatory disease accepted for publication and undertaken an on-line survey to gather information on SAS doctors working in sexual health.

Nurses involvement in the EC and at Board has increased with a focus on advanced nurse education in sexual health. There has been a working group looking at this issue which has spent considerable time engaging with other medical and nursing organisations, the DH and Universities with the vision of developing a clinical skills passport for advanced nurse practitioners.

The Junior Doctors Group has been active with a formal assessment of the GUM trainee workforce undertaken in the early part of 2011.

The Future

A discussion document has been prepared to review the education strategy for the next 3-5 years so that the Education Committee can ensure it meets the future educational needs of BASHH members, junior doctors, other professionals and the public. The Chairmanship of EC will change at the end of January. I would like to acknowledge and thank the EC and members of its constituent groups who I have worked with over the past 4 years, who have given a huge amount of their time in order to deliver high quality education in traditional and new forms and have shared their expertise by writing guidelines, and influencing health policy through responses to consultations. Increasingly this has ben undertaken in their own time. I hope the new Chairman will find working on EC as rewarding an experience as I have.

Dr Karen Rogstad
Education Committee
Chair