



**British  
Pharmaceutical  
Students' Association**

## **Introduction**

*Dear reader,*

Welcome to the first report of the BPSA Executive 2021/22.

We hope you will find what is written informative and valuable. The team has been working extremely hard to engage with, represent and advocate for our members. There have been numerous changes to the running of the association this year due to the blended approach of online and face-to-face activities following the ongoing pandemic. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions, especially this year as we adapt to the necessary changes.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the BPSA.

We are thrilled to be celebrating the 80th year of the BPSA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bella Shah'.

**Bella Shah**  
**President 2021-2022**



## Contents

Executive members	3
Meetings/events attended	4
Internal affairs	5
Executive Support (BS)	5
Executive meetings (BS)	5
Executive Function and Administration (PP)	6
Advisory Group (BS)	6
BPSA Liaisons, Representatives & Committees (BS)	6
Advocacy Work	7
Mental Health and Wellbeing	7
Sustainability	7
IPSF Development Fund	8
Inclusivity and Diversity	8
LGBT+	9
Independent Prescribing	9
Healthcare Inequalities	10
Dementia Care	10
Finances (TE)	10
Financial Position of the BPSA	10
Sponsorship (SA)	11
Annual Conference (WD & TA)	11
Graduate Members (OF)	12
European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (GO)	13
Sub-Committee	13
Twinnet coordinator work	14
Other EPSA work/activities	14



International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (DM)	14
Committee	14
Student Exchange Programme	15
IPSF members accessibility to BPSA	15
IPSF World Congress and IPSF EuRO Regional Symposium	15
IPSF Activities	15
Website and Technology (KJ)	16
Rebranding (BS)	16
Publications (SK)	16
Area Coordinators (ACs) and Events (FM, TAS, NA, LE, AP)	17
Northern area (FM)	17
Eastern Area (TAS)	17
Pennine area (NA)	18
Western Area (LE)	19
Southern Area (AP)	19
Liaisons and Representatives (FM, TAS, NA, LE, AP)	20
Competitions (EK)	20
Engagement and Social Media (JM)	21
BPSA Newsletter	21
Social Media	21
Rebranding (BS)	21
Support needed	21
Upcoming	21
Work	21
Events	21



## **Executive members**

*Included are the details of all of the Executive members who served during this mandate. Their initials are indicated where activities have been specific to them.*

President – Bella Shah (BS) – [president@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:president@bpsa.co.uk)

Vice President – Alex Scarbro (AS) – [vicepresident@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:vicepresident@bpsa.co.uk)

Treasurer – Tanya Escayo (TE) – [treasurer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@bpsa.co.uk)

Secretary General – Priyanka Patel (PP) – [secgen@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:secgen@bpsa.co.uk)

External Relations Officer – Soz Aziz (SA) – [ero@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:ero@bpsa.co.uk)

Graduate Officer – Olivia Fisher (OF) – [graduateofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:graduateofficer@bpsa.co.uk)

EPSA Officer – Guilherme Agrela Oliveira (GO) – [europeanofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:europeanofficer@bpsa.co.uk)

IPSF Officer – Daniel MacDonald (DM) – [ipsfofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:ipsfofficer@bpsa.co.uk)

Policy Officer – Liese Voortmans (LV) – [policyofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:policyofficer@bpsa.co.uk)

IT Officer – Kwanyoung Joo (KJ) – [itofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:itofficer@bpsa.co.uk)

Publications Officer – Saz Karim (SK) – [publications@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:publications@bpsa.co.uk)

Northern Area coordinator – Fraser Menzies (FM) – [northernac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:northernac@bpsa.co.uk)

Eastern Area Coordinator – Thilo Arulsikamani (TAS) – [easternac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:easternac@bpsa.co.uk)

Pennine Area Coordinator – Nonyelum Anigbo (NA) – [pennineac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:pennineac@bpsa.co.uk)

Western Area Coordinator – Lillian Ebhodaghe (LE) – [westernac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:westernac@bpsa.co.uk)

Southern Area coordinator – Aaron Paul (AP) – [southernac@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:southernac@bpsa.co.uk)

Annual Conference Organisers – Wendy Dabedoe (WD) & Tayo Ayemi (TA) – [conference@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:conference@bpsa.co.uk)

Competitions Coordinator – Eunsu Kim (EK) – [competitions@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:competitions@bpsa.co.uk)

Engagement Officer – Joanna McDowall (JM) – [engagementofficer@bpsa.co.uk](mailto:engagementofficer@bpsa.co.uk)



## **Meetings/events attended**

As well as our Executive meetings, including weekly online discussion, we have been fortunate enough to have BPSA presence at a number of external meetings. We believe this is invaluable both for our members, to have their voices heard, and for us to ensure we are engaging with as many members of the wider profession as possible. We also hold a number of our own events and attend external events too. Below is a list of external and official Executive meetings attended during this mandate to date.

- 3 & 11/07/2021 - 1st Executive Meeting, Changeover, Zoom
- 14-18/07/2021 - IPSF EuRO Regional Symposium, Porto, Portugal (DM)
- 29/07/2021 - IETP (Initial Education and Training for Pharmacists) Advisory Group (DM)
- 30/07/2021 - 08/08/2021 - IPSF World Congress, Seoul, South Korea (DM, TAS)
- 14 & 15/08/2021 - 2nd Executive Meeting, Nottingham
- 24 & 25/09/2021 - Clinical Pharmacy Congress, London (AS, TE, PP, SA, WD)
- 29/09/2021 - IETP Stakeholder Advisory Group (AS)
- 08/10/2021 - Professional Attributes Framework Steering Group (OF)
- 10-12/10/2021 - 3rd Executive Meeting, Zoom
- 11/10/2021 - GHP x BPSA, Zoom (BS)
- 16 & 17/10/2021 - Pharmacy Show, Birmingham (BS, AS, PP, SA, SK, NA, FM, JM, OF)
- 25/10/2021 - IETP Advisory Group, Zoom (BS)
- 25 - 31/10/2021 EPSA Annual Congress, Lyon, France (AS, GO)
- 2/11/2021 - FPROG (Prev. PPROG) (AS, SA)
- 5/11/2021 - HEE, Oriel Results, Zoom (AS)
- 11/11/2021 - Day Lewis Awards Ceremony, Zoom (BS)
- 13/11/2021 - IPSF Contact Persons meeting, Zoom (DM)
- 13/11/2021 - Autumn Southern Area Conference "Inspiration in Pharmacy" (AP, NA, TAS)
- 16/11/2021 - Autumn Northern Area Conference "Dermatology and Discrimination within Pharmacy" (FM, PP, TAS, AP, NA)
- 19/11/2021 - C+D Awards, London (BS)



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- 20/11/2021 – Autumn Pennine Area Conference “Exploring Mental Health within Pharmacy” (NA, SA, EK, TAS, AS)
- 21/11/2021 – Autumn Eastern Area Conference “Dementia” (TAS, PP, NA, DM)
- 24/11/2021 – NPA (National Pharmacy Association) Centenary Dinner, London (BS)
- 24/11/2021 – IETP Advisory Group, Zoom (NA)
- 24/11/2021 – Scottish Pharmacy Awards, Glasgow (JM, FM)
- 27-28/11/2021 – 4th Executive Meeting, St Albans
- Continuous & ongoing – RPS x BPSA, Zoom (BS)

## **Internal affairs**

### **Executive Support (BS)**

This year, as with every year, support is essential. At the start of our mandate, BS and AS conducted 1-2-1s with each Executive member to understand their visions and concerns for the year ahead. As part of these, each Executive member was asked for a goal they wanted to achieve during the mandate. The notes from these 1-2-1s were shared with the rest of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), previously known as ‘top table’, who were asked to make a conscious effort to help individuals achieve their goals. Each member of ELT has been allocated ~3 executive members who they will overlook and check-up on regularly. This is to avoid burn-out and ensure that each member feels supported and is not suffering internally or alone; as we understand that even though we do operate on an open-door policy, it can be difficult to approach others for help, especially when everyone has their own roles. This will be in-between biannual 1-2-1s to offer both personal and professional support.

### **Executive meetings (BS)**

It goes without saying that being on the Executive is a very time-consuming role. This year’s team consists of several newer BPSA members, with the majority of the team having never been on an Executive during a face-to-face mandate. That being said, we have managed to hit the ground running with support in place. This has also been necessary with the need for adjustments this year to manage a blended-approach. To ensure everyone is on the same page and working simultaneously, we have been having whole Executive meetings every week via zoom. In addition, a live google document titled ‘weekly updates’ has been contributed to by each member to summarise our work and keep the whole team updated. It also allows us to reserve our meetings for discussion points rather than individual updates. During these discussions, action points are recorded in the minutes and then transferred over to a live excel sheet under a particular



member's name who can colour code it according to a key so their progress can be monitored and they can be approached if coded as struggling.

### **Executive Function and Administration (PP)**

To assist the team in being organised, all zoom meetings have been added to the shared BPSA google calendar. This allows an overview of the meetings and ease of attending without having to regularly send out meeting links. In addition to this, Executive members are encouraged to put their commitments into their own google calendar so the team can have an awareness of availability.

A google form has been created for agenda items; this allows ease of submission of discussion points and the ability to prioritise discussions for each meeting. Executive members are encouraged to give a summary of the discussion point and the deadline for discussion. By submitting these in advance, meeting agendas can be made and any information valuable to the discussion can be sent out to the team prior to the meeting. Furthermore, meeting apologies have been submitted through a google form to make it easier to identify them instead of going through emails.

Many of our events are being held online this year and we have been hosting them via zoom. A google form has been created for information regarding events to be inputted. We have also been given access to and trained on the RPS events platform which we plan to start using soon, in particular for the upcoming face-to-face events. There is also an 'oversight' document to help keep track of general Executive admin, such as team members to help with event support.

### **Advisory Group (BS)**

The Advisory Group has been a new addition to the Regulations following the Annual Conference in October 2020. This consists of the IPP, Honorary Treasurer and a HLM. The purpose of this group is to provide external advice, such as to ensure appropriate action is undertaken, securing the longevity of the Association.

### **BPSA Liaisons, Representatives & Committees (BS)**

Over the past few years, it has been noticeably more difficult to train, engage and utilise the Representatives we have at each School of Pharmacy. The difficulties include each Area Coordinator (AC) and the Competitions Coordinator (CC) managing 40+ representatives, lack of engagement from some Representatives and Representatives feeling distant from the work of the BPSA Executive. We believed that having a single student link in each school with a small number of Representatives working alongside them would result in better engagement from both the Representatives and also the members within the school.

BPSA (AC/CC) -> BPSA Liaison -> BPSA Reps (one per year group) -> BPSA members  
\* where -> represents communication pathway/bridge



**British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**  
**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

Last year we proposed having a single BPSA Liaison as an official position within schools' Pharmacy Societies and one BPSA Representative in each year group within each school. We believed this worked well and have adopted the same approach for another year running.

We have also once again introduced Sub-Committees to support Executive members in fulfilling their roles. This has been implemented following the motion passed at Annual Conference and from recommendations of previous members of the Executive. There are four Sub-Committees this year: Competitions, IPSF, EPSA and Engagement. These Sub-Committees will assist the Competitions Coordinator, EPSA Officer, IPSF Officer and Engagement Officer in fulfilling their roles.

## **Advocacy Work**

Advocating for our members is at the forefront of the work we do. The BPSA has a number of policies voted on by delegates at Annual Conferences. Once a motion is voted into policy, it is applicable for three years. Whilst some of these policies give us direction as to what stance we take on particular matters, others we can actively pursue. Below you will find the motions that we have decided are feasible to work on and the details of the work we have done so far on them.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

At our Annual Conference in 2018, the following motion was passed: *'As an association, we believe that the mental health of pharmacy students, pre-registration trainees, and pharmacists is of the utmost importance'*.

Following the details released by the inquest into the death of Mared Foulkes, a former BPSA Representative and pharmacy student, we have urged Schools of Pharmacy, the GPhC and Pharmacy Schools Council to make urgent improvements on the release of results. Read our statement here:

<https://www.bpsa.co.uk/s/Release-of-Results-Statement.pdf>

Following this, we also had a meeting with HEE to discuss the email that was due to be sent to oriel applicants to inform them on whether they were successful.

The theme of the Autumn Pennine Area Conference was "Exploring Mental Health within Pharmacy" which gave students an insight into specialising in psychiatric pharmacy, building confidence and developing well-being strategies to help maintain good mental health.

## **Sustainability**

At our Annual Conference in 2019, the following motions were passed: *'This Association believes that pharmacy students should advocate for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals'* and *'The Association should make a conscious effort to reduce its carbon footprint'*.





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**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

From October 24th to November 14th, we ran a Climate Change Campaign, calling for change within healthcare and changes to the MPharm. We approached this from three main angles; as an Association, as students and as individuals. As an Association, we looked at continuing to host events online, reducing the amount we print (e.g. Annual Conference Handbooks), and more sustainable ways to have Executive meetings. Additionally, we are looking at reforms to the MPharm to include teaching about sustainability. As students, we looked at changes that could be done on campus, such as joining a university sustainability team, campaigning with university environmental groups, and feeding back to course leads. Finally, as individuals, we looked at multiple ways to change, including going vegan, shopping at refillery stores and even switching bank providers to a company not invested in fossil fuels. We broadcasted our Climate Change Campaign over all of our social media accounts and ran three successful webinars: 'What is COP26?', 'BPSA x Pharmacy Declares' and 'Climate Change on Campus'. When the campaign came to a close, the Executive shared their changes made during the campaign which they plan to continue going forward. Pharmacy Declares have mentioned our work on their website:

<https://www.pharmacydeclares.co.uk/collaborations>

We have also been in communication with the RPS on working together on this advocacy topic following their sustainability policies.

### **IPSF Development Fund**

At our Annual Conference in 2021, the following motion was passed: *'The Association should make a direct annual financial donation to the 'IPSF Development Fund'.*

£100 has been donated to the IPSF Development Fund in order to financially support other international pharmacy student associations and their members to participate in IPSF activities. This includes association membership and project fees, as well as World Congress, Regional Symposia and SEP costs for individual IPSF members.

### **Inclusivity and Diversity**

At our Annual Conference in 2018, the following motion was passed: *'This Association believes that there should be equal opportunities for professional promotion and growth for all Pharmacists, regardless of gender, sexuality, race, religion, etc.'*

In June 2020, an inclusion and diversity survey was circulated. The survey received 243 responses which form the basis of this work. The next step has been to appoint a review group (as was promised in our Black Lives Matter statement) to get the ball rolling. As an Association, we have realised we can handle the current racial exclusion some of our members feel (as seen in the survey responses) a lot better. Therefore, for this mandate, the focus continues to be placed on bridging this racial gap.



**British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**  
**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

Based on the survey responses, less than 60% of our members feel that the Association is inclusive in certain areas such as: providing equal opportunities to joining the BPSA, accessing competitions and face-to-face events. In addition, the majority of our members do not feel a sense of belonging within the BPSA. These areas will be continued to be reviewed upon during this mandate, and we, as an Association, will continue to look into ways on improving inclusivity and accessibility to our members.

During Black History Month, the BPSA collaborated with the Black Pharmacist Collective (BPC) to mark the occasion. We ran a joint competition addressing health inequality among the Black community. We also celebrated some of the amazing work being done by Black pharmacists and pharmacy students.

### **LGBT+**

At our Annual Conference in 2021, the following motion was passed: *'This Association believes that the MPharm programme should include more LGBT+ representation and awareness'*.

We have been in communication with the Honorary Secretary of PDA's LGBT+ Network and have plans to run a webinar and a campaign in the coming months to help raise LGBT+ representation and awareness.

We have also shared a research survey which aims to explore and investigate the queer curriculum in pharmacy education. This survey can be accessed here: [https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV\\_1zvAAaFQ2PVujwW](https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_1zvAAaFQ2PVujwW)

### **Independent Prescribing (IP)**

The GPhC is consulting on changes to requirements for training as a pharmacist independent prescriber. To get our members' views and responses to this, we released a survey which allowed members to express any opinions and/or concerns. There were 185 responses to the survey, the results of which can be viewed in the following report:

<https://www.bpsa.co.uk/s/Pharmacist-Independent-Prescribing-Survey-Report.pdf>

### **Association Events**

At our Annual Conference in 2021, the following motions were passed: *'The BPSA should host webinars'* and *'All Association webinars should be open for EPSA and IPSF members to register and attend'*.

### **Webinar Wednesdays**

Last year, the BPSA began hosting a series of webinars on Wednesdays for our members to engage with more of our content by utilising the online opportunities raised by the pandemic. This year we have continued this initiative, open to BPSA, EPSA and IPSF members. The Webinar Wednesdays we have hosted during this mandate so far are:



**British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**  
**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

- 01/09/2021 - Advice on Oriel (BS, AS, OF, TA, TE, PP, SA)
- 08/09/2021 - Advice on Foundation Training Year (OF, BS, SK)
- 20/10/2021 - Advice for First Year Students (LE, NA, FM, BS)
- 27/10/2021 - Climate Change COP26 (JM, NA, FM)
- 03/11/2021 - Climate Change BPSA x Pharmacy Declares (PP, SA, EK, NA, JM, SA)
- 10/11/2021 - Climate Change on campus (FM, NA, EK, SA)
- 17/11/2021 - CPPE Promoting wellbeing and positive mental health (SA, EK, PP, NA)

## **Healthcare Inequalities**

At our Annual Conference in 2021, the following motions were passed: *'This Association believes that the pharmacy profession should encourage further investigation into healthcare inequalities within the UK population'* and *'This Association believes that the resources "Mind the Gap" and "brownskinmatters" and similar resources should be used when teaching MPharm students'*.

The Autumn Northern Area Conference was on "Dermatology and Discrimination in Pharmacy" with the aim being to expose the discrimination within the treatment of dermatological conditions and to educate pharmacy students about common skin conditions, and most importantly how they present in different skin tones.

## **Dementia Care**

At our Annual Conference in 2021, the following motion was passed: *'This Association believes that a Dementia Friends workshop should be run at all Schools of Pharmacy'*.

The Autumn Eastern Area Conference was on "Dementia" with the aim being to give students an understanding on dementia and gaining an insight into acute and long-term dementia care.

## **Finances (TE)**

### **Financial Position of the BPSA**

A financial report is presented to all Executive members at the end of each month to ensure transparency within the team.

A proposed budget for this mandate made by the previous treasurer was accepted at the 79th Annual Conference. It has been challenging to stick to this budget as the transition from a primarily zoom mandate to a blended one has come with extra expenses. Furthermore, the same sponsorships are not guaranteed every year. TE revised the budget with the help of the Immediate Past President and the rest of the team to tailor it to this year's mandate. Adjustments



are to be presented to the Advisory Group once the revised budget has been finalised.

A claims form has been created to submit expenses electronically to organise all evidence and claims in one folder. This has worked well so far.

Refunds for the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) applications have been processed by TE for those who were not able to attend due to COVID-19.

A budget for the 80th Annual Conference has been created. The contract for the accommodation has been approved and TE is awaiting an invoice for the payment. A refund was received from a venue that was previously booked for the 78th Annual Conference that unfortunately did not take place due to the pandemic.

We gave an opportunity to the Executive to decide if they wanted a BPSA garment (hoodies/sweatshirts) and everyone was willing to pay for themselves. We used Red Oaks Roller again this year to supply these garments.

## **Sponsorship (SA)**

This year the sponsor brochure has been updated to reflect the enhanced accessibility of the BPSA as a result of the ongoing pandemic, creating a blended approach of face-to-face and online. This includes competitions, webinars and articles. With this year's Annual Conference being the 80th celebratory anniversary of the BPSA, our External Relations Officer is working closely with our Annual Conference Organisers to provide a memorable Pharmacy Exhibition day and overall Annual Conference for our members and sponsors.

An external opportunities subpage has been launched on the BPSA website to highlight the opportunities available from our sponsors to our members.

We value our ongoing and new sponsorships with all our sponsors and work to reflect this appreciation through the work that we do with them.

## **Annual Conference (WD & TA)**

This year the Annual Conference will be held at Aston University in Birmingham. The leads of Aston School of Pharmacy have been informed and they are more than happy to help with the event.

Our Annual Conference Organisers brainstormed ideas for the theme and logo with the team. The theme for the conference will be 'Progression of Pharmacy: The Past, the Present and the Future'. The registration form has been prepared, ready



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to launch in the new year. BS has been in contact with the RPS who have kindly agreed to design an AC logo for us.

Various venues have been contacted for our evening events. The accommodation for the conference has been secured. Meeting rooms are in the process of being booked. Speakers have also been reached out to.

ACOs have been liaising with the ERO and treasurer to organise sponsored nights, PharmEx and discuss the budget.

## **Graduate Members (OF)**

This year, a new form was created for current Foundation Trainees to sign-up for BPSA graduate membership. This membership also allows members to apply for free UKCPA membership. There are currently 78 BPSA Graduate Members this year.

The first graduate webinar was held on 08/09/21 and consisted of a welcome and guidance event for new Foundation Trainees. There were 91 registrants to this event. The event included a panel of previous Pre-registration Pharmacists who answered questions and shared their best tips and tricks for mastering the foundation training year. Several 4th year students also attended to learn more about the foundation training year before making their decisions for Oriel.

Applications for a Graduate Sub-Committee were released and re-opened. The aim of the Graduate Sub-Committee is to help with increasing social media engagement amongst Graduate Members and to work towards the Graduate Newsletter. Despite two rounds of applications and appropriate advertisement, no applications for the Graduate Sub-Committee have been received.

The Independent Prescribing survey as mentioned above served as a way to gather members' opinions on the GPhC proposals. There was a large response to this survey in a short period of time and the report showcases how important the future of the IP course is to our members.

The BPSA also released a survey to gain feedback on the GPhC registration assessment. Unfortunately, despite multiple efforts, this survey did not receive enough responses to warrant a report. However, there were still some important insights raised by members that will be shared with the GPhC in due course.

GO attended the steering group meeting for the Professional Attributes Framework, run by the Work Psychology group. The BPSA is working with them to run a focus group session for 8 Graduate Member Foundation Trainees to be interviewed to help steer the new Professional Attributes Framework for Foundation Trainees.

On 01/12/21, GO will also be attending the first meeting of the Learning Outcomes Steering Group, as part of the IETP programme, run by HEIW. The purpose of this



group is to advise on the safe transition of learning outcomes across the pharmacist learning pathway, both pre and post-registration.

## **European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (GO)**

### **Sub-Committee**

The applications for the EPSA Sub-Committee were released and re-opened. This Sub-Committee is in place to help the role of the EPSA Officer, such as with materials, events and meetings that the EO has to attend. The positions of this Sub-Committee are BPSA EPSA Advocacy Coordinator, BPSA EPSA Twinnet Coordinator and BPSA EPSA Media & Publications Coordinator.

Despite two rounds of applications and relevant advertisements, only one application was received; this was for the position of BPSA EPSA Media and Publications Coordinator. However, EO plans to reopen these positions.

### **EPSA Annual Congress**

The EPSA Annual Congress happened between the 25th-31st of October in Lyon, France. During this event, the Liaison Secretary (LS) together with the Official Delegates (ODs) voted on the LS, EPSA team and financial reports. This was done over the course of several days. In addition, this was a great opportunity to find Twinnet partners and the opportunities that they could offer our students.

Furthermore, students that attended the event were able to attend a variety of different workshops such as "What makes a good CV?", "Careers in pharmacy" and many others.

### **Liaison Secretary (LS) Work**

Online LS meetings attended:

- 9th May online LS meeting
- 30th May online LS meeting
- 11th July online LS meeting
- 4th September online LS meeting

During the meetings on the 9th and 30th of May, candidates that wanted to become part of the EPSA team were questioned and voted on.

The meeting on the 11th of July was about how to get into contact with the right EPSA team member and what the responsibilities of an LS are.



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**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

The final online LS meeting attended was about events for the EPSA AC, the agenda for the AC and finally the speakers that were confirmed for the EPSA AC.

Furthermore, the online APR Meeting was also attended on the 9th of September. This was the first meeting held by the new Advocacy Platform Coordinator, and each association introduced themselves and the current projects that they are working on.

All of the LS's Surveys were responded to, as were emails about the pharmacy curriculum, the opportunities that are available to our students and many others.

### **Twinnet coordinator work**

Attended the 'Meet Me Fair' on the 27th of October - this was an opportunity for Twinnet Coordinators to interact and share their Twinnets. Several Twinnet Coordinators are interested in having a Twinnet with the BPSA.

At meetings with the EPSA mobility coordinator, the following topics were talked about: what makes a good Twinnet, how to organise your first Twinnet and many others.

In addition to this, the Twinnet handbook has been read, which covered some of the topics covered in the meetings with the EPSA mobility coordinator and other topics like finances.

### **Other EPSA work/activities**

- EPSA 61th General Assembly: 10-11st and 17-18th April
- 11th May Online APR (Advocacy Platform Representatives) Meeting
- EPSA Team Meeting from 23-25th July
- EPSA Annual Conference from 25-31st October

## **International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (DM)**

### **Committee**

During this mandate, we have continued the legacy set last mandate to separate the role of BPSA Contact Person (CP) and Student Exchange Officer (SEO) by having the Executive position of IPSF Officer act as the BPSA CP and a non-executive BPSA member take on the role of the BPSA SEO. This has been a success to date by allowing an opportunity for a more senior BPSA member to mentor their SEO and support them in their role. The SEO position has been filled by Patrick Carr, a 2nd year student at Kingston University.

Local Exchange Officer (LEO) applications opened on 23/08/21 and closed on 30/08/21. We were fortunate enough to receive 6 fantastic applications, all of whom were successful and are currently working on planning itineraries for the



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**The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

upcoming winter and summer Student Exchange Programme (SEP) participants. The team received an LEO training from the IPSF Officer and SEO on 12/09/21. They have also received Social Media and Branding training by the Engagement Officer on 22/09/21 to aid them in managing a @BPSA\_SEP instagram account to promote the SEP and IPSF activities.

### **Student Exchange Programme (SEP)**

As travel restrictions have eased, BPSA was able to host SEP students during summer 2021 as well as send out BPSA members to countries including Egypt, Hungary and Spain. Applications for BPSA members to participate in Summer SEP 2022 opened mid November 2021 and will close at the end of December 2021. This was publicised using the BPSA newsletter and our social media channels. We have been informed by IPSF that 17 BPSA members are able to participate in SEP this mandate.

In addition, we plan to host incoming IPSF members this winter and summer. The SEO and LEO are hard at work growing our host database, ensuring we offer SEP placements of high quality to incoming members and responding to feedback from previous SEP members. Also, for a second year, we have waived the 42 Euro SEP fee for members to pay and instead will require a 42 Euro deposit which will be reimbursed to students upon completion of SEP.

### **IPSF members accessibility to BPSA**

Given the strong relationship the BPSA holds with IPSF, the BPSA has opened their webinars and online Area Conferences to IPSF and EPSF members. To accommodate those unable to attend due to different time zones, our webinars and online Area Conferences are recorded and published on the BPSA YouTube channel, available for all to view. Furthermore, there will be opportunities for IPSF members to read BPSA publications, as well as submit their own publications to the BPSA with the option for publication on our website if approved by the BPSA Publications Officer.

### **IPSF World Congress and IPSF EuRO Regional Symposium**

Registration for both these events will begin in early 2022. These events will be promoted to our members via the BPSA Newsletter. Members will also be made aware of the 'Leaders in Training' professional development event that usually takes place in the week beforehand.

### **IPSF Activities**

IPSF Activities such as the 'Trainers Development Camp', 'Patient Counselling Event', 'Clinical Skills Event' and 'Compounding Event' will remain available to BPSA members who are encouraged to get involved. These events will be shared on IPSF and BPSA social media channels.





## **Website and Technology (KJ)**

All Executive members have been actively monitoring and maintaining the contents on the website to ensure it is up-to-date. Collaborative efforts have been put towards developing the website's resources and displaying relevant opportunities to the readers. Redundant web pages were either disabled or removed to avoid confusion for readers.

With the increase in the number of mobile visitors to the website, mobile user experience has been considered carefully to reflect upon known issues like font sizes, button sizes and responsiveness of the website. Along with improving mobile user experience, the current aim is to improve search engine optimisation to help our users find the desired information efficiently and increase the number of website visitors.

## **Rebranding (BS)**

This mandate, we are celebrating an exciting milestone; 80 years of the BPSA! To mark this celebration, the BPSA has been refreshed, renewed, and rebranded #BrandNewBPSA. Read more about this here:

<https://www.bpsa.co.uk/news/refreshed-renewed-rebranded>

<https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/new-rebrand-for-bpsa>

View our website and social media platforms to see this in action.

## **Publications (SK)**

Publications this year directly relate to a number of policies. One of these is about making members aware of non-traditional career opportunities in pharmacy. A "Careers" theme has been created for our articles this year. So far, articles on careers in law, prison, and emergency services have been published. Another theme of our articles this year is inclusion and diversity with a focus on disability. We will start publishing articles on this subject starting next month.

The last theme is general support for students acquiring knowledge and skills, with a focus on the latter. We have been supporting students with developing their knowledge for many years. This year we are also striving to help with the matters not mentioned frequently but which are of great importance. The first article in this theme was on how to develop new skills, with other articles addressing the topics of group-working, money management, and time management to come.

Finally, as an Association, we strive for our members' voices to be heard and as such we have been working harder this year to make sure students and graduates get a chance to have their stories shared with members.



## **Area Coordinators (ACs) and Events (FM, TAS, NA, LE, AP)**

### **Northern area (FM)**

The first BPSA events in the Northern Area were the BPSA Roadshows, this was an opportunity to introduce the BPSA to first year MPharm students across the Northern Area. This year the roadshows remained online due to the COVID-19 pandemic (as did the Autumn Area Conference and training sessions). The AC team produced a presentation and video to share with first year students which contained up-to-date information about the BPSA, including a 'how to become a member' tutorial.

Recruitment of Liaison and Representative teams at universities across the area started in September. The selection process of Liaisons for the universities in this area was assisted by the other Area Coordinators, and the selection process of Representatives was supported by the Liaison at that university. Area Coordinators led a group Liaison training session across the 5 areas which allowed standardised training across the BPSA. This also eased the pressure off Area Coordinators by not having to run 5 separate training sessions. Representative training for the Northern Area, on Wednesday 10th November, allowed both the Representatives to learn about the BPSA and become comfortable in the role. They also were able to meet the Representatives from the other universities in the Northern area and their Liaison at their university.

The Autumn Northern Area Conference was on 'Dermatology and Discrimination within Pharmacy' and was held on 16th November 2021. The aim of this Area Conference was to expose the discrimination within the treatment of dermatological conditions and to educate pharmacy students on common skin conditions - and most importantly how they present on different skin tones. The focus of discrimination was chosen in response to the BPSA policies - *'This Association believes that the pharmacy profession should encourage further investigation into healthcare inequalities within the UK population'* and *'This Association believes that the resources "Mind the Gap" and "brownskinmatters" and similar resources should be used when teaching MPharm students'*. The speakers included: UKBPA's Lola Dabiri Pharmacist IP at Alpha Pharmacy & Clinic, Funmilayo Ogunremi - Senior Clinical Pharmacist IP at East Lindsey Primary Care Network, Morag Mcfadyen - Lecturer at Robert Gordon University, and Jonathan Burton - Pharmacist IP at Right Medicine Pharmacy. In the future, the speakers hope to meet and plan a recommendation for improvements on the teaching of skin conditions on the MPharm degree.

### **Eastern Area (TAS)**

The Autumn Eastern Area Conference was on 'Dementia' and was held on 21st November 2021. The aim of this conference was to give students an understanding of dementia and gain an insight into acute and long-term dementia care.



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Students were educated about a multidisciplinary team approach to improving quality of care and outcomes for patients and their families. This, hopefully, enhanced the importance of interprofessional learning to optimise patient care. With the optimisation of patient care in mind, the webinar also covered patient-centered care with an example patient with dementia.

Speakers included Ian Maidment (Director for the Psychiatric Pharmacy Programme; Reader in Clinical Pharmacy at Aston University), Anne Child (Special Advisor to CQC, Pharmacy and Dementia Specialist Lead at The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution) and Joe Costello (Admiral Nurse at Newcastle). There were over 140 registrations and the total number of attendees was 55. General feedback included how insightful the conference was. One notable feedback was how, despite being very academically focused, events like these showcase the importance of patient-centered care which is essential in our future as pharmacists. The enthusiasm of the speakers had been highlighted by attendees who felt 'inspired'.

### **Pennine area (NA)**

Prior to roadshows taking place, NA had meetings with contact lecturers at each School of Pharmacy in the Pennine Area. The aim of these meetings was to develop a better understanding of what the BPSA can do to assist students at each individual School, with their personal and professional development. Many of the responses gathered included holding events to do with professional development, such as careers based events. Contact lecturers also highlighted that they wanted their students to have more opportunities to network and build connections with students in other Schools of Pharmacy across Great Britain. The general consensus was that they regard students networking across their peers just as highly as networking with potential employers. There also seemed to be an emphasis on supporting personal development, such as hosting events that encourage good mental health and wellbeing of students, as well as, focusing on balancing university work and social life. These topics seemed to be of high importance, particularly as universities are reopening following the COVID-19 pandemic. The BPSA has held webinars that cover these topics, such as the 'Advice for First Year Students' webinar, as well as the Autumn Pennine Area Conference which was on 'Exploring Mental Health within Pharmacy'.

For Roadshows, a video was put together with the help of BS and SA. This video was then distributed to universities. The style of presenting was via Zoom/MS Teams and Mentimeter was used to allow viewers to interact with the video presentation as it was happening.

As mentioned, the Autumn Pennine Area Conference was on 'Exploring Mental Health within Pharmacy' and was held on the 20th November 2021. The webinar was held with the aim of giving students an insight into the field of mental health pharmacy, while also equipping them with the tools to build confidence and



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practice good well-being. The speakers were Yogita Dawda (Clinical Lead for Mental Health Pharmacy and Lecturer at Aston University) and Harpreet Chana (Certified Professional Coach and the Founder/Managing Director of The Mental Wealth Academy). A workshop was also run, 'Introduction to Well-Being', using resources provided by Pharmacist Support. The webinar had 62 attendees and very positive feedback overall. In the feedback collected post-conference the most commonly used words to describe the conference were "insightful", "informative" and "helpful".

### **Western Area (LE)**

The first events held were the Western Area Roadshows to help introduce the BPSA to incoming pharmacy students. Our President, BS, shared her personal story of her BPSA journey. It was particularly great to see students signing-up in real time, as it showed them starting their BPSA journey. There was amazing feedback and engagement from the Western Area contact lecturers, with support and connection to every school presented to.

The Western Autumn Area conference will be held on Saturday 4th December 2021. The topic is 'Person-Centred Care in Pharmacy'. How different pharmacists have kept their patients at the centre of their practice will be discussed. Some key speakers include youtuber and hospital pharmacist 'StudyBro' who has created his own video for the event, as well as Elizabeth Roddick, a renowned community pharmacist and writer of the popular book 'Call The Pharmacist'. The topic of person-centred care was chosen because pharmacy practice needs to further evolve from dictating to patients to including them in their own care to have better patient outcomes.

The 'Advice for First Year Students' webinar was run to help welcome students to the BPSA and the world of pharmacy as a whole. The aim was to encourage and inspire students with stories and advice from our panelists (NA, FM and LE).

### **Southern Area (AP)**

The Autumn Southern Area Conference was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 18:00 GMT via Zoom. The title was 'Inspiration in Pharmacy' and featured Award Winning Pharmacist Reena Barai, Consultant Pharmacist Stephen Hughes and Pharmacist YouTuber Regina Lee. Each speaker spoke about their journey within the Pharmacy profession with the aim to inspire students to be resilient and to look forward to all the opportunities they have within the profession that they're about to enter. These speakers were chosen based on their experience, achievements, and their contribution to the profession. The event gained a lot of positive feedback and engagement from the attendees.

With the help of Priyanka and Beth Goodliffe (previous SAC) who presented at their own universities, all first year cohorts in Schools of Pharmacy within the Southern Area have been presented to, as part of the BPSA roadshows.



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University College London (UCL) Pharmacy Society hosted a pharmacy fair and invited the BPSA along who had a stall. UCL's Liaisons and Representatives promoted the BPSA on the day and AP travelled down to the School to deliver supplies, such as posters, tablecloth, balloons and chocolates.

### **Liaisons and Representatives (FM, TAS, NA, LE, AP)**

Liaison and Representative applications were received via Google Forms, reviewed and the approval process occurred at the discretion of the ACs. Applicants received a response within a set time period agreed by the ACs. Some Schools of Pharmacy already had a BPSA Liaison selected by their Pharmacy Society.

The Liaison and Representative handbook was updated and rebranded from previous years. Liaison training day took place on the 23rd October 2021 via Zoom. A Liaison training folder was put together which included the recording of the training day, a copy of the presentation, minutes from the training day and the Liaison and Representative Handbook. This resource was then distributed to all Liaisons, so they could use it as a point of reference during their role.

The ACs decided to select and train their Representatives with the help of their Liaisons, to give their Liaisons some experience and input in the selection process, as well as transferable skills.

The primary methods of communication between the ACs, Liaisons and Representatives is via WhatsApp and emails.

### **Competitions (EK)**

The plan is to hold competitions partly online and in-person this year. Following the successful introduction of the Competitions Sub-Committee, an application was released again this year and reopened for further submission. After a thorough application process, Nafisa Iqbal and Manjot Kaur will be joining the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will be aiding in organising the competitions such as developing the competition materials.

Competitions running this year include the Alliance Healthcare and Alphega Pharmacy Business and Enterprise Competition, Boots Clinical Competition, Well Essay Competition, RPS Clinical Research Poster Competition, and GSK Science Research Poster Competition.

The aim this year is to make the scenarios as relevant and appropriate to the current pandemic situation as possible to ensure they are realistic to the current world we are living in. Social media and webinars will be used to promote all competitions.



## **Engagement and Social Media (JM)**

### **BPSA Newsletter**

This year, we have continued the BPSA newsletter which is sent to BPSA members and includes content such as Area Conferences, Webinar Wednesdays, Publications, and various other opportunities like the Student Exchange Programme.

### **Social Media**

The amount of followers we have on all social media platforms has increased. All social media posts are created using Canva and, if non-urgent, are scheduled using Hootsuite. This year, we have been trying to increase our presence on LinkedIn.

### **Rebranding (BS)**

This mandate, we are celebrating an exciting milestone; 80 years of the BPSA! To mark this celebration, the BPSA has been refreshed, renewed, and rebranded #BrandNewBPSA. This can be seen on all BPSA social media platforms.

## **Support needed**

- Recruiting Graduate Sub-Committee members
- An international speaker for Annual Conference to talk about the progression of pharmacy globally
- Pharmacy students and foundation trainees who live with a disability to help with our disability campaign

## **Upcoming**

### **Work**

- Releasing a survey for feedback on Oriel
- LGBT+ advocacy work with the PDA
- Sustainability advocacy work with the RPS
- Mental health campaign
- Mental Health First Aider Training questionnaire

### **Events**

- Professional Attributes Framework – Focus Group Interviews
- HEIW Learning Outcomes Steering Group
- Pharmacy Technicians and supporting staff Webinar
- Spring Area Conferences
- Annual Conference
- Further Webinar Wednesdays