

The British Dietetic Association volunteer position – Research and Audit Officer

Role

Research Officer, Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Group

Aims of the group

- To support and develop UK high quality evidence based dietetic practice within oral, enteral and parenteral nutrition support.
- To provide up to date evidence-based information on methods of nutritional support.
- To encourage and enable continued educational development of the Dietetic profession, healthcare colleagues and our membership
- To promote the benefits of the dietitian's role working in the field of nutrition support in all care settings.
- To provide clear and easy to understand evidence-based information to dietitians, patients, other health care providers and the media/public.
- To ensure the financial security and sustainability of PENG.

Objectives of the Group

- To produce and update as required evidence-based practice guidance documents (clinical guidelines, professional consensus statements, position statements) in nutrition support including oral enteral and parenteral for the identification treatment and prevention of disease related malnutrition in both primary and secondary care, through a networked membership and Clinical Leads. Initiation and coordination will be with the Clinical Quality Policy Officer of the BDA to ensure high quality production, with development through PEN (Practice based Evidence in Nutrition).
- To provide high quality, clear and balanced, evidence based dietetic and patient resources (e.g. diet sheets, food fact sheets, patient treatment pathways) to facilitate the implementation of our evidence based professional guidelines. We aim to produce BDA resources for patients, dietitians and the public at minimal pricing, supporting widest possible usage within NHS and UK private clinical practice, co-ordinating with relevant charities and any other organisations where possible e.g. BAPEN, BSG, NNNG, PINNT, BSNA, Carers UK. To work continuously to raise the profile of dietitians working in nutrition support.
- To facilitate learning by holding regular study days including Masters level course.
- To promote dietetic involvement in research and audit.
- To encourage good working relationships with other health care providers to enhance our knowledge, understanding and professionalism.
- To share experiences and provide a channel for communication and networking between dietitians working in other BDA specialist groups particularly where there is overlap or opportunities for collaboration e.g. Gastroenterology, Older People, Food Counts, Public Health, PDSG, Paediatric group and Critical Care group.
- To provide support and mentorship to dietitians working in the field of nutrition support.

What this post has to offer

By becoming involved with a BDA Specialist Group, you will have the opportunity to pursue your dietetic interests and gain practical experience. This role is key to ensuring the speciality is developing through research and audit. Through this position you will gain communication and project management skills, which can translate directly into career development. It will also give you an opportunity to work with colleagues within your speciality, sharing knowledge and skills. Through this position you will gain communication and project management skills, which can translate directly into career development. It will also give you an opportunity to work with

colleagues across your speciality, sharing knowledge and skills.

Main tasks/responsibilities

- Ensure that information regarding conferences, abstract submission deadlines or funding relating to the specialism is circulated to members.
- Act as a reviewer/mentor for group members who want to submit an abstract/paper/funding bid.
- Generally encouraging a culture of research and evidenced based practice within the specialism.
- Act as the lead for national and international consultation responses: seek out opportunities to input to consultations, collate other member feedback and manage responses on behalf of the specialist group
- Act as an advocate for the PEN system, inputting when necessary to content development/review and the BDA Evidence-based Advisory Group
- Support annual advertisement of the PENG award
- Reviewing and co-ordinating responses to NICE guidance
- Preparing membership surveys

Level of commitment

Committee meetings are held up to 4-6 times a year, plus a varying and flexible amount of work in between these meetings. The PENG aims to hold 2 study days for members per year, of which one of these will include the Annual General Meeting and is usually integrated within the Annual BAPEN meeting. A member is elected to the role for a two-year term of office and should serve no more than two consecutive terms of office. However, you can give reasonable notice to end your volunteering if you are no longer able to fulfil your role.

Main times of volunteering

Committee meetings are usually held on weekdays, evenings and when possible are attached to other meetings e.g. BAPEN, PENG clinical update meeting to minimise costs and can be arranged by teleconference, if required. To meet with AGM requirements PENG events usually take place during late Autumn as part of BAPEN or as a stand-alone day depending on needs to group and membership.

Training and support offered

- The BDA has a designated member of staff supporting Groups and Branches in the delivery of their work. Individualised support can be offered to suit the member.
- Group Handbook, templates and resources.
- Individual induction, handover and training at convenient location and time for you.
- Participation at the Groups and Branches networking day (held once a year).

Recruitment process and how to apply

For an informal chat email Kate Hall the current chair or any current member of the PENG committee. If you would like to apply for the role, please complete a nomination form and return to peng@bda.uk.com by 10th September 2020. All nominations should be proposed by a full member of the PENG and seconded by 1 other BDA member. Where two or more nominations are given for one position, an electronic vote will be held prior to the AGM.