

Memorandum of Understanding between the British Dietetic Association and the British Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society

Introduction

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is between the British Dietetic Association (BDA) and British Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society (BOMSS). The Memorandum sets out an agreed framework for co-operation between the parties. It is not legally binding nor is it intended to cover every detailed aspect of their relationship. Rather, it is a statement of principles, which will guide relations between the parties and provide a set of workable ground rules.
2. The Memorandum cannot override the statutory duties and powers of the individual parties.

Organisation Aims and Values

The British Dietetic Association

3. The BDA is the Professional Association and Trade Union for UK dietitians. Its vision is to;
“Improve the health of the UK population; by protecting and improving health and care services; developing health and social care nutrition policy; improving the impact of dietetics; and, promoting positive discussion on food, nutrition, wellbeing, and health.”
Its aims are to:
 - advance the science and practice of dietetics and associated subjects;
 - promote training and education in the science and practice of dietetics and associated subjects;
 - regulate the relations between dietitians and their employer through the BDA Trade Union

The British Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society

4. BOMSS are a professional society of surgeons and other surgery-associated healthcare professionals involved in obesity management. Membership of the society includes medical professionals and integrated health professionals including specialist nurses, dietitians and psychologists. BOMSS key objectives are:
 - To be a thriving Society with inclusive transparent governance through its membership.
 - To provide representation and support to the great majority of bariatric surgery professionals in the UK.
 - To be nationally and internationally recognised as the specialist society for bariatric surgery professionals in the United Kingdom (UK).
 - To maintain and strengthen the multi-professional / multidisciplinary structure of BOMSS.
 - To define, and become the main advisory body on quality control in relation to bariatric surgery and associated clinical care in the UK.
 - To be a resource and gateway for education and training for the bariatric surgery multi-professional team.
 - To be a resource and centre for the evaluation of new technology in relation to bariatric surgery and associated clinical care.

- To be a source of support for research and development in relation to bariatric surgery and associated clinical care.
- To define and act as the main advisory body in relation to service structure and professional issues in bariatric surgery and associated clinical care in the UK.
- To be financially independent.

Working Relationship

5. This Memorandum of Understanding will:
 - Build upon the good working relationship that already exists between the BDA and BOMSS by setting out the principles to which both parties will adhere.
 - Enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the BDA and BOMSS on Policy and Communications matters.
 - Serve to inform the respective members and stakeholders of the BDA and BOMSS of our relationship and how we will collaborate.
6. As a result of the memorandum the BDA and BOMSS will:
 - Work together to raise awareness of BOMSS amongst the BDA membership, and vice-versa.
 - Clearly promote the partnership on their websites and through other appropriate channels.
 - Collaborate on policy, projects and campaigns relating to bariatric surgery, obesity, metabolic conditions, training and other matters deemed to be of mutual benefit.
 - Work together to produce resources of professional relevance and, where appropriate, endorse them according to the BDA and BOMSS endorsement processes.
 - Provide mutual support for initiatives through communication channels including organisational websites, journals and conventional and social media.
 - Endeavour to share all information, professional advice and resources that are relevant.

Working Arrangements

7. The day to day relationship between the BOMSS will be between BOMSS Honorary Secretary and the BDA Obesity Specialist Group. The BDA head office team shall be kept updated on a regular (six monthly) basis, and further support provided as necessary.
8. If needed, there shall be twice yearly updates, meetings or calls between the BOMSS Honorary Secretary, the BDA Obesity Specialist Group and BDA Public Affairs Manager to provide updates and facilitate future planning. BDA Head Office staff shall support these meetings or calls, and other members of the BOMSS committee or BDA Obesity Specialist Group may join these calls as appropriate.
9. Through the course of the co-operation, the BDA and BOMSS may, from time to time, be sharing commercially confidential information with each other to the extent that this is necessary for the preparation of specified joint projects. All transactions of information must adhere to each organisation's data protection and information governance policies and be considered by each party's executive. All information must be kept confidential and not be shared with any other third party. The parties agree to inform each other on relevant / related work to the co-operation.
10. Any proposed use of the BOMSS or BDA logo or references to the alliance in press releases or publications etc. by the other must be considered by the other's executive. Either party will receive a written response to their enquiry and will be required, if permission is granted, to adhere to the other's corporate identity guidelines.
11. Neither party will be granted any rights over the content of the other's resources or materials.

12. The BDA and BOMSS may make such arrangements to financially support one another at events or with specific projects through separate agreements as appropriate. Any such agreements will be developed between the BDA's Partnerships Manager and BOMSS Honorary Secretary.

General Matters

13. Both parties are committed, whenever possible, to solving any disagreements under this Memorandum through normal administrative channels.
14. This Memorandum is effective from September 2020 until September 2023, where it will be required to be renewed. Amendments to this Memorandum may be made at any time in the interim by agreement between both parties. In addition, this agreement will be reviewed on yearly basis and updated, as necessary, in light of experience of its operation in practice.
15. An up-to-date version of this Memorandum will be published on the BDA and BOMSS websites.

Signed by:

Andy Burman
Chief Executive, BDA

Prof David Kerrigan
President, BOMSS