

Welcome to the first BSACP Co-Chairs Quarterly Newsletter. As Co-Chairs, we plan to provide you with an update every quarter on the work that BSACP Council and the Society's members have been undertaking on behalf of BSACP.

The end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 have been particularly busy times for BSACP Council.

- Following our work behind the scenes with the Department of Health (DH), Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) and Faculty of Reproductive & Sexual Healthcare (FRSH), the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care approved the home use of misoprostol for early medical abortion (EMA) on 23 December 2018 allowing abortion services to provide women up to 9 weeks and 6 days with misoprostol drugs to take at home at a time to suit themselves from 1 January 2019.
- We have been working with Irish colleagues in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) at the Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (ICOG) and Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) regarding introduction of early medical abortion (EMA) and manual vacuum aspiration (MVA), training and mentorship of Irish doctors following the decriminalisation of abortion up to 12 weeks in the ROI (from 1 January 2019). A number of BSACP Council and members have been over to the ROI to help deliver training, and we also are providing mentorship to Irish GPs.
- We have been supporting colleagues in Isle of Man (IOM) regarding decriminalisation of abortion up to 14 weeks. From 24 May 2019, women residing in the IOM will be able to request an abortion up to 14 weeks without requiring approval from a medical practitioner.
- Along similar lines we've been working with the RCOG, FSRH, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) regarding abortion decriminalisation in the rest of the UK.
- In addition to this we have another workstream with the abovementioned Colleges looking into the training, skills and competencies that will be required for nurses and midwives working within abortion services should decriminalisation come about.
- We have appointed a lay member to BSACP Council – welcome to Charlotte Kelly.
- BSACP Council members are well represented on the Guideline Development Group of the NICE Termination of Pregnancy guideline, which was sent out for consultation on 12 April 2019, and is scheduled for publication on 25 September 2019. A link to the consultation documentation is included below. Comments for consideration/inclusion in BSACP's submission should be sent FAO: Janie Foote (BSACP Administrator) at admin@bsacp.org.uk by 5.00pm Friday 10 May 2019 latest:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10058/consultation/html-content>
- The Society is still very active providing training. (1) BSACP provided a stream at both RCOG Professional Development meetings in 2018. (2) We continue to deliver the joint RCOG/BSACP MVA training course twice yearly. This training is very popular and is always fully booked; it is now also attracting overseas delegates. (3) We are busy planning and working towards a BSACP stream at the RCOG World Congress in London on 17–19 June 2019. (4) Finally, we are in the throes of organising BSACP's own Annual Conference at the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) in London on Wednesday 16 October 2019 – please save the date in your diary!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Joanne Fletcher & Jonathan Lord
BSACP Co-Chairs
April 2019