

The BCS Women in Cardiology Committee

Committee Chair: Woman in Cardiology Workforce Lead – Dr Joanna Lim

The committee chair is responsible to the responsible Trustee.

Responsible Trustee: Vice President for Professional and Society Values – Dr Louise Buchanan

BCS Committees

All BCS Committees sit within the brief of one of the BCS Officers of the Executive. Committees are chaired by the responsible officer or an appointed Chair.

BCS Committees include elected members, co-opted members and two x resident doctor reps per committee as well as Officers and ex-officio of the BCS.

Each committee has its own agreed 'Terms of Reference' which set out the Committee's purpose, constitution, and meeting arrangements.

The role of the Resident doctor representative

The role of the resident doctor representatives on the BCS Committees is to ensure that the resident doctor voice and perspective is considered and included in discussions and decision-making. The representatives are therefore there, not only to represent their own personal views but also to ensure engagement with the wider resident doctor community in to and out from the respective Committees which they should seek to do in collaboration and liaison with the BJCA President.

Resident doctor representatives are normally appointed on to a BCS Committee for a period of 3 years with a 6-month lead in time to this 3-year period allowing for an overlap with the current resident doctor reps to support transition and continuity. Minimum attendance requirements for members (including resident doctor reps is 75%).

In the event that a resident doctor is going to be out of post for any period e.g. career break, maternity /paternity, personal reasons etc., then the resident doctor can opt to pause or postpone their term on that committee for a fixed period if they so wish. Chairs will need to determine appropriate interim arrangements with the respective resident doctor and the President of the BJCA in these instances.

If a resident doctor is appointed to a consultant, post during his/her tenure as a resident doctor rep on a committee they should notify the Chair of the committee. However, whether they will be required to step down as a resident doctor representative before the natural end of their three-year tenure will be at the discretion of the Chair for the following reasons: 1. Time it takes to find a replacement. 2. If they are near the end of their term of office on the committee.

Improving Equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusion

The BCS seeks to improve equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusion throughout all of its activities, including in our committees, our executive roles and on Council. We would like our Society to reflect the diverse nature of the profession and wider membership, so welcome applications from resident doctor representatives from all backgrounds, cultures and identities, and from all the regions of the UK.

Summary Descriptor of the Women in Cardiology Committee's role

The Women in Cardiology (WiC) Committee acts as an advisory body to the BCS Executive and Board of Trustees. It can issue recommendations and proposals to the Executive (operational) and Board of Trustees (strategic) in relation to BCS Women in Cardiology activities, initiatives, and future plans, aligned to key strategic goals. The WiC Committee is chaired by the elected WiC Lead who has a seat on BCS Council.

The WiC Committee leads on and develops initiatives that promote gender equality within cardiology. These initiatives work towards building equal opportunities for male and female cardiologists and a zero tolerance culture to any form of bullying or discrimination.

- The WiC Committee aims to increase the number of women working in Cardiology and to support existing women in Cardiology.
- The WiC Committee seeks to promote awareness and address issues pertinent to WiC and build a professional network of women cardiologists.
- The WiC Committee aims to develop and maintain professional resources for WiC on the BCS website, advocate for WiC resources in the BJCA handbook and Digital Knowledge Hub, and to facilitate the development and delivery of educational materials pertinent to the needs of women, but relevant to all those working in cardiology, in collaboration with the Chair of the BCS Education Committee.
- The WiC Committee advocates for equitable representation of WiC at national meetings and aims to increase the profile of role models at these meetings. It engages with medical students of all genders to champion cardiology as a specialty that is accessible, family-friendly and attainable.
- The WiC Committee considers WiC opportunities arising from wider BCS strategic objectives and activities and ensures WiC are appropriately considered and represented within them. It explores opportunities to grow the WiC network and collaborate with key partners within the UK and internationally.
- The WiC Committee works closely with other key BCS Committees including the Digital, Communications and Marketing Committee and the Education Committee. A nominated member of the WiC Committee sits on the BCS's Professional and Society Values Committee.

Meetings

The Women in Cardiology Committee normally meet for one hour once a month. Changes to the frequency of meetings will remain at the discretion of the Chair.

Some work of the committee is managed over email between committee meetings and all members are expected to engage in the work of the committee in this way.

Meetings are virtual to ensure efficient use of members' time.

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