

President

Role Description

Term of Office

3 years from June 2027, following 1 year in Elect position (from June 2026), and then 1 year as Immediate Past President (from June 2030).

Context

The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) is a membership organisation with charitable status. The President is both a Trustee of the Society and Chair of the Board of Trustees. The President also chairs BCS Council and the Executive Committees (Professional and Operational). The BCS Board of Trustees has oversight of the legal context and governance of the Society, setting and approving the strategy of the Society. The Executive ('Operational') implements the strategy and develops the operational policy. The Executive ('Professional') is a meeting of the BCS, BJCA, BSE, BSH, BCIS and BHRS focusing on professional, policy and strategic matters. The Council addresses policy matters relating to the stakeholders of the BCS. All are chaired by the President.

The BCS is in its second year of its 3-year strategy (2025-2027) and has an ambitious strategy to raise the profile of its work around the three domains of clinical leadership, education and clinical excellence.

A key priority for the incoming President will be to work with the CEO, Officers, the Board and key stakeholders to develop the BCS's strategy beyond 2027.



Responsibilities

As a Trustee of the British Cardiovascular Society, the President, all Vice Presidents and the Honorary Secretary, along with the non-executive Trustees (including finance, legal and HR) are responsible for ensuring the effective performance of the BCS and that the BCS meets its legal obligations.

All Trustees are expected to:

- work in partnership with other Trustees and the Executive to achieve the objectives of the BCS
- act as high-level representatives for the BCS

The President is Chair of the Board and provides leadership and strategic direction to the Society and Board of Trustees ensuring effective governance, compliance and accountability. The President is managerially responsible for the Chief Executive Officer and expected to build a strong and constructive relationship with the CEO, providing support, challenge and guidance whilst ensuring performance management and delivery of the society's operations and strategic plan.

The Society's work is led by the President, Honorary Secretary and the Vice-Presidents of Finance,

Education, Clinical Standards and Guidelines, Training, Professional and Society Values, and Digital Communications, who deputise for the President as required.

The President is ultimately responsible for all matters relating to the BCS, ensuring the Society, in conducting its business, meets the legal requirements of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This includes taking overall responsibility for corporate governance consistent with legislation and best practice, legal issues, finances and human resources.

The President is the public face of the Society, representing the BCS in the UK and overseas. The President's personal involvement is crucial to the development of successful working relationships with Ministers and the Department of Health, senior officers of the Medical Royal Colleges, the British Heart Foundation, the European Society of Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology, other National Societies of Cardiology, the World Heart Federation, affiliated, associate, and patient groups, and partners of the BCS (including twinning arrangements with other Chapters, industry partners, and partnerships with other organisations).

The President is expected to raise the BCS profile through external meetings and events and through leading work on thought leadership, position statements and other profile-raising activities. The President may also be required to engage with the media on matters of public or professional interest involving the practice of cardiovascular medicine.

The President is accountable to and reports to the Board of Trustees.



Meetings

To chair meetings of:

- the Board (4 x 3-hour meetings per year)
- the Operational Executive (8 x 1-hour meetings per year)
- BCS strategy meetings with Officers/CEO (weekly x 1-hour meeting)
- the Professional Executive (3 x 2-hour meetings per year)
- Council (2 x 2-hour meetings per year)
- the AGM (June meeting at BCS Conference)
- BCS Trainee Representative meeting (2 x 1-hour per year)
- BCS Principal Partnership Meetings (up to 12 x 45 minutes twice per year, per partner)
- BCS Principal Partner Roundtables (2 x 1-hour per year)
- Heart Management Committee with Heart Editor and BMJ (Co-chair, twice a year)
- BCS-BHF Leadership meeting (2 x 1-hour per year)

In addition, the President will chair the:

- BCS/RCP Senior Officers meeting (Co-chair twice a year)
- The Professional Liaison group (PLG) of the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) (4 x 2-hour meetings per year)

The President is an ex-officio member of all the Society's committees and is expected to attend the BCS Programme Committee and attend the following national groups and committees:

- The Royal College of Physicians Council as a Council member
- The Royal College of Physicians Fellowship Committee
- ACC leadership meetings (normally at ESC and ACC annual conferences)
- ACC AIG meetings (at ACC and online)
- ESC leadership meetings (normally at ESC and ACC annual conferences)
- ESC National Cardiac Society meetings
- WHF leadership meetings
- Leadership meetings with other national societies (usually at BCS and other conferences)

The President will have 1-to-1 meetings throughout the year with:

- National Clinical Director for Heart Disease
- BHF Medical Director
- Heart Editor

In between meetings, the President will be expected to meet and/or engage in contact via email or phone, with the Chief Executive, BCS Officers, non-executive trustees, staff, committee members and members as necessary.



Eligibility

Those standing for election must:

- be an Ordinary Member of the Society
- have served as a member of Council, a member of a committee of the Society, or as an Officer (or equivalent) of one of the BCS Affiliated Societies
- have the support of their employer (e.g., Chief Executive Officer) at their normal place of work and be able to meet the time commitments set out; the BCS will contact their employer as part of the application process, so will require their contact details
- be able to commit to the broad remit and duties of the post
- have no criminal record or ongoing disciplinary issues
- be of good standing, and must not have been found guilty by a GMC tribunal
- declare any conflicts of interest

Experience

Those standing for election for President should:

- have management experience at senior level
- be able to demonstrate a track record of successful leadership and management skills
- have a track record of transparency and fairness
- have good communication and interpersonal skills
- be experienced in chairing meetings

Time Commitment

In addition to the meetings set out above, it is anticipated that the BCS President's responsibilities will require an indicative commitment of, on average, 32 hours per month, with the need for flexibility given that this will be variable across the year linked to meeting and activity schedules.

If you are interested in this post, and would like to find out more, please contact Professor André Ng, BCS President (president@bcs.com).

Support

The President is supported by the Executive Office who manage the President's BCS diary and provide administrative and secretariat support in support of the President's workload and responsibilities. The Executive Office also provides support to the BCS Board, Executive and Council Meetings.

Induction and training will be provided (and must be undertaken) regarding wider Trustee responsibilities.

