

Women in Cardiology (WiC) Committee

Responsible Trustee and Chair

Vice President for Professional Society and Values (Dr Louise Buchanan), Chair (TBC)

Role Description

Context

The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) is a membership organisation with charitable status. The BCS is the voice for all those working in the fields of cardiovascular care and research in the UK; we aim to represent and support both the professionals who work in cardiology and the patients for whom we want to encourage the best possible treatment. Our mission includes enhancing and maintaining the highest standards in training, education, and research for the benefit of patients and to be the primary source of professional advice and advocacy in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

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. It also 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.

Elected members are expected to attend Committee meetings and actively engage in the work of the Committee between meetings, leading on activities and initiatives as directed by the Chair.



Frequency of meetings

The WiC Committee meets on a monthly basis via Teams (with occasional face to face meetings when circumstances permit). At least 75% attendance is expected for meetings and email work combined.

Reporting

WiC Committee members report to the Chair of the WiC Committee. The Chair of the WiC Committee reports to the VP for Professional and Society Values, with the VP reporting to the Operational Executive Committee (for operational matters) and to the Board of Trustees (which sets and approves strategy).

Eligibility

To stand for elected posts on the BCS WiC Committee, applicants must be Ordinary or Affiliate Members of the BCS.

Term

Elected members serve a term of three years.

