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Please inform the Membership Secretary if you change your email or postal address.

[membership@gerodontology.com](mailto:membership@gerodontology.com)

Please send your contributions for future newsletters via the contact form on the website:

[www.gerodontology.com](http://www.gerodontology.com)

# BSG Newsletter

## Q1 2026



### *Committee Update*

President – Camilla Boynton

Past President & Research Lead – Rebecca Wassall

President Elect – George Tsakos

Chair & SAC Member – Mili Doshi

Secretary – Thea Dickens (maternity leave) and Kiran Singh

Membership Secretary – Jodie Bustin (maternity leave)

Treasurer – Yvonne Rooney

Website Editor – Daniel Gillway, Michael Butler

StR Representatives – Laura Smith and Kate Wyncoll

DCP Representatives – Zoe Holt, Lorraine MacIntyre and Carolyn Joyce

Newsletter Lead – Xin Yeo

Committee Members – Adele Cunningham, Gerry McKenna, Rakhee Patel, Ranjanna Bhaat and Saif Syed

Auditor – Mark Taylor

### *Janet Griffiths Memorial Oral Presentation Prize*

The British Society of Gerodontology (BSG) is delighted to receive applications for the inaugural Janet Griffiths Memorial Oral Presentation Prize, to be presented at the 2026 BSG Spring Conference.

Application is now closed and we will be in touch with applicants soon.

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## ***Exeter Spring Meeting 2026***

***From Diagnosis to Dignity: Comprehensive Oral Cancer Care for Older Adults***

**Save the date:** Friday 19 June 2026

**Location:** Reed Hall, Exeter

**Our president, Dr Camilla Boynton has put together an exciting program including palliative care management, restorative considerations and dysphagia.**

Registration is now open and we look forward to seeing you there.

<https://www.gerodontology.com/courses-and-events/>



## ***Joint BSG-RCSEd Research Grants***

The British Society of Gerodontology is delighted to offer a research prize in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) to support a project related to gerodontology. The BSG Research Award supports early-career researchers to undertake high-quality research that benefits patients cared for in Special Care Dentistry services.

Applications go live on 16 March at 9:00am.

Applications will be submitted online via the RCSEd grant platform.

RCSEd applications: <https://rcsed.grantplatform.com/>

## ***Highlights from recent events: Office of the Chief Dental Officer Scientific Conference***

It was a privilege for some of our committee members to attend the Office of the Chief Dental Officer Scientific Conference in Sheffield in January. Key themes included workforce sustainability, wellbeing, digital transformation and community-based care. Many thanks to Jason Wong and Zoe Marshman for an excellent mix of speakers, strongly aligned with the 10-Year Plan and placing prevention at the heart of their messages.

It was particularly encouraging to hear Claire Fuller highlight the importance of focusing on frailty, older adults and end-of-life care—areas central to the work of the British Society of Gerodontology. There was plenty of food for thought around priorities for prevention, digital innovation and how we approach resource allocation going forward. We need to ensure oral health is part of wider prevention and embedded in communities—improving oral health will support the shift from hospital to community care.

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## Meet the President, Dr Camilla Boynton



**Q: What inspired you to get involved with the BSG, and what does “success” look like for you this year?**

*Personally, I have always found the stories and wisdom of older people inspiring; I was very fortunate to enjoy a positive relationship with my maternal grandparents growing up and I also volunteered visiting older people in long-stay hospital wards. Then, in my early dental career and specialist training, I worked with Debbie Lewis, an original pioneer of gerodontology and former BSG President, who encouraged me to become involved with the Society and eventually take on the role of Sponsorship Secretary, before I became President.*

*Throughout my dental career, I have been privileged to provide care for many older patients in both clinical and domiciliary settings and I have seen, first-hand, how profoundly oral health affects the dignity, nutrition, communication, social connection, and overall wellbeing of older people — yet it remains under-prioritised in healthcare systems. During my time as BSG President, I would like to continue the Society’s work of advocating for older people’s oral health, strengthening collaboration across healthcare disciplines and ensuring that oral health is recognized as an essential component of healthy ageing.*

**Q: How would you describe your leadership style in one sentence and what can members expect from you day-to-day?**

*I firmly believe in the power of teamwork and empowering individuals to bring their different strengths and ideas in building strong networks and realising opportunities. I am a visible leader: working hard and leading by example.*

**Q: What’s one thing you’d love more members to get involved in, and what’s an easy first step?**

*One of BSG’s unique selling points is that the Society is very friendly and personal – we’d love to get to know you, so the easiest thing to do is come and join us at one of our events. I would also encourage members to apply for our conference prizes: the Janet Griffiths Memorial Oral Presentation Prize in Spring and Poster Competition in Winter. We have a fantastic academic research prize (combined with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) for members seeking a grant to support a larger project related to Gerodontology, and regular openings for those members wishing to apply for a Committee position. All information about our current events and prizes is available at [www.gerodontology.com](http://www.gerodontology.com) or by approaching Committee members directly.*

**Q: What’s the most memorable thing a patient has ever taught you?**

*In my early career as part of an MDT, a smartly dressed male patient in his 70s had been given a recent oral cancer diagnosis. After learning about the stages of surgical intervention and possible sequelae, the patient simply*

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wanted to know “Would I be able to enjoy a cup of coffee afterwards?”. When he discovered that no, this could not be guaranteed, the patient decided that radical surgical treatment was not for him and opted for palliation. He fully understood the implications but felt he had lived a good life and wanted to enjoy as many of life’s simple pleasures as possible for the time that he had left. It taught me to always remember the person behind the patient, to never assume anything and that effective communication is key if you have any hope of providing individualised care.

I still enjoy finding out about people’s lives, such as where they grew up, their family background, interests and any occupations. For people unable to communicate for themselves, it is equally important to find out this information from those who know them well. The stories can be surprising and sometimes colourful!

**Q: If BSG had a theme song (or motto) for your term, what would it be—and why?**

This is definitely the most difficult question to answer, as there are so many answers, but I have chosen *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* from the film, *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*. I love all sorts of comedy and, whilst this song is tongue in cheek, the message is simple, stoic and reminds the listener to focus on life’s positives. At a time when there are so many challenges in dentistry, rather than dwell on the problems, I prefer to reframe them and ask “what can we do differently?”.

## Webinars

1. We’re pleased to be partnering with the **British Geriatrics Society** on 14 April 2026 (1–2pm) to deliver a webinar for healthcare professionals and carers on why oral health matters so much for older people. The webinar will be delivered by Dr Mili Doshi and Dr Daniel Gillway, who bring extensive real-life experience supporting the health and wellbeing of older adults across hospital, community and care settings. In this session we’ll focus on older adults at risk of deteriorating oral health and what that means in real life and connect this to the 10-Year Plan’s emphasis on prevention and share practical advice on supporting older adults with mouth care, managing urgent dental issues and accessing appropriate dental services.

Further information: <https://www.bgs.org.uk/26OHC>

2. In June we will be partnering with the **Association of Dental Anaesthetists & Sedationists (ADAS)** to explore the increasing demand for sedation for older patients. Our Chair, Dr Mili Doshi, will provide practical guidance on safely and effectively sedating older patients, highlighting age-related physiological changes, comorbidities, frailty considerations and strategies to optimise patient comfort and outcomes. This event will take place on 1 June 2026 (7–9pm) and provides 2 hours of verifiable CPD from the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA). BSG members are invited to attend at a discounted ADAS member rate.

Further information: [Eventbrite listing](#)

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## Aims of the Society

- Improve, preserve and protect the oral health of older people.
- Encourage research, publication and dissemination of information.
- Encourage and develop undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training of the dental team.
- Promote links with other organisations, professional bodies, carers and the general public.
- Provide an advisory body to which questions concerning oral health for older people can be referred.

## Social Media

Follow the BSG @gerodontology on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter for up-to-date news and information.

<https://www.instagram.com/gerodontology/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/british-society-of-gerodontology-improving-the-oral-health-of-the-older-population-150985374/>

<https://twitter.com/Gerodontology>

## Recap: BSG Winter Conference 2025

Our Winter Conference at the Wellcome Collection in London was a success, brilliantly organised by our President, Rebecca Wassall, and the team. The theme—“Addressing Oral Health Inequalities and Complex Patient Needs”—brought together dental professionals from across the UK to explore sustainability, skill mix, oro-systemic disease, policy updates from the Deputy Chief Dental Officer, and practical guidance for managing complex older patients (including MRONJ).

The key message was clear: improving oral health for older adults requires prevention-focused care, collaboration across disciplines, better use of the whole dental team, and policies that truly include this often overlooked population.

Prize winners:

- **DCP winner:** Kerry Ford, Surrey CDS HCRG — Teledentistry in domiciliary dental care – a service evaluation
- **DCT winner:** Sally Rowe, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust — Evaluating pre-radiotherapy dental assessment pathways for older adults with head and neck cancer
- **Dentist winner:** Tanhida Jalil, King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust — “Mum’s dentures don’t fit anymore” – detecting oral cancer on a domiciliary visit
- **StR winner:** Kate Wyncoll, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust — Role of lateral oblique radiographs in diagnosing malignancy in an older patient

A huge thank you to all our speakers, sponsors, presenters and attendees.

Conference summary in BDJ: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-026-9565-2>



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