

BIA Monthly Digest – 21st April 2021

News Items

BIA Council Elections 2021 – Vote now!

Voting is now open for the BIA Council Elections 2021.

A number of posts on the BIA Council will become vacant in May 2021, and the following positions are open for voting by eligible BIA members.

Principal Officers

Hon Secretary

Members of Council

Devolved Administrations Secretary

Voting is taking place online; you will receive an email from Vote@ukevote.uk with your unique security code. This code will authenticate your visit to the secure voting site.

Closing date for voting is **Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 5pm**

Further details can be found [here](#)

Hierarchy of Controls: how to keep yourself and others safe from COVID-19

The Infection Prevention Society is pleased to have collaborated with NHS England and NHS Improvement in developing this educational video on managing the risk of COVID-19 in healthcare settings.

Hierarchy of Controls: how to keep yourself and others safe from COVID-19 - to access the video see: <http://bit.ly/managingcovidriskPR>

The aim of the video is to translate national infection prevention and control guidance into readily accessible information, enabling healthcare staff to understand and put into action the right measures to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

PHE COVID-19 Literature Digest

Public Health England's Literature Digest team produce a digest three times a week which summarises a selection of COVID-19 papers potentially relevant to incident stakeholders.

If you would like to sign up to receive the reports (via email) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays please email the team on COVID.LitDigest@phe.gov.uk

A selection of previous Digests is available [here](#) on the Finding the evidence: Coronavirus page under the 'Keeping up to date' tab, alongside other complementary resources.

COVID-19 Therapeutics Advice & Support Group (CTAG)

BIA continues to support the work of the COVID-19 Therapeutics Advice & Support Group (CTAG). CTAG has been established by a group of Drugs and Therapeutics Committees, Area Prescribing Committees and specialists to provide advice and support in the management of COVID-19 whilst national guidelines evolve.

Its ongoing work is supported by BIA and the Royal College of Physicians through the Joint Specialist Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Please visit the [CTAG website](#) for more information.

LearnInfection

a learning platform for infection trainees

LearnInfection is an online resource for infection trainees to test, learn and share knowledge on infection topics and best practice. Aimed at BIA trainees, it is available to all BIA members and can be accessed using your BIA login details.

Please take a look at <https://learn.britishinfection.org/>

BAJIR Bone and Joint Infection Registry

The BAJIR database is the UK Bone and Joint Infection Registry. It is designed to collect data on all patients with bone and joint infections in the UK.

The information will be used to better understand bone and joint infections and how best to treat them. It will also be used to assess and improve the quality of services across the NHS to achieve better outcomes for patients with these conditions.

For further information, or if you would like to join the BAJIR, visit <https://bajir.org/>.

Contact us via nhc-tr.bajir@nhs.net.



Grants

See [Grants](#) page for full information of all grants available

BMA Foundation for Medical Research HC Roscoe Grant

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. One of these grants, the HC Roscoe, is to promote research into the elimination of the common cold and/or other viral diseases of the human respiratory system.

Applications are invited from UK-registered medical practitioners or research scientists working in the UK, and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.

This grant, and other BMA Foundation grants, is now open for online application via the [BMA Foundation website](#).

The application deadline is **7 May 2021**

If you have any queries please contact researchgrants@bma.org.uk

BMA Foundation for Medical Research Kathleen Harper Grant

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. One of these grants, the Kathleen Harper, is to assist research into antimicrobials. Applications are invited from UK-registered medical practitioners or research scientists working in the UK, and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.



This grant, and other BMA Foundation grants, is now open for online application via the [BMA Foundation website](#).

The application deadline is **7 May 2021**

If you have any queries, please contact researchgrants@bma.org.uk

Guidelines

Consultations

See [Consultations](#) page for full information of all open consultations

UK National Screening Committee Website Research

The [UK National Screening Committee](#) is offering the opportunity to participate in user research for the new website.

If you have previously submitted a response to UK NSC and you intend to respond to the above on behalf of the BIA, please inform anna.goodman@gstt.nhs.uk

If you'd like to participate, please fill out the below questionnaire to register interest – you will then be contacted to confirm a date and time for the session. It's estimated that the session will last 30-45 minutes, and all the data we collect is completely anonymised.

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=72K0376LH>

BHIVA guidelines on immunisation for adults with HIV: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) 2021

SARS-CoV-2 emerged at the end of 2019 as the cause of COVID-19 resulting in a pandemic. Data from observational studies indicate that a subset of people with HIV are at increased risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes. Opportunities should not be missed to offer immunisation against SARS-CoV-2 to people with HIV. Numerous vaccine candidates are in development and several have received authorisation in the UK and worldwide, although there is limited information that is specific to people with HIV.

These guidelines aim to provide information for healthcare professionals on the use of SARS-CoV-2 immunisation in people with HIV. They are based on the interpretation of current evidence, and will be kept under review and updated as new evidence emerges.

Click to [read the guidelines](#), and for further information [visit the website](#).

Consultation is now open, please provide comments to Anna.Goodman@gstt.nhs.uk by 5.00 pm on **Thursday 22nd April 2021**.

NICE medical technologies guidance – MT476 UroShield for preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections

NICE intends to make the draft scope available on 20.04.2021

Further information is available [here](#)

Comments should be sent to Anna.Goodman@gstt.nhs.uk by **24.04.2021**

NICE appraisal invitation - consultees: Hepatitis D (chronic) - bulevirtide [ID3732]

The Department of Health and Social Care has asked NICE to produce guidance on using the above technology in the NHS in England.

If you intend to nominate yourself to attend the committee meeting on behalf of BIA, please email BIA@hartleytaylor.co.uk before 14th May 2021.

Published Guidelines

See [Published Guidelines](#) page for full information of all guidelines published

Neonatal infection: antibiotics for prevention and treatment

This guideline covers preventing bacterial infection in healthy babies of up to and including 28 days corrected gestational age, treating pregnant women whose unborn baby is at risk of infection, and caring for babies of up to and including 28 days corrected gestational age with a suspected or confirmed bacterial infection. It aims to reduce delays in recognising and treating infection and prevent unnecessary use of antibiotics. The guideline does not cover viral infections.

Read the published guidelines [Here](#)

UK guidelines for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) have been updated

Much has changed since the previous guidance was issued in 2008, in particular, the incidence of MRSA in UK hospitals has fallen markedly as well as new anti-staphylococcal antibiotics becoming available. An update to the national MRSA treatment guideline in light of these changes is therefore required.

Updating these national guidelines was a joint initiative of British Society for Antimicrobial Stewardship (BSAC), British Infection Association (BIA), Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) and Infection Prevention Society (IPS). However, BSAC and BIA alone were involved in the production of this guideline. A separate guideline updating recommendations for infection prevention and control of MRSA will be developed by HIS and IPS.

Read the updated guidelines [Here](#)

Clinical Infection in Practice (CLIP)

CLIP, the online BIA journal is available [here](#)

The Journal provides a forum for the advancement of knowledge and discussion of clinical infection in practice. It will embrace relevant clinical research and clinical management issues, including case reports and case series demonstrating novel or interesting findings.

The CLIP Editor in Chief is Professor Martin Wiselka supported by a distinguished Editorial team.

Visit the [Elsevier website](#) for further information

To submit an article please [click here](#).



NITCAR Update

See [BIA NITCAR](#) page for more information

Regional and supra-regional audit and research collaboratives exist to facilitate larger scale audits, service evaluations and research projects. The aim of the National Infection Trainee Collaborative for Audit and Research (NITCAR) is to facilitate such multi-centre projects within the field of infection.



Necrotising otitis externa

Sites have been fully recruited, and patient enrolment will begin at these sites in January 2021.

Project lead: Susanne Hodgson. Email: interest@noe.nitcollaborative.org.uk to get involved

Visit <http://nitcollaborative.org.uk/wp/noe/> for further information.



National Audit of the Management of Encephalitis

University of Liverpool Brain Infections Group is looking for sites to contribute to its National Audit of the Management of Encephalitis. Please get in touch if you/ trainees at your hospital might be interested in supporting this work.

Our hope is to recruit at least 40 sites, please express your interest by emailing interest@name.nitcollaborative.org.uk

For more information please see: <http://nitcollaborative.org.uk/wp/name/>

If you would like further information about NITCAR, or would like to ask us a question, please go to our website - www.nitcollaborative.org.uk

Infection Events

See [Infection Events](#) page for full information



BSAC Spring Conference

29th - 30th April 2021

2021 marks 50 years of the BSAC. Join us to celebrate! Full details to follow. To register your interest, please contact [Esme Carruthers](#)

BIA Spring Trainees' Day 2021

Wednesday 19th May 2021

Virtual Meeting

Programme includes:

Lyme disease and tick-borne infection

Dr Matthew Dryden, Consultant Microbiologist, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory

Travel, vaccines and special considerations

Dr Nicky Longley, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Hospital for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Procalcitonin; how to use this biomarker in clinical practice

Dr Kordo Saeed, Consultant Microbiologist, University of Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

National Infection Trainee Collaboration for Audit and Research (NITCAR) Annual Meeting

Viral meningitis

Dr Fiona McGill, Consultant in Infectious Diseases & Microbiology, University of Liverpool

Sequencing and managing the Public Health threat from variants of concern

Dr Derren Ready, Consultant in Public Health Infection, Public Health England Southwest

Click to [view the full programme](#)

Registration Fee: £24.00

Click for [further information and to register](#)

BIA 23rd Annual Spring Scientific Meeting 2021

Thursday 20th May 2021

Virtual Meeting

The 23rd Annual Spring Scientific Meeting represents a superb opportunity to communicate with and to learn from colleagues working in the full range of infection-related disciplines.

This year will be different as the meeting is virtual, and we are very fortunate that the programme includes two distinguished invited speakers joining us:

Professor Sharon Peacock, University of Cambridge

Professor Ravindra Gupta, University College London

Click to [view the current meeting programme](#)

Registration Fee: £24.00

For further information and to register please [click here](#)

Abstract Submissions deadline date: **5pm, 12th April 2021.**

ECCMID 2021

9th - 12th July 2021

Online meeting

The 31st European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID), will take place online 9 – 12 July 2021.

The usual ECCMID scientific symposia, keynote lectures, meet-the-expert sessions and educational workshops will all be present, in addition to exciting new ECCMID formats tailor-made for online delivery. Be sure to join us for the keynote fireplace discussions and online escape room, amongst other new initiatives.

Click for the [programme](#) and to [register](#)

39th Annual Meeting of the European Bone and Joint Infection Society

7th – 9th October 2021

Ljubljana, Slovenia

The main conference theme is: Joining forces: optimising diagnosis and management of bone and joint infections.

Find more information on the conference website: [Click here](#)

Workshops and Courses

See [Workshops and Courses](#) page for more information

Introduction to Guideline Development

28 May 2021

This introductory-level course is aimed at those seeking a grounding in guideline development processes and methods applicable in UK healthcare settings.

The course will illustrate and explain the NICE-accredited guideline development process used by HIS, including the principles underpinning guideline development and the various stages of the guideline development process.

Participants who have completed this course should be able to:

- Recognise the key stages of guideline development
- Describe the steps involved in undertaking a systematic review of evidence
- Participate in reviewing, synthesising and interpreting evidence as part of guideline development
- Understand how evidence is used in developing guideline recommendations
- Identify learning and development goals to expand knowledge and skills in the above areas

To find out more and register [Click Here](#)

Tuberculosis, Postgraduate Certificate (1-year Part-time Distance Learning)



This new programme will provide a comprehensive overview of Tuberculosis with an emphasis on prevention, diagnosis, and management of drug-susceptible Tuberculosis.

The programme has been developed for trainees and consultants in infection specialities and respiratory medicine; it can also be taken by nurses and public health workers, and practitioners with experience in Tuberculosis.

For further information [click here](#)

Advanced courses + scientific conferences

Welcome Genome Campus Advanced Courses and Scientific Conferences is the only UK-based programme providing open postgraduate courses and conferences focused on biomedicine. We fund, develop and deliver training and conferences that span basic research, cutting-edge biomedicine, and the application of genomics in healthcare.

Please [click here](#) to view upcoming virtual courses and conferences

Vacancies

See [BIA Jobs](#) page for full information

Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant in Infection, - Ref:1871183

Specific unit / Sub department Research Department of Infection

Location: University College London and Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Salary: £84,258 - £112,845 per annum

[Click Here](#) for further information

HTD Charitable Fund Centenary Fellow

Job Reference: 309-MB1084-YV

Employer: University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Department: Infection

Location: UCLH, London

Salary: £32,478 - £51,069 per annum inclusive pro rata

For further information please [click here](#)

Senior Clinical Fellow in Mycobacteriology x 2 posts

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Clinical Fellow in Mycobacteriology. There are 2 posts advertised, one based at the National Mycobacterial Reference Service-Central and North (NMRS-CN) based at the Public Health England (PHE) Midlands Public Health Laboratory in Birmingham and the other at the National Mycobacterial Reference Service-South (NMRS-S) based at PHE Colindale,



London. This is an excellent opportunity to work within a role in PHE's world-leading NMRS. The successful candidates will be part of an innovative and supportive team delivering Whole-Genome Sequencing for TB as a routine diagnostic service for clinical and public health use.

Both posts allow the post-holder to develop expertise in genomic microbiology and mycobacteriology, with exciting possibilities for being involved in and developing research projects.

Further details of qualifications required and duties of the post-holder can be [found here](#) and the closing date is **Monday 22nd March 2021**.

For an informal discussion please contact grace.smith@phe.gov.uk