

Being a BSSVD Council member

About the BSSVD

The British Society for the Study of Vulval Disease is a registered charity that seeks to advance the treatment and understanding of diseases of the vulva. The objectives of the society are:

- The relief of suffering for patients with vulval diseases
- The promotion of research into the cause and management of vulval diseases
- The practice, art and science of understanding, diagnosing and managing vulval diseases

Our Society membership is truly multidisciplinary, largely made up from the specialties of gynaecology, dermatology, sexual health and pathology. Our membership consists of doctors and nurses, and we work closely with allied health professionals aligned to vulval disease. This multidisciplinary approach to the speciality enables excellence in clinical outcomes and workforce training. We have a strong commitment to education and training working with our medical colleges striving to achieve high quality standards of care for patients. Our membership currently stands at over 280 health professionals from a variety of different specialities. The Society's funding comes largely from membership fees and conferences.

The **role** of a council member

The BSSVD Council is the governing committee that is responsible for the financial and legal status of the BSSVD as a charity. It oversees what the society does and sets the strategic direction of the society. All council members are volunteers.

We currently have 14 Council members. Council members are expected to serve for four years at which point they are eligible for re-election for two more years. After this point they are not eligible for further re-election for another four years. **We have several vacancies we would like to fill as existing council members come to the end of their serving terms.**

The Council usually meets twice a year. In recent times this has been via video conference call. We also hold an annual scientific meeting which Council members are required to attend.

The Council works as a team, working together with a common goal to meet the Society's aims. Some Council members take a lead on particular areas of work or projects, reporting back to the council on progress at meetings.

See below for detailed descriptions of specific roles within the council.

What is **expected** of a council member?

Council members are expected to engage in the following:

- To learn about the charity and understand their role within it.
- To attend council meetings (if you are not able to be at a meeting, apologies should be given).
- To bring their skills and expertise to the council, taking part in discussions and helping with decision making for the charity.
- Take ownership of actions between meetings assigned to them.

In addition to the above, it can be useful for Council members to represent the charity from time to time at events, to use their own social and professional networks to raise awareness of the charity.

Why is it worth doing?

There are many benefits to being a council member:

It is a wonderful opportunity to work with patient representatives and colleagues across a range of specialties to improve care for patients with vulval disease. As a council member, I am able to contribute to developments in service standards, education and research into vulval disease. I am much more aware of the different services available to patients and have been able to reach out to colleagues I have met through council to provide advice to help my own patients and have also been able to provide advice to others via the group. I would thoroughly recommend becoming a council member to patients and clinicians alike to support the ongoing work of the BSSVD.



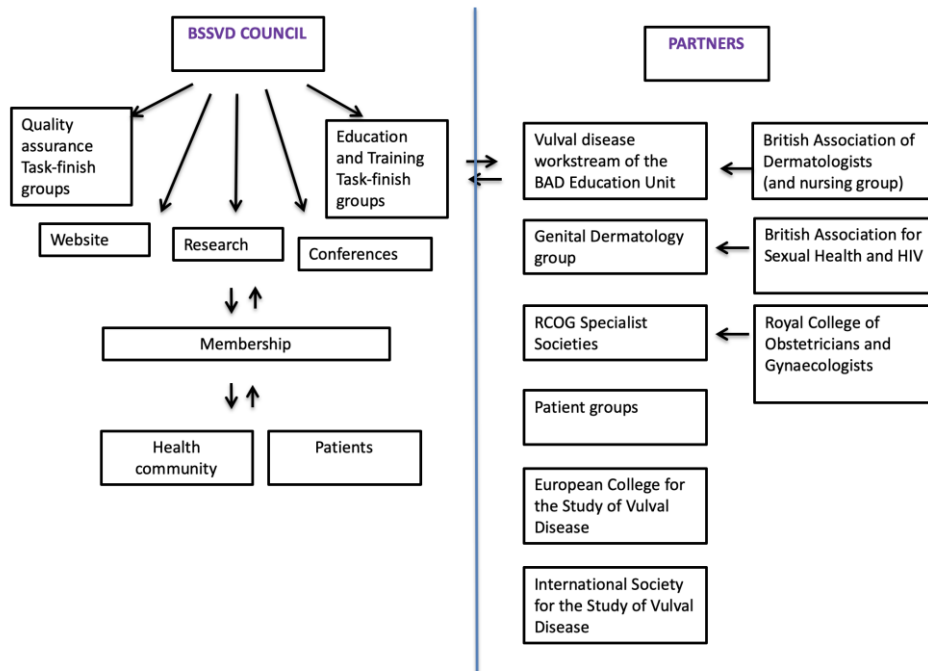
Dr Stephanie Ogden, Dermatology

Council member roles

The council is broken down into specific roles which carry particular responsibilities, as well as there being general council members. As of January 2022, we are recruiting new members to support the work of the society, the vacancies are listed below in pink alongside other role descriptions.

Chair	Role includes arranging Council meetings, chairing & coordinating the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, acting as spokesperson of the Society, liaising with new Council members
Secretary	Role includes promoting membership, linking with external agencies, preparing the annual report and newsletters
Treasurer	Role includes keeping accurate records of financial transactions, preparing annual accounts for audit and the AGM, setting budgets for each financial year and providing financial support for Grant applications
Research Lead	Role involves leading on the research agenda & coordinating the allocation of research funds
Webmaster	Role involves planning and development of the website content
Trainee Representative	Role involves supporting training in vulval disease
Patient Representative	Role includes liaising with patient groups and offering patient perspective on activities of the Society.
General Members – 4 members	Roles require full participation in the activities of the Society and in furthering its objectives, including taking on roles to further the strategy of the society. A minimum of 70% attendance at council meetings and response to executive communications within 21 days is required.

BSSVD and our network



How to apply

If you are interested, please contact admin@bssvd.org for an application form. We would be happy to have an informal chat to discuss the roles.

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