

BANT Annual General Meeting 2024

AGM Presentation

BANT Council and workstream presentations were pre-recorded and shared live with BANT Directors and Managers present online and via chat, the recording was followed by a live 30-minute Q&A.

Meeting Minutes

Date 16/5/2024: 18:00 – 19:30 online

BANT Attendees Satu Jackson (CEO), Sarah Green, Abir Hamza-Goodacre, Sue McGinty Isabel Hemmings, Jessica Fonteneau, Deborah Richards, Debs Roebuck, Tina Batchelor, Melanie de Grooth, Kate Alexander, Benjamin Richardson, Claire Grundel, Sharon Ling, Claire Sambolino

Apologies Euan Wilkinson

Note: AGM recording and Q&A are available on BANT website under Business Operations to all members.

Nr.	Topic
1	Welcome by Satu Jackson Introductions
2	2023 Minutes Minutes from 2023 AGM were approved with no comments during the Q&A Election of Officers No new directors introduced in 2023 Two new non-executive Directors joining BANT Council in April 2024 as Euan Wilkinson steps down. Find out more at https://bant.org.uk/our-team/ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debs Roebuck• Tina Batchelor
3	Presentations Directors and Managers presented the following organisation and workstream updates and Annual Accounts 2023. Key highlights are bulleted below, full presentation is available at https://bant.org.uk/members-area/business-operations/agm-egm-conferences/2024-agm/



- **Chair Report** – Satu Jackson, CEO and Director

Discussion about the growth of nutritional therapy profession, and recently published [BANT Election Manifesto](#), along with importance of belonging to PSA-accredited register which is recognised by primary care practitioners. Important to note that CNHC is the register referred to in title Registered Nutritional Therapist and BANT is the self-regulator of BANT Registered Nutritionists[®] / Registered Nutritionists[®] MBANT. Listen to the full report at the start of the presentation.

- **Operational and Finance Update** – Satu Jackson, CEO and Director

AfN Royal Charter Application

BANT has continued to engage legal advisors relating to AfN 2019 claim of pre-eminence in the broad field of nutrition, health and allied subjects in their application for Royal Charter

In June 2023 Dep of Health approved AfN Charter application to be presented to the King but this was subsequently withdrawn by Government Legal Department based on BANT submissions

AfN application for Royal Charter is now submitted for reconsideration

BANT is in the process of submitting a final formal counter petition to Privy Council Office (PCO)

Practice Governance

Handbook updates include: Cancer, Specific Conditions (Gastric bands, colostomy bags, epilepsy, type 1 diabetes), Supplements (DIM, GABA, Melatonin), Retirement, Wearable health technologies (CGMs)

2024 Plans include variety of handbook updates, visits to BANT Local Network meetings and recruitment of additional PPP members. Please get in touch with Benjamin Richardson if you are interested in volunteer with PPP.

Finance

Overall income very similar to previous year at £480k with membership income making up 86% of total income. The income from variety of sources is channelled to support development of BANT member resources and projects to support member standing and reach of nutritional therapy.

While the expenditure increased specifically due to exceptional cost increasing from 3% to 15%, the operational costs have reduced from 59% in 2021 to 53% in 2022 and further to 50% in 2023. The investment is continuing to improve our presence in the professional landscape and the CPD and NED resources. Marketing, technology and science & education costs stabilised to keep some of our key projects going.



BANT Priorities...

based on member survey during membership renewals provided feedback from nearly 2,200 members – Thank you! The feedback helps us to prioritise our resources on projects that are important to our members.

55 % - support standing of BANT members in the regulatory and political arena
42 % - promote skills and services of BANT practitioners
40 % - educational resources – dropped from 1st to 3rd position

Nearly 2,200 of approx. 2,800 full members i.e. qualified nutritional therapists completed the survey about their working practice by selecting one or two of the statements provided. 20.4% of those work full time in clinical practice and 42.8% part-time. 19% combine their time between clinical and non-clinical work.

Raising Your Profile

BANT Practitioner Search reaches 70-80 contact messages per month with 'gut health' and 'women's health' topping the key searches. Cancer practitioner searches have increased significantly.

We have been working on SEO to optimise organic traffic to Practitioner Search and will engage additional SEO support in 2024. See the stats in the presentation.

We promote and drive traffic to Practitioner Search; YOU promote yourselves!

- Quality profiles reflect on you and on BANT as a whole
- Completed profiles influence and improve SEO
- Prioritise completing your profiles

We ran a series of webinars to help you capitalise on our investment in the Practitioner Search tool, all available in BANT LearningZone

- Polish your Practitioner Profile
- Perform on social media
- Promote your website
- Perfect your PR

Student Network

Student Virtual Tea sessions now include lifestyle and business-related topics and Quarterly eNews support students with topical updates and news, benefits relevant to students and study tips including use of AI.

- **Science and Education** – Glare Grundel, Manager

Clare provided an update about NED Science Forum which included a keynote presentation by Professor Justin Robers on Blue Zones and Longevity. Dr Jessica Rigutto talked about BANT members as researchers and what tools to use and Clare Grundel presented the BANT Pilot Study on Functional Bowel Disorder. Ben Brown



	<p>talked about his journey to publishing research and how one can get published in NMJ, Nutrition Medicine Journal.</p> <p>The event was a great success, and we are already planning one for 2025.</p> <p>Clare further presented new developments on Nutrition Evidence Database and NED publications such as the NED Journals and NED InfoBites which provide insight to latest research benefiting NTs.</p> <p>BANT Learning Zone is growing with delivery of programmes in partnership with variety of industry leaders adding to your free CPD options, visit Learning Zone for your free CPD webinars and podcasts and eLearning options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications and Community – Claire Sambolino, Manager & Benjamin Richardson, Manager <p>Claire gave a comprehensive update about how BANT promotes nutritional therapy at every opportunity and how you can help by us all harnessing the collective power of our community. Please review Claire presentation at point 38:15.</p> <p>Benjamin Richardson continued with community update about how BANT can support member that feel the sense of isolation in their work and how members are typically great caring for their clients but not always as good about caring for themselves and what BANT has in store to support practitioner wellbeing.</p> <p>There is plenty of ways to get involved by following us on social media – comment, share, repost to help us reach more people – and attend BANT events, volunteer and expand you network.</p>
4	<p>By Satu Jackson, CEO and Director</p> <p>Thank you for Services Rendered</p> <p>Appointment of new BANT Fellow Members</p> <p>Dawn Waldron Justin Roberts</p> <p>and new Honorary Fellow Member</p> <p>Breda Gajsek</p>

5 Your Questions Answered – Live Q&A, including Questions from the chat line, you can listen to the full answers in the recording – by Satu Jackson

1. How could we get involved with GPs?

Claire Sambolino talked about the project to update GP Engagement materials, and we also send hundreds of emails to GPs and Practice Managers after each of the two Best Practice events, Birmingham and London. These events are designed to primary care practitioners only. All these emails include a link to BANT Practitioner Search, and we also provide links to specific practitioners if there has been a request to do so. There are many profiles that we cannot include in these emails as they are incomplete without linking to practitioners' websites or they do not have proper contact details or description of services. A missed opportunity for some while others have received a surprise call from their local GP.

2. Will BANT be adding eating disorders section in BANT practitioner search?

Yes, we will have a project to update the eating disorders guidelines to similar level as we have for cancer now.

3. What was the name of the organisation that have 60% membership of doctors?

BSLM, [British Society of Lifestyle Medicine](http://www.bslm.org.uk).

4. What do we mean by all this impact data that was talked about at NED Science Forum?

By Deborah Richards, Director: When talking to general practitioners, the real-life data helps to show the positive impact of nutritional therapy. IBS is a good example where NTs can help clients, often better than GPs. If you use tools such as MYMOP regularly in your clinical practice, we want to be able to collect the data anonymously and give GPs facts about the impact nutritional therapy can have to help their patients. Standardised tools give us more credibility and integrity to publish the data. NED Science Forum was recorded, and the project is explained in detail by Clare Grundel.

5. Has BANT ever considered putting standardized protocols / checklists for specific conditions?

By Abir Hamza-Goodacre, Director: Yes, we have considered this and have some infographics available for this purpose. We have also considered standardized intake form which would help at the start of the consultation process. However, we must remember that the ethos of nutritional therapy is to personalise the recommendations, and this is why CPD is so important to help us learn more about different solutions to many different underlying conditions. BANT resources help to provide latest research designed to support NTs through webinars, BANT Events, and NED resources.

6. How are BANT moving forward with PR to general public?

By Jessica Fontenau, Director: We have made huge amount of progress over the past 4 years. When we before concentrated on Politic Home, since Claire joined, she has



completely revitalised our social media, adding Instagram, and for example, our LinkedIn following has grown to nearly 28k, which is a massive achievement. Getting journalists and public attention is hard to any organisation with a small budget, but members can help by sharing the posts to increase the reach and momentum.

7. Is the GP Toolkit designed to private GPs? I hear from NHS GPs that they are not allowed to refer to outside of NHS.

We also talk to lot of GPs, both NHS and private, and particularly many NHS GPs are keen to work with the ethos of NHS i.e. have the healthcare free of charge to their patients. However, we are seeing increasing numbers of NHS GP signposting to NTs and other practitioners outside of NHS due to limited resources within NHS.

NHS GPs are also very interested in group programmes that they could suggest to their patients, potentially at a lower price point. **Isabel Hemmings, Director**, further added detail about such programmes and BANT webinars include a presentation by Isabel how to develop and run a programme on metabolic health. **Tina Batchelor, non-executive Director** offered a comment that GPs commonly encourage their patients to link to services outside NHS, including for example ADHD and autism diagnosis so the precedence of engaging services outside of NHS is established.

Meeting concluded – full presentation and Q&A discussion can be viewed at <https://bant.org.uk/members-area/business-operations/agm-egm-conferences/2024-agm/>