



# British Cardiovascular Society

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## British Cardiovascular Society: Code of Professional Conduct

### Introduction

The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) aims to support and represent all those who work in the fields of cardiovascular care and research. To help achieve this aim, BCS is affiliated with 20 unique organisations that work in specific areas of cardiovascular medicine, health and patient care. Members of the affiliated societies, who are not ordinary members of the BCS, may also be associate members of the BCS; there are currently approximately 8,000 health care professionals in this category, including clinical and basic scientists, general practitioners, junior doctors, nurses, physiologists and all subspecialties of cardiovascular medicine.

Together with our affiliated societies, the BCS shares a broader mission to improve the care for patients with cardiovascular disease and form a powerful voice for UK cardiovascular health care professionals.

### Our Mission

- To set standards of clinical excellence for the benefit of patients
- Be committed to enhancing and maintaining the highest standards in training, education and research
- To be the primary source of professional advice and advocacy in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease, and engage with government, patient groups, research councils, funding bodies and industry
- To deliver these objectives in collaboration with patients, the wider public, and partner organisations
- To be an exemplar organisation in our professional values and commitment to equality and diversity

### Commitment

The BCS is strongly committed to creating a culture of excellence, which fosters progress and development through its relationships with a variety of partner organisations and the public. It is vital that as an organisation it maintains the confidence and trust of its many stakeholders.

*'Promoting excellence in cardiovascular care'*

#### Affiliated Societies

Arrhythmia Alliance (A-A)  
Association for Inherited Cardiac Conditions (AICC)  
British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS)  
British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (BACPR)  
British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care (BANCC)  
British Atherosclerosis Society (BAS)

British Cardio-Oncology Society (BCOS)  
British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS)  
British Congenital Cardiac Association (BCCA)  
British Heart Rhythm Society (BHRS)  
British Heart Valve Society (BHVS)  
British Junior Cardiologists' Association (BJCA)  
British Nuclear Cardiology Society (BNCS)

British Society for Cardiovascular Imaging (BSCI)  
British Society for Cardiovascular Research (BSCR)  
British Society for Heart Failure (BSHF)  
British Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (BSCMR)  
British Society of Echocardiography (BSE)  
Cardiovascular Care Partnership (UK) (CCPUK)  
Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST)

As part of this commitment, a set of values and behaviours has been developed which represent the BCS.

### **Aims**

- To create a culture of excellence which embraces diversity and inclusivity
- To create an environment where individuals feel safe and supported at all times
- To build partnerships amongst the BCS' members and the wider community
- To build awareness that the BCS will not tolerate any form of bullying, harassment or discrimination

### **Scope**

This policy will apply to all members. A similar Code of Conduct is already in place for BCS staff.

### **Summary Statement**

All persons in their interactions with the BCS or its affiliates have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be free from intimidation or harassment.

### **Professionalism**

- All persons acting for or on behalf of the BCS must recognise that they are representing a professional society and behave in a manner which reflects this
- All members must adhere to their regulatory bodies professional guidelines and code of conduct
- Persons acting for or on behalf of the BCS should attempt to set an example of model behaviour to colleagues and members of the public. This includes, but is not limited to, behaviour at meetings, courses, the Annual Conference and other BCS events
- On social media, members should carefully consider what they publish and be aware when mentioning membership of the BCS, that the BCS may view this and take action to prevent disrepute, which may include suspension, expulsion and legal action

### **Creating a Culture of Inclusion**

The BCS welcomes and celebrates the diversity of its members.

- All members must work to embed equality and diversity in the culture and business of the BCS
- All members are personally accountable for being respectful and considerate of the needs and beliefs of others
- The BCS actively encourages application for elected office, involvement in Annual Conference arrangements and other educational activities from under-represented groups amongst its membership

### **Harassment**

Harassment is defined by the Equality Act (2010) as unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity, or

creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.

- This policy extends to any event involving members of the BCS – professional and social
- No person interacting with the BCS should be treated in a manner which results in violation of their dignity
- No person interacting with the BCS should be exposed to harassment in any form as a result of action (or inaction) by a representative of the BCS
- Any person reporting such an interaction (to any member) must be taken seriously and encouraged to report this formally, both to the BCS and to the appropriate agency
- The BCS will provide support for individuals who raise or report concerns
- The BCS will investigate and follow up all reports of harassment

Dr Cara Hendry,  
BCS Council representative for Women in Cardiology

Dr Andrew Wragg,  
Vice President for Clinical Standards

**Created:** September 2018

**Review date:** September 2021