



British Cardiovascular Intervention Society Recommendations For Professional Behaviour

Introduction

The British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS) is the professional body representing interventional cardiology in the United Kingdom and abroad. BCIS members include consultant cardiologists, trainee cardiologists, and allied health professionals including nurses, radiographers, and cardiac physiologists.

BCIS members have a responsibility to represent the speciality with professionalism, both in terms of their care and consideration for patients, and in terms of their interactions with other BCIS members. This responsibility is particularly pertinent in the context of BCIS activities - professional, educational, and social.

BCIS would like to have guidelines for the professional standards expected of its members. These apply to the content and conduct of educational activities, including lectures and debates, angiogram review sessions, case-based discussions and live or taped case demonstrations. They also apply to behaviour in general, and most specifically to interaction with other BCIS members and non-BCIS individuals, especially those who may be considered 'junior' in professional status.

Educational Activities

BCIS holds a number of educational conferences and other activities, at which audiences may be wide-ranging, including consultants, trainees, allied health professionals, industry representatives, patients, members of the general public, and journalists. Material from these meetings is published on the BCIS website where it may be accessed by the general public, and can find its way into the broader public domain.

The following recommendations are given:

1. Speakers should carefully consider the content of their presentations, and should not use material that may cause gratuitous offence. Successful lectures engage with the audience through a combination of fact, opinion and humour. However, the use of material that may offend or embarrass sections of an audience is not appropriate.
2. Presentations may also include discussion of complications that cause morbidity and mortality. Critical review of these cases is an essential component of education and needs to be conducted in a supportive atmosphere to ensure that members are willing to present failures as well as successes.
3. Presentations should not include clinical material that may allow patient identification. Recorded imaging may be used provided that the material is

anonymised. Consent should be obtained for any content that cannot be anonymised.

4. Speakers should disclose potential conflicts of interest. These may include grants or research support, consulting fees or honoraria, share ownership, intellectual property rights, or other financial benefits. These should be declared through appropriate channels according to the practice of the relevant meeting – in practice this often involves a declaration on the second slide of a presentation.
5. Written informed consent should be obtained from all patients participating in live case demonstrations. Full guidance on the conduct of live case demonstrations has been produced previously, and is available on the BCIS website.

General Behaviour

In addition to behaviour during educational activities, BCIS members should also consider the need for high standards of professional behaviour in the context of the social activities which are an integral element of BCIS events. This includes formal events such as BCIS dinners and Council dinners, but also informal settings such as coffee and lunch breaks, the hotel bar, and any other social environment within the framework of a BCIS meeting. Professional behaviour should also extend to non-BCIS events where members are present in a professional context, such as external conferences. Acceptance of these standards of behaviour is implicit when accepting complimentary hotel accommodation received as either faculty or as part of BCIS membership.

Speeches and General Conversation

Social ‘banter’ is core to many BCIS events, and the Society is rightly proud of the wit and good humour that its members possess. However, conversation can cross the line into inappropriate discussions that can cause offence to others who are present. BCIS members should be aware that they have a responsibility not to engage in offensive chat, jokes, or anecdotes.

Social Behaviour

Sexual harassment is unfortunately present in many working environments, including professional societies. BCIS is not immune to this problem. The vast majority of Consultant Cardiologists are male and therefore females in particular have been vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour, unsolicited advances and even harassment. BCIS Council wishes to make it clear that it regards such behaviour as completely unacceptable. Inappropriate behaviour should be reported to the Professional Standards Committee (which consists of the President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Clinical Standards Lead) or to any other member of BCIS Council who could bring the matter to the Professional Standards Committee on their behalf.

BCIS Council, 3 July 2018