



Application statements for the Newborn Brain Care Group (BAPM special interest group) Committee 2026

Role – Chair

Instructions

BAPM has received the following application statements from members wishing to join the Committee in the role of CHAIR.

Please read the statements and cast your vote using the online form by **11:59pm, 2nd August 2026**. All Newborn Brain Care Group members will be emailed a link to the form to vote. If you have not received this, please contact bapm@rcpch.ac.uk

Votes will be counted by BAPM Office staff and will be treated with complete confidentiality.

Chair (2 applications)

Topun Austin

Consultant Neonatologist, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Throughout my career brain oriented care for newborn infants has been a fundamental part of my clinical work, research and teaching. As a Consultant Neonatologist in Cambridge since 2008, I established the Rosie NeuroNICU, a dedicated neonatal neurocritical care service, introducing therapeutic hypothermia, continuous EEG/aEEG monitoring and a joint neonatal-neurology clinic in Cambridge. More recently I have been closely associated with the Next Generation Children project, bringing rapid whole genome sequencing to high-risk infants in the NICU. My research has been focused on developing novel monitoring and imaging technologies for high-risk infants and have applied these to study the importance of sleep and carer-infant interaction on early brain development. As Course Director of the BPNA NeoNATE course and a director of the Cambridge Perinatal Group, I run accredited national training in neonatal neurology, cranial ultrasound and neuroprotection—equipping me to lead brain-orientated care for newborns across the UK.

I have considerable experience working with multidisciplinary, multiorganizational teams at regional, national and international levels, including:

- Member of the BAPM working group for therapeutic hypothermia for neonatal encephalopathy (2020).
- Chair of the BAPM working group for the joint framework on neonatal brain MRI, with BSNR, BPNA and SOR (2023).
- Lead for neonatal neuroprotection in the East of England; with Health Foundation funding, I developed an award winning regional service - one of the first to provide active cooling on transport (2010–2024).
- Active member of the Newborn Brain Society, serving on its Communication and Networking committee and European Task Force.
- Trustee for EiSMART and patron of the Brazelton Centre, UK, reflecting my interest in early intervention to improve outcomes.

In 2024 I established a UK working group on newborn brain care, since adopted by BAPM as a special interest group. I am therefore well placed to chair this new SIG.

Hana Damra

ST5 Paediatric Trainee, University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust

In my role as a neonatal registrar, I have worked across different levels of neonatal units in the UK (NICU, LNU and SCU), gaining practical experience in delivering brain-orientated care. I also developed early experience in this area during my work in Jordan, where I was involved in starting therapeutic cooling and using aEEG monitoring. In daily practice, I focus on protecting the baby's brain by maintaining stable temperature, glucose and oxygen levels, and by reducing pain, stress and handling. I support developmental care by promoting a calm environment and involving parents as much as possible. I have experience recognising and managing conditions such as hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy and neonatal seizures, including involvement in cooling and neurological monitoring. I work closely with the multidisciplinary team and aim to follow BAPM guidance to improve long-term outcomes.

END OF STATEMENTS