



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

Role – Treasurer

Instructions

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

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.

Treasurer (5 applications)

Nusra Marikkar

Senior Clinical Fellow, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

I am a neonatal clinician with over 13 years of experience working in Level 3 NICUs across Sri Lanka, Oman, and the United Kingdom. I have worked in several tertiary neonatal units in Sri Lanka and in two of the largest hospitals in Oman, gaining extensive experience in the care of critically ill and preterm infants.

Since May 2025, I have been working in the Level 3 NICU at Derriford Hospital, UK. I have completed MRCPCH and the Diploma in Child Health (DCH). I have also completed training in neonatal cranial ultrasound scanning and independently perform and interpret cranial ultrasound scans within the unit.

I am committed to delivering high-quality neonatal care, continuous professional development, and improving outcomes for newborns and their families. I would be honoured to be part of BAPM and contribute my international experience, clinical skills, and enthusiasm to support excellence in neonatal care. I had completed a research in Khoula hospital, Oman in HIE, cooling babies. Largest retrospective study of 20years and published in journal children in 2025.

Nazakat Merchant

Consultant Neonatologist, Watford General Hospital

I am a Consultant Neonatologist with 12 years of consultant experience and a longstanding clinical, academic and leadership interest in newborn brain care. My work spans all aspects of brain-orientated care, including neurological assessment, neuromonitoring (aEEG), neuroimaging, therapeutic hypothermia, neuroprotection, developmental care and neurodevelopmental follow-up. I have delivered regional education programmes in neonatal neurology, neuroimaging and neuroprotection, and have led quality improvement initiatives to enhance developmental care and neurodevelopmental outcomes. I have previously been an NIHR academic clinic lecturer at King's College London. My research has focused on neonatal neuroprotection and neuroimaging. I completed my MD (Res) degree and did the first clinical trial on Melatonin for Neuroprotection in preterm infants. I led and initiated active cooling in my hospital and have recently presented a QI on therapeutic hypothermia at the recent JENS conference. I have been a Bayleys 4 assessor and currently the PI for WHEAT and NEOGASTRIC studies.

I have contributed to national and regional multidisciplinary teams focused on brain health, neurodevelopment and service improvement. I have been involved in BAPM framework groups, including Neonatal Neuroimaging, Safe and Effective Repatriation and Optimal Medical Workforce. These roles have enabled me to work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams, building consensus and delivering practical guidance to improve neonatal care.

I co-chaired the East of England Baby Brain Protection Group and currently chair the Neurodevelopmental Follow-up Workstream. Until recently, I was the Research Workstream Lead for British Association for Neonatal Neurodevelopmental Follow up (BANNFU) and have been involved with BANNFU since its inception, giving me valuable experience in establishing and developing a successful national Special Interest Group. In addition, I have secured funding for developmental care initiatives, including cerebral function monitoring, kangaroo care chairs and gel pillows, demonstrating my ability to translate ideas into sustainable improvements for babies and families.

Nipa Mitra

Consultant Neonatologist, East and North Hertfordshire Trust

As a consultant neonatologist with training and experience in neonatal intensive care in the UK and internationally (India and France), I have extensive experience caring for critically ill newborn infants with a wide range of neurological conditions. My academic interests include neonatal neurology and neuromonitoring. I contributed to the set-up of a clinical trial in neonatal seizures and completed a Master's dissertation entitled "Towards a More

Stratified Approach to the Diagnosis and Management of Neonatal Seizures". This strengthened my understanding of evidence-based approaches to neonatal brain monitoring, diagnosis and management. In addition, through over 12 months' experience with a regional neonatal transport service, I have stabilised and transferred infants requiring specialist neurocritical and neurosurgical care. This has provided valuable insight into the importance of timely, coordinated brain-orientated care and its impact on both short- and long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes.

I currently co-chair a regional Baby Brain Care focus group within an Operational Delivery Network alongside the Lead Neuroprotection Nurse, working collaboratively with multidisciplinary stakeholders to improve neonatal neuroprotective care. I have contributed to several national working groups and committees, including serving as a case reviewer for the NCEPOD Emergency Procedures in Children review (2025), local unit representative on the BAPM Working Group for the Management of Neonatal Pain and Agitation (2025), and a member of the BAPM Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group developing publication standards (2023). As Chief Resident and participant in the Judge Business School Leadership Development Programme, I developed project management, organisational and stakeholder-engagement skills. I also led and supported quality improvement projects that resulted in presentations at national and international meetings, including BAPM and EAPS, demonstrating strong organisational, communication and collaborative working skills across multidisciplinary teams.

Aesha Mohammedi

Consultant Neonatologist, Royal Sussex County Hospital

As a consultant neonatologist for almost 6 years with an interest in neurodevelopment, I have acquired wealth of experience in newborn brain. Being a co-lead for BANNFU educational workstream and keen in neonatal neurology, neuroprotection and development, I aspire to work collaboratively with the NBC group and promote evidence-based, consistent and equitable brain-orientated care for all neonates. Neonatal Neurology and Neuroprotection- I strongly feel that reducing brain injury using evidence-based practice potentially reduces the risk of neurodevelopmental delay. My published MSc work in developing an IVH care bundle was not only adapted as a guideline by the Yorkshire and Humber ODN but also applied it via QI methodology and teaching to reduce IVH severity rates at Leeds. Currently leading on formulating a south-east IVH care bundle. Neurodevelopment: I am currently leading a KSS neurodevelopment follow-up MDT working group and have been successful in embedding monthly ODN MDT general movement assessment(GMA) meetings.

As a Sussex Neonatal lead and neurodevelopment follow-up lead at Brighton, I integrate and collaborate with diverse team of multi-professionals to promote shared learning objectives. Being a qualified PGCE educator, FICare advocate, MSc graduate with merit and silver accredited in QI training at the Improvement academy, I successfully embedded using GMA at workplace I am dedicated to improve patient outcomes, quality and standards of care, effectiveness, safety, patient(family) experience, timeliness and equity. Leading onto development of IVH care bundle frameworks at two ODN's and leading onto two patient-safety QI projects (to reduce unplanned extubations and medication errors, highlighted on risk register) helped me promote optimisation of newborn brain health for lifelong benefit. Chairing the emerging KSS Neurodevelopment follow-up working group, I oversee terms of reference, formulate strategies and workstreams. By working with NBC-SIG committee, I am committed to raise the profile of newborn brain care and deliver world-class clinical care.

Rebecca Ollerenshaw

Senior Neonatal Clinical Research Fellow, St Mary's Hospital ORC, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

As well as my clinical experience as a resident doctor caring for medical and surgical babies with brain injury, I am also gaining research and clinical delivery experience in this area. I am currently out of programme for research; employed as a senior neonatal research fellow where my area of study is brain-oriented care. I am conducting a systematic review of neuroprotective bundles for IVH prevention, overseeing local running of the ACUMEN trial (Phase 1 IV Melatonin for babies with HIE), supporting education and recruitment to the COMET trial (Cooling in

mild encephalopathy) and am developing a PhD proposal to explore neuroprotection bundles and dysglycaemia in HIE. As part of this I am abreast of the current literature in bundles of care for HIE and IVH. I am also working with the Northwest neonatal ODN cooling and neuroprotective trauma-informed FiCare special interest groups to improve brain-oriented care across the region.

I am a member of the Northwest neonatal ODN cooling special interest group and attend meetings, contributing to planning and implementation of ODN projects. I'm currently co-ordinating a regional HIE and cooling audit. I have gained buy-in and collaboration with clinicians and ANNPs at 22 units across the Northwest region. I am personally overseeing the data collection which is ongoing and is expected to be complete by the end of this quarter. I have developed a work programme and project plan, mapping out the data analysis, identification of variation in practice and pathway for QI development and implementation. I have always received excellent feedback on my communication skills. As part of my work for the group, I have needed to liaise and build rapport with data analysts, administrative project co-ordinators, parent representatives as well as clinical and nursing ODN leads to drive the project forwards.

END OF STATEMENTS