



## Behavioural and Social Sciences Teaching in Medicine (BeSST)

### CONSTITUTION

#### Mission and Objectives

Positively influencing social and behavioural sciences in medical education to enhance the care of patients and populations.

1. To champion social and behavioural sciences in advocacy, policy and practice in medical education through active engagement with individuals and organisations.
2. To engage in research and scholarly activity related to social and behavioural sciences teaching in medicine.
3. To foster a community of practice for social and behavioural scientists in medical education.
4. To facilitate the exchange of expert knowledge and experience on learning, teaching and assessment relating to social and behavioural sciences within medicine.

#### Membership

Membership is open to all those involved with the research or delivery of teaching and learning in the behavioural and social sciences in medical schools, and other cognate groups. This includes psychologists, sociologists, educationalists and anthropologists with varying degrees of responsibility for design and delivery of programmes of teaching & learning for medical undergraduate students and post-graduate medical training.

Membership is open to individuals (clinical, academic or academic related staff, under/postgraduate students and interested others) from all countries with an interest in or expertise in the above

#### Fees/Membership grades

Individual Membership is free of charge, but a fee might be charged for conference/workshop attendance

There are 2 categories of membership –1. ordinary member of the network (will receive emails, can check website, attend events and 2. committee member (serve as representatives of the wider BeSST membership.

### Elected committee

To comprise Co-Chairs who between them distribute responsibility for finances and secretary duties, committee members with general and thematic responsibilities (e.g. psychology and sociology), committee members leading task and finish groups and other co-opted members as appropriate for specific tasks such as leading working groups. The BeSST committee should always endeavour to include a patient / service user advocate.

### Committee elections

All members of BeSST are eligible to stand for the committee.

The committee will be elected through a call for nominations, voting and elections if posts are contested. Voting will take the form of a ballot, to be co-ordinated by the secretary.

Committee members will usually serve for 3 years in the first instance. Committee officers are eligible for re-election to the same position.

### Committee procedures

The committee will conduct discussions and other official business as appropriate. All minutes will be reviewed and signed off by the chair as an official record of BeSST business and communicated to members of the network

Other members might be invited to meetings for discussion of particular issues as and when they arise

### Committee meetings

The committee will meet up to 3 times per annum, and hold an annual general meeting once a year, (to which all members of the network will be invited) at which committee members will be formally elected, and all activity for that year presented.

### BeSST communication

Minutes of committee meetings will be disseminated by the Committee to all members.

### Finances

The Co-Chairs have responsibility for managing the finances of BeSST, and will maintain financial records. Income will be paid into a community bank account. Co-Chairs will be signatories of the account.

### Constitutional changes

Members will be consulted and majority agreement of those present at the AGM necessary before change

Changes will be officially approved at the AGM