

Dr Nigel Beckett



Nominee Election Year - 2007

Nominee Title & Institution - Consultant Physician in Ageing and Health

Nominee's Personal Statement –

I have actively contributed to BIHS meetings for over 20 years and been a member of the society for over 15.

My day job is that of a consultant geriatrician at Guys and St Thomas' (GSTT) and have a focus on cardiovascular health in older adults with a specific interest in hypertension. I have a very active clinical workload in geriatric medicine and general internal medicine and have recently taken on the role of clinical lead for adult hypertension services at GSTT. This has included setting up a specialist clinic for older adults with hypertension.

I have an established track-record of research in hypertension in older adults spanning 25 years. It started in 1998 from co-ordinating first the pilot and then the main Hypertension in the Very Elderly Trial (HYVET), the results of which have influenced guidelines world-wide in respect to the management of hypertension in those aged 80 of over. Since its publication in 2008, I have continued to develop this interest with a greater focus on those living with frailty and hypertension as a risk for dementia.

I have held numerous leadership positions, including Clinical Lead for the acute older persons service at GSTT where I set up the GSTT acute frailty service in 2015; Clinical Director (2019 - 2023) where I lead an unparalleled, multi-specialty response to the pandemic across our emergency floor and inpatient wards, achieving the lowest recorded mortality from Covid-19 for any NHS Acute Trust; am currently co-chair of the GSTT Reduction in Single-use Plastics working group and was recently elected as a Clinical Governor to our Council of Governors.

At a sector level, I have previously been the Lead for the South London Local Clinical Research Network for Ageing and am currently a member of the Lambeth Steering Committee for a Renal-Cardio-Metabolic Pathways Project which forms part of a South East London approach to developing a new multi-morbidity model of care.

I am an invited Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology for my work on Hypertension since 2010 and was a member of the NICE guidelines committee for the 2022 update of the

hypertension guidelines. I am currently a member of the NICE guidelines committee updating those on chronic heart failure. I am also an executive member of the British Geriatric Society Cardiovascular Specialist Interest Group supporting the delivery of annual meetings but with a focus of linking with other specialist societies.

Therefore, I feel I can bring to the committee a great deal of experience of hypertension particularly in relation to older adults and those living with frailty, an understanding of complex systems and initiating successful change, an awareness of guideline development and a track-record in leadership to delivery innovation. I also can provide something at a patient perspective of health care systems having experienced a prolonged (7-weeks) admission on a surgical ward in 2022 with the subsequent need for 5 months of home parental nutrition.

Away from medicine, I enjoy cooking and rehome retired greyhounds.

Nominated by – Professor Albert Ferro, Professor of Cardiovascular Clinical Pharmacology, KCL
Supporting Statement –

I am delighted to support Nigel's application to the Executive Committee. Nigel has been a BIHS member for over 2 decades, has made seminal contributions to the literature as regards hypertension management in older patients, and has given talks at a number of conferences (including at BIHS) related to his work. He now leads our hypertension service at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, and has a great deal of experience in a variety of other management roles. His appointment will be a great asset to the Committee in taking the work of the BIHS forward.

Supported by – Dr Andrew Webb, Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant Clinical Pharmacology
School of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine & Sciences, King's College London

Supporting Statement –

Nigel has contributed extensively to the field of Hypertension in the elderly and frail (e.g., HYVET), and to the Society for over 2 decades. He is highly actively engaged clinically, with multiple lead roles, including taking on the clinical lead role of our hypertension service in the last year for which he's been immensely supportive. Nigel's attributes and experience mean that he is ideally placed to support the growth and development of the Society.

Seconded by - Phil Chowienyck, Professor of Clinical Cardiovascular Pharmacology & Vice
President of the BIHS

Supporting Statement –

Nigel is a longstanding member of the BIHS who has led seminal work on management of hypertension in the elderly and frail. This remains challenging and Nigel's expertise will help guide the research agenda of the BIHS in this area. Nigel's experience in leadership and innovation in health care systems across primary and secondary care will help the Society increase its profile with regard to the importance of hypertension management within the wider NHS.