G1 Advocate Policy

The Vision is to ensure equitable access to optimal care for patients with all thoracic malignancies in the UK and Ireland. The Mission is to support and educate health care professionals, creating a professional community to exchange ideas, information and innovation and to foster the development of research. The overall aim is to represent the needs of patients and improve their outcomes.

BTOG recognises the importance of input from advocates in improving outcomes for lung cancer and mesothelioma patients and therefore welcomes advocates involved in thoracic oncology to attend the educational events that it holds for health care professionals. BTOG defines advocates as those who sit on clinical studies or trial management groups, advisory boards/groups or other related groups related to lung cancer or mesothelioma. Details for events will be sent in a timely manner through BTOG steering committee members, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, Mesothelioma UK, National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses (NLCFN), the NCRI Lung Clinical Studies Group, UKLCC, British Thoracic Society, British Lung Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Support to cascade to thoracic oncology advocates.

BTOG Annual Conference
BTOG will reserve up to 10 places for advocates to attend the annual conference. These places are fully funded as follows:

- Free registration for the full conference (including the conference dinner) – a registration link for advocates will be available from 1st September.
- Up to 2 nights at the venue hotel – this can be booked through the BTOG secretariat and 1 or 2 night’s bed and breakfast will be covered by BTOG. Please note accommodation should be booked with BTOG by very latest 4th January. After this date, accommodation will be strictly subject to availability. If you wish to cancel accommodation booked by BTOG please do let BTOG know as soon as you can to limit BTOG’s liability for the accommodation costs. Any additional nights to the 2 nights covered by BTOG should be booked direct with the hotel and this will be subject to the hotel’s cancellation fees – discounted hotel rates for BTOG annual conference are subject to availability.
- Travel costs (flight, taxi etc) can be reclaimed to maximum of £150 total claim. Travel should be booked by the individual and is reclaimable following the conference on completion of a BTOG claim form and provision of receipts by those who attend the conference. In the event of non-attendance, costs incurred should be claimed from the individual’s own travel insurance.
- Some of the sessions during the annual conference are sponsored symposia held by pharmaceutical companies, whose professional code of practice, the ABPI regulations, limit symposia attendance to healthcare professionals. Therefore, these symposia will be sessions for healthcare professionals only. Of course, advocates are welcome to attend all other sessions at the annual conference.

BTOG Advocates Meeting at the BTOG Annual Conference
To be held on Wednesday at 15:00 to 17:00. This will be a closed meeting not open to all BTOG delegates and will be led by representatives from the BTOG steering committee, Mesothelioma UK, National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses and the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.
The remit of the meeting will be to:-
- Provide an informal educational opportunity for advocates.
- Provide insight into current issues in lung cancer and mesothelioma.
- Provide opportunity to feedback about the BTOG annual conference.

BTOG Educational Events
- BTOG will reserve places for advocates to attend other educational events held during the year.
- Free registration for the event.
- Advocates will be able to apply for travel bursaries where available in the same manner as other delegates.

Note: ABPI regulations restrict pharmaceutical representatives sharing information about unlicensed drugs to non-healthcare professionals during sponsored symposia or at exhibition stands. Therefore, name badges will clearly show “Advocate”. Advocates will be notified of this restriction and exhibitor sponsors will be informed if advocates are attending.