



## **British Thoracic Oncology Group BTOG Position Statement 2016**

This document provides the brief background of BTOG and achievements to date and confirms BTOG's Core Principles and Key Activities. A document detailing the future strategic plan for BTOG is in development and will be available in 2017.

**BTOG's Vision is to ensure equitable access to optimal care for patients with all thoracic malignancies in the UK and Ireland.**

**BTOG's 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's Values**

- We are committed to achieving our mission and vision.
- We are proud to be an important part of the thoracic oncology professional community.
- We work collaboratively with other groups who in their own ways are also striving to improve outcomes for this group of patients or reduce the prevalence of lung cancer e.g. relating to smoking cessation.
- We listen to our stakeholders to ensure what we do is relevant and effective.
- We maintain a highly professional level of independence from any single external commercial organisation.
- We hold patients at the centre of everything we do.

## BTOG's Background and Achievements

The concept of developing a British Thoracic Oncology Group to focus on lung cancer and mesothelioma was first discussed at two meetings, one on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2001 in San Francisco, USA, the second in London on the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> February 2002. It was felt at these meetings that there was a definite need for the development of a multi-disciplinary UK lung cancer and mesothelioma research group and the British Thoracic Oncology Group was established in 2002 by the Founding Chair, Professor Ken O'Byrne.

The British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) is now *the* multi-disciplinary group for health care professionals involved with thoracic malignancies in the UK and Ireland. BTOG represents all the disciplines involved in thoracic malignancies throughout the UK and Ireland – medical and clinical oncologists, respiratory physicians, surgeons, radiotherapists, radiologists, pathologists, nurses, pharmacists, primary care community smoking cessation, public health and scientists.

BTOG was formally launched through the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in February 2003 held in Leicester with more than 250 delegates attending. Since then the BTOG **Annual Conference** has become known within the thoracic oncology specialty as *the* thoracic oncology educational event to attend in the calendar year and now attracts up to 800 delegates.

To date BTOG has also:

- Provided **Study Days** on a variety of specialist areas, recent examples of which include Small Cell Lung Cancer; Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer; Mesothelioma; Bone Disease; Performance Status, Thoracic Neuroendocrine and Cachexia;
- Provided a Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma **Course** (annually from 2010 until 2015 and biennially from 2017 onwards);
- Provided **Networking** and a **Professional Community** to encourage and foster clinical trial development and recruitment;
- Reviewed **NICE Appraisals** for new drug therapies/technologies;
- Reviewed **Guidelines** for diagnosis, treatment and care and
- Shared thoracic oncology **News and Information** through regular e-circulations

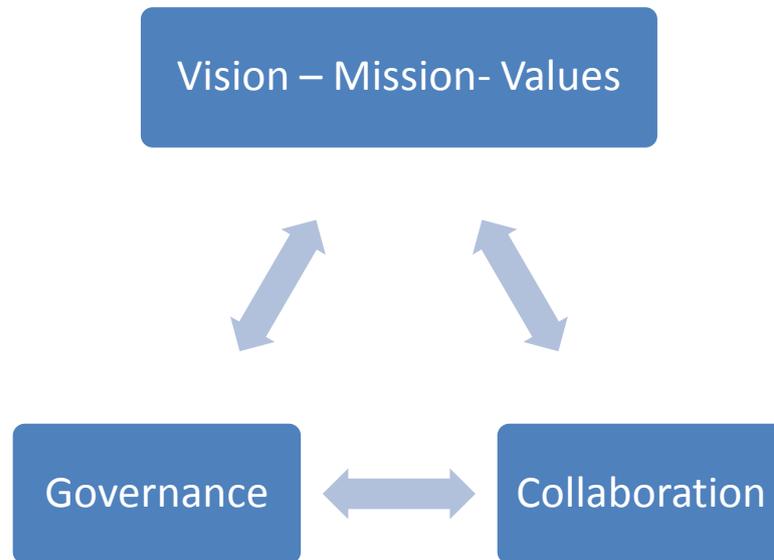
The basis of BTOG's activities to date has always been to support health care professionals and represent patients with the overall aim to improve outcomes for this range of cancers.

BTOG is kindly hosted by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust based at Glenfield Hospital. BTOG does not receive any funding from the NHS but is supported through sponsorship and educational grants from industry and registration fees. BTOG registered as an independent charity in March 2016 recognising the importance of appropriate governance, effective planning to deliver organisational aims and objectives thus acting with integrity and being open and accountable.

The current BTOG Board of Trustees includes a thoracic surgeon, two medical oncologists, a respiratory physician, a retired senior pharmaceutical professional, a senior policy figure from Cancer Research UK and a retired tax inspector. The Board of Trustees is responsible for safeguarding the values and purpose of BTOG and ensuring that activities contribute to achieving the objects of the charity and that BTOG follows its legal obligations. The Board of Trustees and Chair of the Steering Committee decide the policies, overall aims and objectives, priorities and strategy and monitors and evaluates progress and the Steering Committee supports those aims and objectives taking an active role in education and representation.

## BTOG's Core Principles

At the foundation of BTOG and underpinning its key activities are BTOG's core principles:



### Governance

BTOG recognises the importance of robust governance and will:

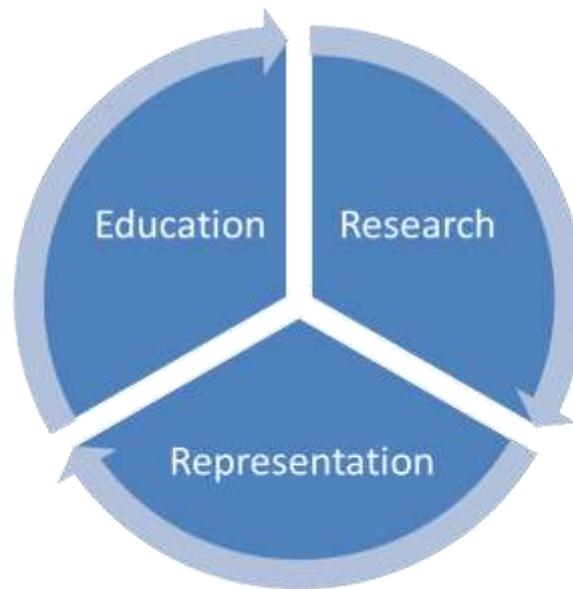
- Ensure the Board of Trustees includes thoracic oncology professionals and lay members.
- Develop appropriate policies and procedures for the Charity and Steering Committee.
- Ensure the Steering Committee represents the multi-disciplinary team.
- Work with external partners for communications/marketing/PR to develop social media, the website and other media to promote the organisation's aims and objectives and build positive reputations to enhance BTOG's profile amongst health care professionals and potential industry funders.

### Collaboration

BTOG recognises the importance of collaboration and will:

- Build relationships with national and international relevant groups and societies also striving to improve outcomes for this group of patients or reduce the prevalence of lung cancer e.g. relating to smoking cessation. Where appropriate formalise collaboration with these groups and societies either through formal membership or mutual agreement.
- Build relationships with relevant industry whilst always maintaining an independent and professional distance.
- Incorporate collaborative sessions into the annual conference programme and participate in collaborative sessions at other relevant meetings.

## BTOG's Key Activities



### Education

- Provide an **annual CPD education programme** of value to the whole multi-disciplinary team (MDT).
- Provide access to events for **advocates** who sit on thoracic oncology clinical studies or trial management groups, advisory boards/groups or other related groups.
- Ensure registration fees are **accessible to members of the MDT**.
- Provide an **education bursary** for the annual conference and other events where possible.
- Provide a **membership** for thoracic oncology health care professionals including access to useful resources (regular BTOG E-News; a website member only on-line resource; opportunity to participate in relevant research studies/questionnaires and provide an up-to-date calendar of thoracic oncology events).

### Research

- Provide **networking opportunities** at educational events and foster a **professional community** through its membership for the research community to develop clinical trials and other research.
- Provide workshops or stand-alone events for the sole purpose of **research development**.
- Circulate research surveys and questionnaires that **support relevant research**.
- Become a member of relevant **research groups** (e.g. European Thoracic Oncology Platform, Thoracic Alliance for Cancer Trials, International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer).

### Representation

- Review **NICE appraisals** for new drug therapies/technologies.
- Review appropriate **guidelines/policy documents**.
- Develop BTOG-own **guidelines/position documents**.
- **Participate** in other groups, sub-groups, committees and boards.
- **Represent patients** in any capacity it deems appropriate with the overall aim to improve outcomes or reduce the prevalence of lung cancer e.g. relating to smoking cessation.