



British Cardiovascular Society

'The Voice of UK Cardiology'

Enc. 8.3

VP for Professional and Society Values (Elect)

1 Candidate – Elected Unopposed

Louise Buchanan

Nominations:

Cara Hendry

Joanna Lim

Supporting Statement:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

I wish to stand for the position of Vice President for Professional and Society Values of the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) as I am committed to ensure all individuals working within the field of cardiology are equally represented. I am a Consultant Cardiologist within North Cumbria, working in this role since 2013. The Cumberland Infirmary is a rural district general hospital, serving a population of 350,000 and providing a 24/7 primary PCI service. Additionally, I have been in the role of Medical Director Professional Standards since 2023. I therefore understand the challenges that can arise within cardiology and how professional and society values are crucial for each and every one of us.

All individuals should have equality of access to training and development, regardless of their background. I have been an active member of the Women in Cardiology committee of the BCS since 2023 and have developed the webinar programme in conjunction with members. As the prior Chair of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) Women Committee 2020-2022 we had positive achievements, which included the implementation of 50% of EAPCI interventional fellowships to be awarded to women, to increase the percentage entering the sub-specialty. I have published 'Overcoming professional barriers encountered by women in interventional cardiology' in the European Heart Journal, assessing the challenges faced in this sub-specialty.

I have a strong leadership background and have won the European Society of Cardiology scholarship to complete the Women Transforming Leadership Programme through Oxford University. It is key that medical leadership is diverse and we remove barriers to career progression. Throughout my own career, I have built strong networks and worked collaboratively with my peers to promote women in cardiology and ensure sexism or discrimination of any kind are not tolerated in the workplace. I am currently deputy



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Responsible Officer for my Trust and address workplace issues including bullying and good medical practice concerns, all in a fair manner. I have been a Freedom to Speak Up ambassador and work with the EDI team within my Trust to ensure inclusivity. Moreover, I previously was the non-surgical centre representative of the BCS and understand the differing challenges for individuals working in these settings.

In my role on the Executive Board of EAPCI as Treasurer, I have developed position statements and engaged collaboratively with senior clinical leaders, considering also the environmental footprint and sustainability across our activities. I remain involved in clinical research and continue to be invited faculty at both national and international cardiology conferences.

It is important that as professionals working within the field of cardiology, we support the BCS and the mission to set standards of clinical excellence for the benefit of patients and maintain the highest standards and good practice. We must also ensure a sustainable future for our specialty. I have the enthusiasm, skills and motivation to be Vice President for Professional and Society Values in the BCS.