

TEACHING PROGRAMME

BSSH/BAHT LION and Global Hand Teaching Programme

As part of our commitment to supporting the training of Hand Surgeons and Hand Therapists in Malawi, a working group from The British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH) and The British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) produced a comprehensive modular teaching programme, covering all aspects of Hand and Wrist Surgery and Therapy, now on its second round. A more detailed timetable as well as learning points, a variety of useful resources and slides can be found on the BSSH website under 'Global Hand Teaching Programme' [Global Hand Teaching Programme | The British Society for Surgery of the Hand](#)

The Modular Teaching Curriculum

Module	Sessions	APPROXIMATE DATES	MAIN TOPICS in Module
<u>1</u>	8	February - March 2026	BASIC SCIENCE OF THE UPPER LIMB
<u>2</u>	10	April - June 2026	TENDONS
<u>3</u>	10	July - August 2026	SOFT TISSUE COVER
<u>4</u>	13	September - December 2026	INFECTIONS AND TUMOURS
<u>5</u>	12	January - March 2027	FRACTURES + JOINT INJURIES OF THE HAND
<u>6</u>	17	April - July 2027	FRACTURES + JOINT INJURIES OF THE WRIST, FOREARM + ELBOW
<u>7</u>	10	August - October 2027	BURNS
<u>8</u>	13	November - January 2027	NERVE INJURIES AND TENDON TRANSFERS
<u>9</u>	13	February - May 2028	THE PAEDIATRIC HAND
<u>10</u>	8	June - July 2028	PAIN, PERCEPTION, PROFESSIONALISM AND RESEARCH

Each week, the BSSH Consultant delivers one of these modules and the LION Hand Fellows/Trainee take it in turns to present an interesting 'Hand Case of the Week' (not necessarily related to the module) to stimulate discussion and keep people engaged in the daily challenges of hand trauma management.

Regarding the Curriculum, we aimed to collate the best on-line global resources available at the time - with the support of colleagues representing The International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH), The Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) and The American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) - to provide the local trainees, consultants and therapists with a weekly package of advance learning materials prior to each session as well as support for the trainers.

We aim to email the advanced learning material for the next teaching session out to all the LION consultants, trainees and OCOs a week ahead of time - so since the trainees will have access to the same reading/viewing material as the trainers, hopefully all parties will have prepared the topic in advance! You can then design your teaching session to interactively revise the advance learning material however you choose, reinforcing the main learning points, with time for discussion and debate of relevant local clinical cases if possible.

We have also provided some MCQ books for you to use in Lilongwe as part of stretching the trainees— this is something that they have suggested would be useful to consolidate their learning.

Ideally, we are aiming for the volunteer team to deliver a protected 30-45 minute teaching session each week, currently on Tuesdays after the 7.30am handover. This is alongside the usual ad-hoc clinical teaching in out-patients, theatre and on the wards, as we would do in the NHS. Having said that, volunteers will need to be flexible about the timing and location of the teaching session, depending on the clinical workload each week. The target level of education is to bring the trainees up to the level of hand knowledge that would be expected to pass FRCS (Orth) or (Plast). Please encourage and invite the local consultants to assist in delivering the teaching session with you, if you sense that they would like to be involved, but there should be no pressure for them to do so.

We also ask you to collect weekly feedback on your teaching if you wish – for your own interest/portfolio and also for the LION Project records. We will provide you with a QR code for each session, linking to an electronic SurveyMonkey questionnaire which we would ask you to encourage all attendees to complete before they leave the session. This feedback

gives us both an idea of numbers and grade of surgeons/therapists able to attend and also whether we are meeting their needs and expectations.

Finally, as this is a 'work in progress' we would value your thoughts and feedback as a trainer, so please feel free to contact us (kate.owers@nhs.net) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the teaching programme, and we will do our very best to help you. In particular, if you find any useful material that we have not included, please let do us know, as the BSSH/BAHT are hoping that this new programme will become a useful and sustainable global resource for use in other low and middle income countries as The Global Hand Teaching Programme. It will continue to evolve and be refined over the next few years. We would therefore be extremely grateful for your support and input.