

## CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

GASTROINTESTINAL Physiology has a long association with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG). The Professional Body, the Association of GI Physiologists (AGIP) is a fully integrated section of the BSG. Diagnostic services in GI Physiology tend to be established in secondary and tertiary care centres and the departments work closely with gastroenterology, upper GI surgery, coloproctology and pelvic floor services.

GI Physiologists work autonomously over a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic specialities covering the whole of the GI tract from Oral to Anal Cavities. The work load varies from unit to unit but a large unit will see up to 1000 patients for each of the major investigation groups:-

- Upper GI manometry (pressure measurements) and ambulatory 24hr pH investigations
- Breath tests for helicobacter pylori and gut bacteria
- Ano rectal manometry, ultrasound for cancer staging and bowel re-training therapy.

The work entails all aspects of clinical care including triaging referrals; diagnostic analysis and clinical reporting that significantly contributes to patient prognosis; therapeutics to an extremely vulnerable patient cohort and post therapy counselling and follow up.

GI Physiologists are engaged in all aspects of equipment management: bench marking equipment performance requirements and calibration: procurement, commissioning and development in conjunction with manufacturers. GI Physiologists are also involved in setting the minimum data set required for the range of diagnostic investigations

Teaching and Training is a large part of the GI Physiologists responsibilities especially to the multidisciplinary professionals engaged in the wider aspects of Gastroenterology. GI Physiologists form an important part of the multi disciplinary team caring for patients with the range of gastroenterology conditions.

GI Physiologists are engaged at all levels of research and development: proposing and contributing to clinical trials; preparing ethics applications; recruiting volunteers and establishing experimental procedures. GI Physiologists submit conference abstracts for oral or poster presentation and also submit to national and international journals

They will contribute to various multidisciplinary teams for example; Colorectal pelvic floor teams, rectal cancer, gastro and neurogastroenterology, respiratory and upper GI surgery. GI Physiologists will intubate the GI tract with highly sophisticated 3D, high resolution technology including ultrasound and produce comprehensive assessments of patient's motility of the whole of the GI tract and assess anal sphincter integrity, stage rectal cancer and assess sepsis with the aid of endoluminal ultrasound.