Dear Sponsor,

The British Pain Society strives to support those living with and experiencing pain to stop the suffering. I am extremely proud to be the President and to lead the Society that has passion for the work that we do. At the British Pain Society we aim ultimately to stop suffering from pain, by enabling the best pain management for all, potentially improving the lives of millions of people within the UK that currently live with pain.

We are delighted to present you with a unique opportunity to make a difference today and therefore invite you to invest in our PAIN: LESS Campaign (less pain, less suffering).

Our work is reflected in our core values which are:

- Making Pain Visible
- Enabling Best Patient Care
- Supporting Effective Partnerships
- Informing Professional Excellence
- Investing for the Future

The NHS faces enormous public health problems. The British Pain Society supports those working with people living with and experiencing pain who face significant and growing demands on the services they provide.

Our goals are clear;

- Raise public awareness of the unnecessary and unmanaged pain in the UK and the damage it causes to both the population and the economy.
- Increase awareness of what The British Pain Society can to do to address the issue of pain and its impact.
- Raise funds to support The British Pain Society in pursuing its not-for-profit, charitable aims.

Here this prospectus explains what the British Pain Society does already and how by working with us we can achieve these aims together. We invite you to work with us to reduce the burden of pain.

Dr Andrew Baranowski
President, The British Pain Society
The Intractable Pain Society was formed in 1967.

Formal title changed to The Intractable Pain Society of Great Britain & Ireland in 1971.

The British & Irish Chapter of IASP was established in 1980.

The Intractable Pain Society of Great Britain & Ireland and the British & Irish Chapter of IASP joined together to become The Pain Society in 1988.

When Ireland became independent, the formal title changed to The British Pain Society in 2004.

History of the British Pain Society

In the beginning

The British Pain Society (BPS) has a unique place in the history of pain relief. The BPS was originally founded as the Intractable Pain Society in 1967, making it the oldest Society of its type anywhere in the world. It was given the formal title of ‘Intractable Pain Society of Great Britain and Ireland’ in 1971. The Society restricted membership initially to both medical and dental practitioners actively engaged in the therapy of intractable pain. Membership increased rapidly and international speakers and overseas guests were frequent at the annual meetings.

Development

Members of the Society played a pivotal role in the foundation of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) in 1974. The foundation of IASP led to considerable debate about the restricted membership of the Society. It was argued that the open membership approach of IASP was not only better, but mandatory for any Society with a multidisciplinary basis. However, as there was no immediate change to the ‘closed shop’ policy of the Pain Society, a British and Irish Chapter of IASP, open to all practitioners was founded in 1980. Whilst this never really attracted a large number of members, the Pain Society continued to expand, despite the restriction on who could join.

The futility of having two bodies serving the needs of those interested in pain in the British Isles was finally recognised in 1988. The Intractable Pain Society joined with the British and Irish Chapter of IASP and became a new body called The Pain Society. This was a truly multidisciplinary approach and saw increases in membership from a very wide range of disciplines reflected an expanding role for the new Society. When the Irish Pain Society became independent, the name of the Society was changed to its current format to reflect more accurately what and who it represents.
The Present day

Throughout its existence, the BPS has had a strong education role. From the modest beginnings of an Annual Scientific Meeting, the Society has developed Special Interest Groups and bonds with colleagues other than pain societies throughout the world. Members of the Society teach through the developing world and have been heavily involved in many international educational initiatives. This is not just in the field of clinical practice either. The Society has many members at the cutting edge of research in basic, clinical and behavioural sciences. In many cases these are scientists who are at the forefront of research activity throughout the world.

The BPS is one of the largest chapters in IASP. It has contributed Councillors and Officers to both IASP and the European Federation of Pain (EFIC) since the formation of both bodies. Through the committees and teaching initiatives of both bodies the BPS has a leadership role in research and clinical practice throughout the world. The BPS is at the forefront of political initiatives designed to bring pressure to bear on Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations which improve the funding and attention paid to the management of pain.

The Future

In 2017 we are delighted to be celebrating 50 years of leading in the field of pain awareness. Our recent studies have highlighted that chronic pain is a silent epidemic, affecting more than two fifths of the UK population, and around 28 million people are living with pain of variable severity that has lasted for three months or longer.

Our multidisciplinary approach is pivotal in making the BPS a uniquely relevant representative body on all matters relating to pain, advancing the understanding and management of pain for the benefits of patients and society.
The problem

NHS Wales and the Departments of Health for England and Scotland recognise chronic pain as a long-term condition in its own right though it can be a component of other long-term conditions.

What you may not know...

- 43.5% of the UK population experience chronic pain.
- Approximately 8 million report chronic pain that is moderate to severely disabling.
- Chronic pain is often deeply distressing: The 2008 Chief Medical Officer report states that 16% of sufferers feel their chronic pain is so bad that they sometimes want to die.
- Chronic pain is often highly disabling: A quarter of pain sufferers lose their jobs and live with a very poor quality of life, much worse than with many other conditions, and as bad as severe neurological diseases. One study on the burden of disease showed that low back pain is ranked highest out of 291 conditions for years lost to disability worldwide with four of the top 12 disabling conditions globally being persistent pain conditions.

Anthony Chuter, Chair of the Patient Liaison Committee of the British Pain Society, has had chronic pain for many years and invites you to imagine, for a moment, what it might be like to have pain every day. Imagine not being believed because you haven't got an injury to show, not being able to sleep, having to withdraw from you family and friends, losing your job, being anxious about the future, depressed and fatigued..... Now add that into the picture.
Imagine experiencing the worst pain ever

Now imagine living with that pain every day and not being able to get any help...

The British Pain Society needs your support. If you would like to help us fight pain please donate.

Together we can make a difference.

To donate, text PAIN40 and the amount to 70070 (e.g. for five pounds text, PAIN40 5).

All the money you donate goes to us. You may be charged for your text message. Please refer to your network operator’s standard rates.

We are open to shared partnership working with companies. Please contact us: www.britishpainsociety.org

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Image credit: iStock - Casarsa
Working together, multiprofessional specialist pain services can help and improve quality of life. But, there is so much more to do. An enormous gap exists between current and best treatment for people with pain and we need to know much more about the cause of pain, treatment to reduce pain and strategies to help people live well with their pain.

In short, we need your help.
The national problem and what needs to be done:

- In 2008, the then Chief Medical Officer for England, Sir Liam Donaldson, in his annual report identified pain as a major public health issue with a devastating impact on the lives of sufferers. He stated clearly what was required; “A major initiative to widen access to high-quality pain services would improve the lives of millions of people”.

- In 2010-2012 the BPS, was a major partner in a National Pain Audit to assess the availability and variance in pain services through Britain. The results of the National Pain Audit for England and Wales demonstrated that: “there was clear variation in provision of service and no agreed standards of care.” But “pain services can significantly help to improve quality of life..., the degree by which pain interferes with their lives... and, to a lesser extent, pain relief.”

Therefore, the care of patients appeared to be under resourced and arguably largely neglected.

The audit highlighted key measures that needed to be undertaken in the identification of services and, improvement of access and standards of care.
We have already begun this critical work:-

1. By supporting a study quantifying the burden of long term pain across the UK.

2. We have put patients first and involved them in their care. Our Patient Liaison Committee, first established in 2001, formed an online Patient Reference Group which currently has over 400 members, with whom we can consult. However, there are more than 5 million people with pain. This voice must grow.

3. We provide best practice guidance and publications for professionals and patients which help to support them. In order to reach out further however, we need to utilise up-to-date technology to make these materials more accessible.

4. In 2014 we set standards for timely access to appropriate treatment through the development of five Pain Patient Pathways; Initial assessment, Chronic Widespread Pain, Neuropathic Pain, Pelvic Pain and Low Back Pain. This has provided clear guidance to improve care. But, these need updating and many areas of pain still do not have clear guidance.

5. We have been a joint partner for our professional Core Standards published in 2015 with the Faculty of Pain Medicine. This provides detailed guidance on the care people require to inform commissioners and Government. But, patients need these messages to be heard and standards to be reached, maintained and improved.

6. We share knowledge and expertise through our multidisciplinary meeting, the Annual Scientific Meeting (celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2017). However, with a decrease in NHS training funds, we struggle to keep the costs to levels affordable for our trainee and lower paid groups. With sponsorship we can achieve this.

7. We supported research through our awards and starter grants. However, research in pain is complex. Funding for pain research is remarkably low in the UK compared with other disabling conditions. The future needs of patients are not being met currently. Help us to provide funding streams for our best research centres.

With your help and partnership we could achieve so much more...
Partner with The British Pain Society: A not for profit charity

The British Pain Society (BPS) believes in working in partnership with other organisations (private, voluntary and governmental) to improve the lives of people with pain.

The BPS is committed to being open, honest and transparent about how we receive our money and the way in which it is spent.

Please donate so we can work towards:

• No child living in pain
• Forgotten pain in cancer survivors
• Adults in devastating pain - suffering in silence
• Older adults suffering pain in isolation
• Reducing pain in amputees and war veterans
• Supporting long-term unemployed with chronic pain to have the confidence to return to work
• Pre-empting pain and introducing strategies to stop people developing persistent pain or reducing its impact early

By working in partnership with us, we are open to look at shared values and how we can provide a number of commercial benefits to your company

• A unique opportunity to share our strategic objectives
• Positive public relations
• Advertising opportunities
• Introduction to new audiences
• Added value of our Brand
• Staff motivation and team-building through fund-raising events
Ways you can help...

The British Pain Society is open to working in a transparent way with companies. Please consider the following:

Company donation
• Single donation
• Annual support

Fundraising
• Events
• Sponsorship
• Payroll giving
• Gifts in kind

Volunteering or internships
• Public Relations consulting
• Marketing & social media consulting
• Advertising initiatives
• Fundraiser
• Event’s organiser

Campaigns to build national pain awareness.

Or you can support us with specific aspects of our work:

• A one-off donation to sponsor one day of our annual conference
• Become a supporting partner to one or more issues of our research journal or newsletter communication
• Sponsor a specific item or work stream
  – Partner a themed conference
  – Develop/ disseminate new or updated care guidance publications
  – Develop and disseminate patient self-help applications or publications
  – Fund an important research project or award
• Make an annual financial contribution to support our core work portfolio to further our strategic aims
• Provide logistic support for the dissemination of the Society’s public awareness and fund-raising documents through your communication channels
• Partner us in Britain’s contribution to the 2018 ‘Global Year of Pain’ Education, an important Worldwide Pain initiative.
• Partner us in a 2018 “Ten years since the “Chief Medical Officer for England, Sir Liam Donaldson, annual report – what has changed and needs to still happen”.
The British Pain Society is the largest multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain within the UK.

Chronic pain is common, commonly distressing and commonly highly disabling. It is devastating for individuals who suffer. Many cannot work and lose their jobs.

Treatment of pain is a fundamental human right yet sadly, there is an enormous gap between the care people require and what happens in practice. We also do not know enough about the cause and treatment of pain.

Our alliance of professionals works collaboratively with patients and industry partners to advance the understanding and management of pain. We strive to reduce the suffering of people enduring daily pain.

**In partnership with you, we will stop this suffering.**

**Contact information**

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