

JAG welcomes NED committee chair Nigel Trudgill

JAG is delighted to welcome Professor Nigel Trudgill as NED committee chair – a role he steps into with experience as JAG research lead and a clear vision for the future of endoscopy data.

Nigel is a consultant gastroenterologist at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and has a multitude of roles both locally and nationally. He currently works as a clinical lead for the National Oesophagogastric Cancer Audit and the National Pancreatic Cancer Audit, as well as being an elected councillor on the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) Council, guidelines lead for the BSG Endoscopy Committee, and BSG upper GI endoscopy quality improvement lead. Locally, Nigel leads the bowel cancer screening programme and is the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust screening centre director.



Why Nigel chose the role

Before becoming NED committee chair, Nigel was previously working as the JAG research lead from 2023. While in this role, he collaborated closely with Matt Rutter, previous JAG chair, and Tom Lee, previous NED chair. He also supported the planning for the latest iteration of NED (NEDi2) by representing gastroenterologists. When asked about what attracted him to the NED chair role, Nigel explained that he was drawn by the opportunities to use NED data in research and quality improvement:

'I have seen the huge benefits of NED and what it could achieve from a research and quality improvement point of view, with data from virtually every endoscopy unit in the UK.'

Nigel believes that NED data are a great resource for ensuring that quality standards are met, particularly for colonoscopy, and he is keen for NED to be used to help improve quality in other endoscopy modalities:

'We can quality assure [colonoscopy] from NED. It's a great resource for that. But we also should use NED to benefit other kinds of endoscopy, like upper GI and ERCP.'

Looking ahead to the future of NED

When looking at future plans for NED, Nigel is eager to help improve the database as a tool for research, saying *'it's a tremendous resource now, and it can be even better in the future'*. He highlighted upcoming projects for the newest iteration of NED, such as the possibility of recording long-term outcomes, complications and pathology data:



‘In the future, we hope to be able to link data to what actually happens to the patient in terms of their outcomes and complications, which is really important in terms of quality assurance, and in terms of subsequent endoscopies as well. We hope to capture pathology data as well, so we can find out precisely what is found from these endoscopies.’

Nigel hopes that the next iteration of NED will be a powerful tool in helping to identify potentially missed cancers, a key concern for both clinicians and patients. When cancer is diagnosed in a patient who has previously had an endoscopy, the endoscopy service may not be informed about the potentially missed cancer. The next iteration of NED brings the possibility of looking back on data to see if a patient had an endoscopy within a certain period before diagnosis:

‘That’s just one aspect of hopefully being able to include identifiable data within NED that will make [the next iteration] powerful, because 20% of potentially missed cancer patients are diagnosed in a different hospital.’

Another future plan is the full roll-out of NED APRIQOT in JAG-registered services. APRIQOT is an automated performance report that uses NED data to evaluate endoscopy performance. It provides feedback on endoscopist and unit-level performance on polyp detection data, which, [during the trial phase](#), improved polyp detection. Nigel describes NED APRIQOT as ‘a very powerful tool to feedback to endoscopists, endoscopy leads and units about how they/their endoscopists are doing and how they could possibly do better’. He hopes to extend APRIQOT to other modalities in the future, such as ERCP and upper GI endoscopy.

JAG research lead vacancy

As the previous research lead, Nigel is proficient with the use of NED data in research and is well accustomed with the data processes used:

‘I learned far more about NED than I knew before, when I was just a user of a research resource. I understood the background to NED, its benefits, its limitations, and where we perhaps ought to take it from being in the research lead role.’

Now that he has joined NED as the committee chair, the research lead role is vacant, and JAG will shortly be opening the position to applicants. When asked about his experience in the role, Nigel said that it is a ‘[great role for those who have an interest in data science](#)’ and is an opportunity for researchers to gain some experience and discover what interests them:

‘The research lead role is an opportunity to learn more about NED and JAG. It’s just interesting being around NED and JAG at an exciting time when lots of intriguing things are going on and benefiting from that.’

We thank Nigel for taking time out of his busy schedule to introduce himself to our users. If you are interested in Nigel’s previous role as JAG research lead, the role will be advertised shortly on [the JAG website](#).

If you have any questions about the NED programme and wish to get in touch, contact us at askjag@rcp.ac.uk