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The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) Leadership Academy was established in 2019 to provide leadership skills to healthcare professionals. For 2021/2 the BCS Emerging Leaders Programme is being expanded to include cardiac physiologists/scientists and nurses who would benefit from developing the knowledge and skills to drive service improvement and importantly to provide professional leadership more widely in cardiology and the NHS. Applications are now invited to join the 2021/22 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Programme. This is a highly competitive programme. Prospective applicants must be (or become) BCS ordinary members and should be at the point of, or have recently achieved reaching consultant status within their discipline or for physiologists/scientists approaching or recently achieved HSST status.

The 2021/22 cohort of the BCS Emerging Leaders Programme will commence at the BCS virtual conference in June 2021 where the incoming cohort will be required to attend the virtual session that completes the 2020/21 cohort. The remainder of the programme will be delivered over a year involving the equivalent of 8 days. The precise format will be determined by the restrictions placed by the pandemic and is likely to be a mix of virtual and face to face sessions, which will be held at the BCS offices. The final (8th) day of the programme will be held at the BCS Annual Conference in 2021 where a celebratory dinner will be held as the cohort graduate. Successful applicants must commit to attend all course days of the cohort (supported by their Trust), as the group by design, is small and as some of the programme involves small group working, all must be present. Failure to attend, without extenuating circumstances, may result in removal from the programme. During the year each delegate will complete a service improvement project at their Trust and participate in a Healthcare Challenge with a small group on the Programme. These projects are competitive and will be presented at the BCS Annual Conference 2022 where attendance is expected.

A draft programme for the BCS Emerging Leaders Programme is attached. Please note this is an outline only and is subject to further review and potential modification, for example, the current plan assumes online delivery throughout with half day sessions, whereas face to face delivery would involve full days in London. The speakers are those for the 2020/21 programme and are not yet confirmed for 2021/2.

Please note that there is no charge for participation in the programme. For the final session in Manchester, delegates must register to attend the BCS meeting and are responsible for their own transport and hotel costs in the event of a face to face conference in 2022. Reasonable travel expenses will be refunded for any face to face London meetings in accordance with BCS travel policy.

How to apply:

Entry to the cohort is highly competitive and delegates will be selected by a panel on the basis of a two page CV and a 500 word statement which should include:

What experience you already have of the leadership of service change and quality improvement? What particular skills or experience can you bring to the programme?

How you will benefit from the programme?

What are your future career aspirations?

What are your initial thoughts about a subject for a service improvement project?

The BCS is keen to ensure that the cohort has gender and geographic diversity. Applications must be accompanied by a statement from your TPD or clinical director supporting your participation in the program and full attendance at all meetings of the cohort.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to executivepa@bcs.com by midnight on the 9th April 2021. Please mark the email subject as 'BCS Emerging Leaders Programme 2021/22'.

'The Voice of UK Cardiology'