



Full Name: Miss Samantha Hettige

Hospital and region: St George's Hospital, London

Subspecialty/ies: Paediatric neurosurgery

Role in SBNS council: Events and Meetings Secretary

Term: 2023-2025/7

Other roles: FRCS Question writer, Scientific chair of BPNG, Departmental Paediatric lead, ex Clinical governance lead, Conference organiser SBNS 2023 & BPNG 2022, ex BNTA SRTC rep

Demographic information: Female, forties, fortunate, friendly, fabulous, fearless, feisty

What was your journey that led you to SBNS council: I have been attending SBNS events for many years and always enjoyed them. I was then involved in the organisation of the SBNS hosted by my unit, a feat I found really delightful to help coordinate. I was looking for a post of responsibility outside of the NHS when Suzanne emailed out the position. Thanks to everyone who voted for me.

What are your aims/contributions to SBNS council? First and foremost, I will strive to make the SBNS meeting even better in all respects than they are currently. Hutch has already done an excellent job, so I've got big shoes to fill. I think international speakers bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. How "they do it" may increase our armamentarium and encourage lateral thinking.

I would also like to promote more face-to-face interactions at these meetings to forge stronger inter-departmental relationships, rekindle old friendships and facilitate movement for trainees between units through fellowships and word-of-mouth recommendations. I love the idea of reviving the senior trainees travelling club in line with this. I also believe in using industry for education to keep British neurosurgery at the forefront of the field.