



The Role of the President

The President is a **Director and Trustee** of the BNA. The President is therefore listed with both Companies House and the Charity Commission. The President's term of office is two years, following immediately from holding the office of President-Elect, and in turn followed by a further two years as Past President. For full details of election, period of office, resignation and all aspects of governance applying to the President and all Trustees, see the Articles and Rules of Association.

The President, as with all Trustees, is an unremunerated position.

Along with the BNA Treasurer and Secretary, the President is also an **Officer of the Association**. Charity officers don't automatically have extra powers or legal duties than their co-trustees, but do carry out specific roles and responsibilities delegated to them. The role of the BNA President is outlined here.

The President of the BNA is the figurehead of the BNA and should be a high-ranking individual within the UK neuroscience community with strong links to national, European and international neuroscience, as well as links to policy makers, biomedical charities and funding councils. The President shall represent the Association externally and shall be the voice of the Association (Rule 3.4.3). The President should make use of their position and contacts to further the aims and activities of the BNA.

Although all trustees are jointly responsible for the governance, decision-making and direction of the BNA, the President is expected to **take the lead at Council level** on:

- planning, running and chairing Council and National Advisory Committee meetings
- planning, running and chairing members' General Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting
- ensuring that meetings are properly run and recorded
- ensuring that trustees comply with their duties and the BNA is well governed according to the BNA's Articles, Rules, and supporting documents
- being a spokesperson for the BNA
- acting as a link between trustees and staff, including line management of the chief executive on behalf of the trustees
- prioritising the BNA's activities and overarching strategic direction

The President has a second or casting vote if a vote on a trustees' or members' decision is tied, as specified in the BNA's Articles (Articles 37(5) and 25, and rule 6.5).

BNA Presidents are also expected to be heavily involved in the biennial Festival of Neuroscience which falls within their term of office, and planning for the one immediately following.

More information

The BNA President must be familiar with the Association's Articles and Rules.

More information about being a Trustee can be found in Charity Commission publication, 'The Essential Trustee', available at gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3 and support.