

Alan Moss

Chairman and Trustee



Alan is proud to be the current Achalasia Action Chairman and a Charity Trustee.

Alan is a retired police officer who became personally interested in oesophageal problems when he suffered a ruptured oesophagus in 2001.

From 2007 - 2014 he was involved with the Oesophageal Patients Association, organising patient support groups in London for people who had undergone major surgery on their oesophagus, predominantly, but not exclusively, because of cancer.

Since 2011 he has been the Chair of *Action Against Heartburn*, a group of eighteen charities and other bodies interested in promoting early diagnosis of oesophageal and stomach cancer. *Action Against Heartburn* has organised national awareness campaigns, linked to the relationship between persistent heartburn, Barrett's Oesophagus, and oesophageal adenocarcinoma, a type of cancer where the UK is reported as having the highest incidence in the world. Oesophageal cancer affects around 9,200 people in the UK each year and accounts for 7,600 deaths.

Alan is also a founder member of the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce that aims to promote better outcomes for oesophageal, stomach, pancreatic, liver, lung and brain cancers where five-year survival is less than 20%.

Alan met consultant surgeon Majid Hashemi FRCS during their collaboration on patient support meetings run by the Oesophageal Patients Association, and they developed an idea for an achalasia patients group, linking up with Amanda Ladell of the existing London Achalasia MeetUp Group, and establishing patient support meetings held at the hospital of St John and St Elizabeth in St John's Wood, London from 2013. Alan, Majid and Amanda compiled *A Patient's Guide to Achalasia* using information drawn from patient experience from these meetings.

In 2019 it became apparent that it was necessary to establish a registered charity to promote the interests of achalasia patients separate from the Oesophageal Patients Association, something that was achieved in January 2020 when Alan also became a trustee and Chair of Achalasia Action.