

Silvia Davey (she/her) and Ellis Hockin-Boyers
Trustee & Fundraising



Silvia developed achalasia when she was 17. She was lucky to be diagnosed within six months of experiencing her symptoms and had a successful Heller Myotomy in Padova, Italy. The surgery helped relieve most of the pain she experienced whilst eating. However, she developed oesophageal spasms a few years later. Having moved to London for her studies and work, Silvia was unsure how to navigate the NHS. She stumbled across the London Achalasia MeetUp Group, where she met Amanda, Alan, Majid, and many other people with achalasia. They gave Silvia lots of support and information on the condition, and tips on where to get good achalasia treatment in London. When the idea was proposed to form Achalasia Action, Silvia was keen to get involved. She helped found Achalasia Action in 2019, and is currently a Trustee for the charity, supporting its fundraising and research activities. You can find out more about Silvia's achalasia story [here](#).

Silvia has a background in biochemistry, epidemiology, and mental health. She started her career in healthcare consulting and then became a fundraiser for healthcare charities such as Alzheimer's Society and the RNID. She then moved into healthcare policy, and currently works as Senior Policy Lead for NHS England. Silvia is also completing a part time MSc in Health Policy and is currently sharing her Trustee duties with her partner Ellis [Ellis has been acting as Silvia's proxy at Trustee meetings]. Ellis is Client Partnership Director at Rowdy Studios and brings a wealth of strategy and fundraising experience to Achalasia Action. Silvia will be returning to her full-time Trustee duties in September 2023. She will continue convening under-35 patient support meetings for other young people with achalasia. Her core aim as Trustee is to ensure that Achalasia Action has the funds to continue its extensive patient support activities, and to start funding research projects into achalasia. Her hope is that research can help develop more effective treatments for the condition, and eventually a cure.