



Vascular Anaesthesia Society
of **Great Britain** and **Ireland**

VASGBI Newsletter 2019



Join us in Bristol for the
Annual Scientific Meeting!

Thursday 19th - Friday 20th September 2019



Vascular Anaesthesia Society of **Great Britain** and **Ireland**



2019 Annual Scientific Meeting | Bristol

19th - 20th September 2019

Venue: We the Curious

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Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2019

Welcome to the 14th edition of the society's newsletter.

Message from the Chairman

Simon Howell
Chair, VASGBI

It is my pleasure to wish you a somewhat belated Happy New Year both from myself and on behalf of the VASGBI. The January Newsletter offers a chance to reflect and report on the work of the Society over the past year. I am pleased to report that the VASGBI had a busy and productive 2018.

In May 2018 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) released a draft for consultation of its updated guidelines for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) diagnosis and management. The recommendations attracted some controversy. The use of EVAR in the elective repair of AAA was not recommended within the draft guidance, except for complex EVAR within a randomised clinical trial. The preoperative assessment of fitness would be a critical factor determining whether a patient has elective open surgical repair or no surgery. Dr Ronelle Mouton collated views from the Committee and the wider membership and led the preparation of a response to the NICE consultation on behalf of the VASGBI. We expressed concerns that

vascular anaesthetists would be expected to judge fitness for open repair as part of the pre-assessment process, but validated tools for this are lacking and risk scores not recommended. Other important stakeholder organisations also responded. The VASGBI was also involved in the release of a joint statement with the VSGBI and the British Society of Interventional Radiologists (BSIR). The final version of the guideline is awaited. Links to the NICE guidelines and the VASGBI response are available on the Society's website.

The chapter of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthesia Services (GPAS), which covers Vascular Procedures is currently in revision and will be published in 2019. Dr Judy Gudgeon has represented the VASGBI on the Chapter Development Group. It is also a pleasure to see that the members of Writing Committee for this chapter are Dr Adam Pichel, Professor Gerry Danjoux and Professor Jonathan Thompson, all of whom are well known to members of the VASGBI.

The VASGBI contributed to the Royal College of Anaesthetists consultation on the curriculum for vascular anaesthesia. Indy Raju and Paul Warman on behalf of the Education and Training Committee led this and their work will ensure that the voice of the VASGBI is heard in shaping the training of future vascular anaesthetists.

I will step down as Chairman in September of this year and am delighted to report that Dr Ronelle Mouton has been elected as Chair of the Society for the three years from September 2019. Adam Pichel, Indy Raju and Karen Kerr will also demit from the Committee this September. Whilst this is still several months away, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all three for the

huge amount of work that they have done for the VASGBI, Indy as Chair of the Education and Training Committee, Karen as Treasurer, and of course, Adam as Chairman.

In anticipation of these changes we have planned carefully to ensure continuity and stability in the running of the Society and support for Ronelle as the incoming Chair. Tim Wood has kindly agreed to extend his term as Secretary for a further year for which we are most grateful. His oversight of our governance and management of our elections and other processes is invaluable. Gary Matthews will continue in post as the current Treasurer, a role that he fills with the same rigor and efficiency, as did Karen Kerr before him. I am pleased to report that Dr Judy Gudgeon, who has served the Society both as a Committee member and an officer, was returned to the Committee for a second term in the recent elections. The elections saw a modest expansion in the size of the Committee. Drs Paul Warman (Leeds), Dan Taylor (London), and Maria Safar (Liverpool) joined the Committee as new consultant members. Dr Alex Bell was elected at the new trainee member. It was a pleasure to welcome the new members to the Committee meeting in Durham.

The 2019 Committee elections are currently open with three posts up for election. Please do consider standing. The Committee is friendly and mutually supportive; we take pride in our contribution both to vascular anaesthesia and the wider anaesthetic community. Please do contact Ronelle or myself if you would like to discuss Committee membership and standing for election. We can be reached through the VASGBI website and would be delighted to speak by email or phone.

Our sincere thanks go to David Nunn who has managed the Society's digital

presence with quiet efficiency. This includes both maintaining the website and running our meeting abstract and bookings systems. He is planning to significantly revise our website in the coming year working in concert with the Education and Training Committee. Please do let us know through the website if you would like to be involved in this work.

As always the Society has benefited from the enthusiasm and support of Mrs Jane Heppenstall. Jane manages the administration of the Society with a speed and rigor, which belies the amount of work and challenges involved. She brings a continuity and corporate memory to the VASGBI Committee that is immensely valuable. We are most grateful to her.

The 2019 meeting of the Society will be in Bristol. The meeting will take place in the attractive conference venue "We the Curious" on the 19th and 20th September and will be hosted by Dr Ronelle Mouton and colleagues. They are planning a programme that ranges across fields including the simulation of vascular emergencies, the current position on the management of aortic aneurysms following the recent NICE consultation, and impact of technologies such as artificial intelligence on vascular anaesthesia. I very much hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a great conference.

Simon Howell

Chairman VASGBI
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Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting 2018

This year the 22nd annual scientific meeting returned to Durham and was held at the Calman learning centre in the

University of Durham. It was fantastic for the society to be back in Durham after the inaugural meeting was held there 21 years ago, which caused much nostalgia for many of the members.



The first day commenced with 3 workshops. *Human Factors, Healthcare High Reliability an Introduction and Interpretation of CPET* and *Advanced Central Venous Access* which were all well attended and received excellent feedback.



Dr David Thomas, the local organizer opened the meeting to a packed auditorium. The first session explored basic sciences with Dr Shelley from Glasgow explaining the potential future role of respiratory biomarkers in lung injury. This was followed by Professor Levett from Southampton who discussed functional capacity and the implications for our patient group including the concept of a 15% reduction in mortality risk per MET. The last presentation of the session was Professor Lambert from Leicester providing an update on opioid receptors in vascular disease.

The 2nd session “...when it all goes wrong” was open by Mr Gudgeon from

London who spoke on the risks and potential management of bowel ischaemia during vascular surgery. Dr Pichel from Manchester provided a well-received talk on a package of care that they had put into place to reduce the risk of and manage spinal cord injury following aortic surgery. The session was closed with Professor Thompson from Leicester talking on prevention and management of complications during carotid surgery.

The final session of day 1 focused on potential future direction of vascular services, with lectures on the Royal College guidelines for the provision of anaesthetic services from Dr Langton from Plymouth. GIRFT implications for future vascular services presented by Professor Horrocks from Bath and GIRFT empowering the vascular anaesthetist by Dr Swart from Torbay. Dr Edwards from Sheffield provided a 21st birthday address to the society.

This year we returned to the previous format of a society dinner, held in Durham castle. The venue was fantastic and the food was excellent leading to a very enjoyable evening for all involved.



Following the enjoyable social evening in Durham Castle, the 2nd day was somewhat ironically opened with Dr Snowden from Newcastle speaking on alcohol and its effects on surgery. Highlighting the problems with alcohol intake in our patients and the potential for a timely modifiable intervention. Dr

Dawson from Bradford followed this giving an interesting talk on sleep apnoea and Dr Howell from Leeds provided a useful update on the current knowledge on sarcopenia and its potential role in predicting or modifying outcome after surgery.

The annual free paper session was both competitive and informative. There is a full report on all the prizewinners in the Education and Training Committee report. The case based discussion that followed – “*Should I Pass the Ball*” resulted in discussion around whether to stay or handover when your case returns to theatre after an extended day. There was a lively debate as to the best course of action.

Dr Stoneham from Oxford opened the final session “*How do we do it?*” with a talk on the novel approach to managing the cell salvage service. Dr Black from Leeds gave a lecture on the challenging situation of perioperative and postoperative management of vascular patients with chronic ischaemic pain and the day was drawn to a close with a very informative session on how to keep ourselves safe with increasing amounts of interventional radiology work from Mr Birch from Durham.

Overall it was an excellent meeting with a range of fantastic speakers from all over the country. The Committee would like to thank Dr David Thomas for his local involvement, all the speakers and the volunteers who did a fantastic job, providing us with another highly successful meeting. Not forgetting the ever-professional administrative and organizational work of Jane Heppenstall and her team. We would like to thank all the delegates for the feedback; this is extremely useful and allows the Committee and local organisers to continually strive to achieve the highest standards at our meetings.

In the member’s area of the website there is a set of talking slides that provide an excellent refresher or CPD opportunity for members.

<https://vasgbi.talkingslideshd.com/>

Research and Audit Committee Report

The current members of the Research & Audit Committee are:

Dr Elisa Dedola (Southampton)
Dr Simon Howell (Leeds)
Dr Ronelle Mouton (Bristol) (Chair)
Dr Adam Pichel (Manchester)
Dr Alag Raajkumar (Worcestershire)
Dr Dan Taylor (London)

The Committee oversees the research grants awarded by the Society, collaborates with the National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) and represents VASGBI on the NIAA Research Council and Grant panel. It has been a busy and productive year.

The VASGBI Trainee Developmental Project Grant scheme again attracted excellent applications from trainee members. Three awards were made during 2018: (i) Dr Richard Armstrong from Southmead Hospital, Bristol received £ 4,480 for “Mode of anaesthesia for emergency endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm: a qualitative study of patients and clinicians.” (ii) Dr Nick Schofield from the Royal Free Hospital, London, received £5,320 to investigate “The use of intravenous lidocaine infusion for intractable ischaemic limb pain unresponsive to conventional therapy in adult vascular patients: a pilot study.” (iii) Dr Liana Zucco from London was awarded £5,000 for “Establishing Compliance and Outcomes of a Home-Based Prehabilitation Exercise

Programme in Patients Awaiting Elective Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair: A Pilot Study.” The main remit of these Departmental grants is to support trainee development under the supervision of established vascular anaesthesia consultants. Further awards will be made under this Scheme in 2019 and have been advertised with a closing date of 28th February 2019.

This year we are also offering a larger *VASGBI Research Grant* to the value of £40,000. This was advertised in the 1st round of NIAA grant funding of 2019 with a closing date of 26th April 2019. The grant has been announced on both the VASGBI and NIAA websites.

The Research & Audit Committee collaborates with the Vascular Society with regards to work on the National Vascular Registry (NVR) and represents VASGBI at the Vascular Society’s Audit & Quality Improvement Committee meetings. In December 2018, we produced, for the benefit of VASGBI members, an Anaesthesia summary, drawn from the full NVR report. The Anaesthetic NVR Report was published on the VASGBI as well as the Vascular Society websites and proved popular with our members. We have been involved in ongoing negotiations to amend some of the Anaesthesia data fields on the NVR. These have finally been agreed and will be implemented in January 2019. We are very grateful for all the work and time invested in this from Dr Adam Pichel, who led the negotiations on behalf of VASGBI. In the future, the amended Anaesthesia NVR data fields would enable us to produce reports with more information on aspects of practice relevant to vascular anaesthesia. The NVR is a rich data source that can be used for both audit and research and it allows reports that can be used for appraisals. We encourage our members

to actively engage with the NVR.

The Research & Audit Committee will have two vacancies coming up in 2019 and we are keen to hear from interested members of the Society who would like to join and contribute to our expanding research & audit commitments. Please contact Dr Ronelle Mouton either directly (Ronelle.Mouton@nbt.nhs.uk) or through the Society website.

Ronelle Mouton (Chair)

On behalf of the VASGBI Research & Audit Committee

Education and Training Committee Report

The Education & Training Committee has had a busy year since the last newsletter. The VASGBI ASM 2018 in Durham was a huge success with a wide range of thought provoking talks, posters and original research being presented. The very first VASGBI ASM in Durham was a gathering of vascular anaesthesia enthusiasts who shared that common goal of delivering high quality medical care to vascular patients. After 21 years, that common goal still holds true as evidenced by the very high quality of abstracts received and presented at the last meeting. Firstly, congratulations to all authors and their supporting teams for successfully presenting their abstracts at the ASM. With the limited time that trainees spend in a vascular unit during their specialty-training programme and the increase in demands on vascular services, it is a wonder that the VASGBI ASM receives so many good quality abstracts every year. The judging panel decides on the winner every year by seeking out projects that have improved patient outcomes and experience, improved service pathways for patients and introduced novel research ideas that

have potential clinical applications. It is never an easy task to select and judge the abstracts and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the process. The winner of the Free Paper session at the 2018 ASM was Dr Rebecca Thorne from Frimley Park Hospital who presented The Introduction and Development of a Protocol for Heparin Dosing for Endovascular Surgery based on ACT Monitoring. The winners for the Poster session were Dr Sioned Phillips and Dr Rebecca Thorne from Frimley Park Hospital who investigated the use of rectus sheath catheters for open aortic aneurysm repairs and Dr Claire Young from the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow, who presented data from a vascular high risk clinic looking to improve the patient pathway and reducing cancellations for aortic aneurysm surgery in a recently established tertiary hospital. Congratulations to all.

Since Durham 2018, the VASGBI has had a request from the RCOA to be a key stakeholder in the development and delivery of the new anaesthetic curriculum with regards the delivery of vascular anaesthesia training modules. The Committee has forwarded a draft proposal, as part of the initial consultation process, to the RCOA Training Committee. The Committee will also be making a representation on behalf of the VASGBI at a Curriculum Stakeholders meeting in the spring of 2019. This provides the VASGBI with an ideal opportunity to influence the shape of vascular anaesthesia training within the new curriculum. To this end, the Committee would welcome any suggestions and ideas on how we can improve training in vascular anaesthesia.

The VASGBI Education & Training Committee will be undergoing a transition and expansion phase in the

lead up to the next ASM in Bristol with the arrival of new Committee members and the departure of the 'older' ones. If any member is interested in contributing to the Education & Training Committee, please get in touch with any of the Committee members. The only prerequisites are a practice in vascular anaesthesia, a willingness to contribute and bounding enthusiasm. As this will be my last Education & Training Committee report, I would like to thank the membership, the VASGBI Committee and Mrs Jane Heppenstall for their support and patience over the last six years. It was a pleasure serving on the Committee and it has been the most wonderful time.

Thank you,

Dr Indran Raju

Chair Education Subcommittee

Treasurer's Report

I recognise that our busy lives may preclude review of each and every Newsletter. I have therefore chosen to include some information that the astute will recognise as elements of the previous year's Treasurer's Report. On that note, may I first re-iterate our thanks and my personal gratitude to Karen Kerr, not only for her hard work and stewardship of VASGBI finances these past 5 years, but also my personal gratitude for her thorough handover and continued support to my own Treasurer tenure, as I get to grips with our accounts and processes. I am indebted to her for her continued input.

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. The annual scientific meeting (ASM) and membership subscription provide the finances to support the work of the Committee and to fund research as set out within the Society's constitution.

The total cost of holding the ASM has been roughly £40K; however London was an exception to this as the cost for the premises alone was over £40k. The society intentionally did not increase the registration fees for the London ASM in order to maintain the excellent value for money that the meeting provides

The presence of savings allows the Society to support national research through the NIAA portfolio and also department grants as described in the Research and Audit Committee Report. The funds are also used to support Society administration costs and participation in matters related directly to the Society; this remains relatively constant at £12k per year.

You will recall that we endeavour to bring society membership into a direct debit process, rather than standing order. You will be aware that standing orders amount can only be changed by the originator and remain in place in perpetuity, until the account to which the standing order is placed is closed. Throughout this year, and prior to the next ASM, we intend to refresh the membership process and management of the membership database. It is acknowledged that this may generate a transient shortfall of membership subscriptions over a three-year period, as not every member chooses to attend every annual meeting. We anticipate the membership will re-join as they register for their next ASM with reduced fee for members. We do not envisage that this will incur a material shortfall in Society funds.

At the Durham meeting we gave members the opportunity to share the detail of the Society's accounts and the indicative value of grants allocated, in line with Society's constitution. We believe with the experienced input of the Society's Research and Audit

Committee that we have set the NIAA and Trainee grant values at an attractive and effective level, and considerate of available funds.

I would value member's feedback as to any aspect of Society's funds and Treasurer role.

Thanks for your continued support.

Gary Matthews

Treasurer VASGBI
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Website

The website continues to be improved and updated by Dr David Nunn and we are increasingly trying to contact our members with important information using this tool (www.vasgbi.com). Members are encouraged to regularly visit the website and to take advantage of the online voting for the Committee elections. There is a plan for a significant overhaul of the website in 2019 to improve the functionality on smart devices and the content.

ACCEA Committee

Disappointingly there were no new successful candidates supported in 2018, however it provides great pleasure to say that the society successfully supported Mark Stoneham in 2018 to renew his Bronze award. The 2019 round is now open please see website for details.

Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (19th and 20th September 2019) will be held in Bristol.

There are so many amazing things to do in Bristol, so why not make a weekend of it and explore this great city!

Clifton Suspension Bridge

<https://www.cliftonbridge.org.uk/>

Designed and built in 1836 Isambard Kingdom Brunel, this 702-foot-long, 250-foot-high suspension bridge gracefully spans the Avon Gorge between Clifton and Leigh Woods.

University of Bristol Botanic Garden

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/botanic-garden/>

The University of Bristol Botanic Garden cultivates some 4,500 plant species from over 200 plant families within its five-acre site. This diversity of plants is unique and not found anywhere else in the Bristol area.



The Georgian House Museum

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/georgian-house-museum/>

The Georgian House Museum is an 18th century, six-storey townhouse just off Bristol's famous independent shopping area, Park Street. The house has been restored and decorated to its original glory, and is the perfect way to step back in time and imagine what life was like in this affluent area of the city hundreds of years ago.



Brunel's SS Great Britain

<https://www.ssgreatbritain.org/>

One of the most important historic ships in the world, Brunel's SS Great Britain is bursting with activities. Discover the greatest innovation of the Victorian age and explore the ship that changes the way we travel today.



Bristol Aquarium

<https://www.bristolaquarium.co.uk/>

Bristol Aquarium showcases tropical, marine and freshwater creatures from around the world in naturally-themed habitats, all designed to inspire deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Bristol Zoo Gardens

<https://www.bristolzoo.org.uk/>

A visit to Bristol Zoo Gardens is an adventure into an exciting animal kingdom, all set within 12 acres of beautiful award-winning gardens. Visitors will come face-to-face with over 400 species of exotic, endangered and adorable animals from the four corners of the globe.

Arnolfini

<https://www.arnolfini.org.uk/>

Arnolfini is a centre for contemporary arts based on Bristol's harbour side in the heart of the city. Founded in 1961, the organisation is dedicated to producing and presenting visual arts, performance, dance, film, music and events, underpinned by a commitment to a dynamic civic role in the city.



Bristol Cathedral

<https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/>

Bristol's beautiful and historic Cathedral is located on College Green in the West End of the city. A church has almost certainly stood on the site for over a thousand years, but it came to prominence in 1140 when Robert Fitzhardinge founded the Abbey of St Augustine. The Chapter House and Abbey Gatehouse remain clear to see, and the other remains are to be found within Bristol Cathedral School.



For further information on the above sites or to see what else Bristol can offer please visit

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/things-to-do>

Elections

We are seeking nominations for 3 posts, all to join the Committee in September 2019. The details of how to apply are on the website with a closing date of 31st March. It is important that the Committee continues to attract new members, so please consider putting yourself forward for nomination. The application process will probably be well underway by the time you receive this. Outcomes will be announced on the website.

Best wishes for 2019 to all our members from the Committee.

Tim Wood

Secretary VASGBI

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Other News

