



Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2017

Welcome to the 12th edition of the society's newsletter.

Message from the Chairman

Simon Howell
Chair, VASGBI

It is with great pleasure that I pen my first newsletter as Chairman of the Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Having entered post as Chairman in September 2016 I must begin by recording my own thanks and that of the Society's Committee to Adam Pichel for his work as Chairman from 2013 - 2016. I must also record our thanks to Judith Gudgeon who demitted post as Honorary Secretary this year and is succeeded in this role by Dr Timothy Wood. Whilst both Adam and Judith have stepped down as officers of the Society, I am pleased to report that both were re-elected to the Committee this year and that they continue to bring their considerable energy and experience to the work of the VASGBI.

Dr Ronelle Mouton was also elected to the committee this year. Ronelle has a substantial track record of research in vascular anaesthesia and I am delighted to say has taken over the role of Chair of the Research and Audit Subcommittee. A number of new members have joined this subcommittee. It is my pleasure to

welcome Daniel Taylor, Elisa Dedola and Alag Raajkumar. Ronelle gives a detailed account of the current work of the subcommittee elsewhere in the newsletter. Notable highlights include the development of research based on the National Vascular Database, liaison with the Royal College of Anaesthetists to promote the VASGBI Trainee Development Grants and work with the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and other groups on the respecification of the National Vascular Registry.

Dr Mohamed Eid joined the Committee as our Trainee member at the beginning of 2016, succeeding Dr Kristy Wagstaff in this role. Mohamed brings to the Committee a strong and clearly articulated trainee perspective on the challenges of training in vascular anaesthesia. Mohamed can be contacted through the Society website. I encourage trainee and consultant colleagues alike to inform both Mohamed and Dr Indran Raju, who is Chair of the Education Subcommittee, of training issues that should be escalated by the VASGBI to the national arena.

Members of the Society will be aware of the development of Strategic Transformation Plans (STPs) in their own regions. Urgent and emergency care plans are an integral part of these STPs. Four priority clinical standards have been identified as key to driving quality in urgent care. The four standards focus on timely consultant review, timely access to diagnostic services, timely access to consultant directed interventions, and on-going review in high-dependency areas. Details of the standards can be found in the document at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/stp-aide-memoire-uec-7dhs.pdf>.

These standards will be rolled out to urgent specialist services including emergency vascular care during the course of 2017. Whilst many organisations and colleagues achieve excellence in delivering high quality services which meet these standards, there is variation across the NHS. The VASGBI joined the Royal College of Anaesthetists and other partners in discussions with representatives of NHS England on the monitoring and delivery of these standards.

The Committee remains proud of the sense of community amongst vascular anaesthetists and this has been very much in evidence at the two successful meetings run by the society during the course of 2016. In March 2016 we ran a vascular CPD meeting at the Enterprise Centre in Derby. This was organised by Dr Timothy Wood and was tailored to meet the needs of the anaesthetist who is called upon to anaesthetise patients for urgent or emergency vascular surgery as part of their wider anaesthetic practice. Speakers included Prof Gerry Danjoux, Prof Jonathan Thompson, Dr Robbie Erskine, Dr Indran Raju, Dr Elke Kothmann and Dr Mark Stoneham. Feedback on the lectures was excellent, with many delegates giving special mention to the talk by Dr Elke Kothmann for her lecture on the management of emergency EVAR.

For the 2016 annual scientific meeting the VASGBI returned to Exeter, the venue for our 1999 meeting. We were superbly hosted by Dr James Lloyd and Dr Richard Telford, a previous Chairman of the Society. Highlights of the meeting are described in the report later in this newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drs Telford and Lloyd for their excellent hospitality, David Nunn for his indefatigable efforts in organising the

excellent talking slides and Elke Kothmann and Indran Raju for overseeing and judging the meeting abstracts.

The 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in London on the 11th and 12th September. Our hosts, Drs Gianne Nicholson and Pallavi Dasannacharya of St. George's Hospital are working with the Committee to bring together a programme that reflects the evolving role of the vascular anaesthetist in the care of patients with complex cardiovascular disease. In 2018 the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society will be held in Durham and hosted by Dr David Thomas, a founding member of the VASGBI.

As always the Committee are indebted to Mrs Jane Heppenstall who manages both our meetings and the day-to-day administration of the society with great efficiency and makes an often-complex job seem effortless.

The Treasurer's report is to be found in this newsletter. The Society is in robust financial health and we are very grateful to Dr Karen Kerr for her work as Treasurer and her guidance in maintaining the financial wellbeing of the VASGBI. We are a Society of modest means and take pride in being able to offer value for money to our members in both the subscription and the cost of meetings. That we are able to support research and audit in vascular anaesthesia through the award of grant funding is due in no small part to the effective stewardship of Dr Kerr.

The society was delighted to support candidates who received clinical excellence awards in the 2015 round. We were disappointed that the excellent candidates whom we supported in 2016 did not gain awards. Details of an ACCEA round awards for 2017 had not

been announced at the time of writing. We encourage all members who feel that they are able to put in a strong application to approach the honorary secretary for support when details are published.

Dr Elke Kothmann will step down from the Committee in 2017. We are very grateful to Elke for all her contributions to the Society and are delighted that she will be returning to the Committee for a period in 2017-2018 to support the delivery of the meeting in Durham.

The VASGBI is in excellent health but our specialty faces challenges as both the nature of clinical practice and models of service delivery in the NHS evolve. The Committee is very much aware of our duties to represent the interests of the specialty and our patients in national discussions and to ensure that we offer training and other development opportunities that meet the needs of our members. An election for Committee membership will be held early in 2017. The role of a Committee member is not unduly onerous and brings an opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and the wider specialty of vascular anaesthesia. I encourage members of the Society who have an interest in joining the VASGBI Committee to stand. Please do feel free to contact me or other Committee members to discuss the Committee membership.

My thanks to you and to the VASGBI Committee and Subcommittees for your support in 2016 and my best wishes for an excellent year in 2017.

Simon Howell

Chairman, VASGBI

s.howell@leeds.ac.uk

Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting saw the Society travel to Exeter. The Meeting was organised by Dr James Lloyd and Dr Richard Telford. It was fantastic to return to Exeter after the inaugural meeting was held there in 1999 and the University provided an excellent venue with a fantastic lecture theatre within walking distance of both the station and conference hotel.



Jane Heppenstall and her team provided their usual superb full administrative and organisational support and the Committee would like to thank her for her continuing hard work on behalf of the Society.

This year, workshops were run on regional anaesthesia for CEA focusing on ultrasound guided “intermediate block.” There were plenty of models to allow ultrasound scanning practice and lively discussion about differing techniques for sedation and blood pressure management. The regional anaesthesia theme continued with workshops demonstrating and practicing ultrasound guided blocks for upper and lower limb surgery. A two-stage workshop was run for CPEX; part 1 for the introduction to CPEX and part 2 for the advanced interpretation of CPEX results. During the workshops, the posters were judged by Drs Elke

Kothmann and Indran Raju. The standard was as usual very high, with the winning poster presentation being a tie between Aayushi Gupta and Ben Jones with Dr Lee Beale as the runner up.



The meeting proper commenced with a session entitled “Under Pressure” with talks by Dr John Carlisle, who summarized the new AAGBI and British Hypertension Society Guidelines on diagnosis and management of blood pressure in elective surgery, Dr Andrew Sharp who provided a number of strategies for managing difficult hypertension and Professor Simon Howell who spoke on the intraoperative management of blood pressure. The enthusiasm of the speakers for their own areas of expertise could not help but capture the attention of the audience.

After lunch, the session was titled “Don’t go breaking my heart” and included Professor Nick Bellenger with a useful update on developments in cardiac imaging, Dr Richard Struthers discussing functional testing for vascular patients and Dr John Griffiths discussing reducing cardiovascular risk in vascular surgery. The AGM followed, chaired by Dr Adam Pichel who informed the members of the activities of the Society including updating documents such as GPAS and engaging with NHS England Emergency Care Network and research supported. There were also a number of changes within the Committee and the role of Chairman was handed over to Professor Simon Howell.

The final session of the day entitled “Who wants to live forever” was a very thought provoking look at outcomes. Professor Ian Loftus explained some of the pitfalls and successes of the National Vascular Registry so far. Dr Ramani Moonesinghe talked about measuring long-term outcomes and explained the intentions behind the Perioperative Quality Improvement Program (PQIP) and Mr David Mitchell spoke on long-term outcomes from EVAR and Open Aortic Repair.

At the end of the first day there was a drinks reception at the conference hotel, which was very well attended. The conference dinner at the Mercure Hotel was a good improvement on the previous year and an after dinner speaker provided a light-hearted character assassination of most of the VASGBI Committee. We have taken on board feedback regarding conference dinners and decided to forgo the dinner at the upcoming 2017 London conference, as a suitable value venue and meal will be difficult to achieve, but the Committee will reconsider this for future meetings.



Day 2 started with “Nobody does it better” a session on perioperative medicine and prehabilitation featuring Dr Mike Swart and Dr Jugdeep Dhesi demonstrating some of the minor differences but huge overlap between the physician’s and anaesthetist’s perspective. Professor Gerry Danjoux presented some fascinating data from

his prehabilitation and fitness for surgery study.

The free paper session was, again, well attended with a high standard of presentation. First prize went to Dr Thomas Smith and runner up was Dr Niall O'Reilly. Following this and after the success of last year's MDT format session, we had a case discussion titled "Lose a limb not a life?" This was chaired by Dr Elke Kothmann and demonstrated the challenges faced by vascular teams up and down the country on a daily basis, prompting much discussion.



"The final countdown" delivered by Mr John Thompson and Dr Richard Telford with a careers experience in the management of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. This provided a fascinating insight into this niche area and showcased their local expertise.



The Committee would like to thank the local organisers and all the speakers who did a fantastic job and provided us with another highly successful meeting. 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 web site there is a set of talking slides that provide an excellent refresher or CPD opportunity for members.

Research and Audit Committee Report

The Current Members of the VASGBI Audit and Research Subcommittee are:

Dr Ronelle Mouton (Bristol)
Prof. Simon Howell (Leeds)
Dr Adam Pichel (Manchester)
Dr Elisa Dedola (Southampton)
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. Furthermore, the Committee collaborates with the Vascular Society with regard to work on the National Vascular Registry (NVR) and represents VASGBI at the Vascular Society's Audit & Quality Improvement Committee meetings.

The VASGBI Trainee Developmental Project Grant scheme that was launched in 2015 has been very successful and has now been awarded NIHR Portfolio status. The applications received during the last round were of a high quality and two awards were made: Dr Katie Ayyash and co-workers from York received £5,000 for a study on the "Correlation of Nutritional Scoring Systems and Outcomes in Vascular

Patients.” Dr Mohamed Eid and colleagues from South Tees were awarded £3,213 for “Clinical Frailty Scale Validation in patients scheduled for Vascular Surgery.” 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 2017 and these will be advertised on the Society website in January with a closing date of the 31st of March 2017. In order to further promote and raise awareness about these grants, they will also be advertised on the Research & Audit Federation of Trainees (RAFT) website.

The Society did not award a VASGBI/NIAA project grant in 2016, but will be advertising a project grant of up to £40,000 for research in vascular anaesthesia in January 2017. More information can be found at <http://www.niaa.org.uk/>.

The Committee also represents VASGBI on the Audit and Quality Improvement Committee of the Vascular Surgical Society. Dr Adam Pichel leads the collaboration on the anaesthesia data collected via the NVR. The aim now is to develop the anaesthesia fields further and to create outputs and an Anaesthesia Report relevant to VASGBI members. The NVR is a rich data source that can be used for both audit and research. The NVR also supports the completion of sprint audits. *The Subcommittee is keen to receive suggestions from VASGBI members for projects using NVR data and would liaise with the Vascular Society to promote and support such projects.* VASGBI members are encouraged to register and engage with the NVR and also to appoint local NVR leads for Vascular Anaesthesia. The

link for the NVR is: <https://nvr.northgate.thirdparty.nhs.uk>

Dr Judy Gudgeon stood down from the Research & Audit Subcommittee. The Society would like to thank her for the very valuable contribution made to the activities of this Subcommittee. We appointed three new members in 2016 and welcomed Drs Elisa Dedola, Alag Raajkumar and Dan Taylor to the Subcommittee. Since the Research and Audit Committees of the Society have merged to form a single subcommittee in 2013, Professor Simon Howell has been the Chair and much has been achieved during this time. Although, Prof Howell has now moved on to be our VASGBI Chairman, we are thankful that the Subcommittee continues to benefit from his expert contribution.

If you are nurturing any budding research ideas, now is the time to start preparing as both the VASGBI/NIAA project and the Trainee developmental Grants will be advertised early in 2017.

Ronelle Mouton (Chair)

On behalf of the VASGBI Research & Audit Committee

Education and Training Committee Report

2016 saw the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) return to the wonderful city of Exeter. Since the last meeting in Exeter at the turn of the 20th century, the ASMs have grown from being a forum for likeminded vascular anaesthetists to a meeting where high quality research and audit in perioperative medicine and vascular anaesthesia is presented. The months leading up to the ASM are generally the busiest period for the Education Committee, especially once the abstract submission deadline has passed. The

selection process involves the members of the Education Committee independently scoring each abstract using an electronic system before conferring for the final decision. Each reviewer's score is blinded to each other scores. The abstracts are marked on 4 domains; originality, methodology, results and presentation. Using this methodology ensures an objective and transparent selection process.

The abstracts presented at the 2016 ASM were amongst the highest quality abstracts seen in recent times. The Free Paper session gave us a glimpse of where vascular anaesthesia might be headed to in terms of risk prediction, optimisation and longer-term patient outcomes. The winner for the Free Paper session was Dr. Tom Smith from Oxford, who gave us an intriguing talk on hypoxic conditioning using simulated altitude exposure that was carried out at the Irish National Altitude Training Centre in Limerick. The runner-up was Dr. Niall O'Reilly from Glasgow, who gave us food for thought with his talk on 5-year outcomes after endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) that suggests that EVARs might not be the total solution for aneurysm repair. The two joint poster winners were Mr. Ben Jones, Medical Student Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Miss Aayushi Gupta, Medical Student UCL. Both authors presented posters on the use of point of care testing to evaluate clotting during major surgery. Special credit must be given to both Mr. Jones and Miss Gupta for producing such high quality work whilst studying for medical school exams. The runner-up was an abstract that was brilliant in its innovative simplicity and practicality. Dr. Lee Beale's poster was on the use of the Oxford HELP pillow for patient positioning during an awake carotid

endarterectomy. This is a technique that I have now adopted into my own practice.

Although I have only mentioned the prize-winners and runners-up above, all the abstract authors should be extremely proud of the high quality work they have produced and presented. The standards have certainly been raised for 2017. As we enter the New Year after the festive season, thoughts now turn towards the next ASM in London and information regarding abstract submissions and deadlines will be made available in the summer.

Dr Indran Raju

Chair Education Subcommittee

Treasurer's Report

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. The annual scientific meeting and membership provide the finances to support the work of the Committee and to fund research as set out within the Society's constitution. For the past 4 years we have added to the funds with registrations for the ASM generating between £43k to £75k. The cost of holding an ASM has been roughly £30K; Glasgow was an exception and London in 2017 will also be, as the cost for the premises alone is over £40k for the 2 days. The society will not increase the registration fees for the London ASM despite the risk of not making a profit.

The presence of this fund 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, despite every effort to reduce this cost.

Do note that you are receiving the newsletter as you are a fully paid up member of the Society. Thanks for your annual £25. Others in your department may have been members many years ago, but if they have not increased their standing order from £10 to £25 (in 2012 when the membership fees rose) they will not receive the newsletter, nor will they have access to the membership pages of the website or receive a reduction on the ASM attendance fee. If you know of any such individuals, then do point out that they are likely to still be paying us £10 but not getting the benefits. We are trying to track these individuals down to make them aware they need to alter or stop the standing orders, but if you come across one can you ask them to get in touch with us and we can refund or make a donation to charity on their behalf.

Thanks for your support.
Karen Kerr - Treasurer

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.

ACCEA Committee

In 2015 the society successfully supported Simon Howell, Gerry Danjoux and Chris Snowden to achieve silver awards and Jonathan Thompson had his bronze award renewed. In 2016 we supported applications for awards from three members, unfortunately

none of which were successful in this round.

Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (11th and 12th September 2017) will be held in London.

Other News

Elections

There will be 1 post, to commence in September 2017, coming up for election. 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 2017 to all our members from the Committee.

Tim Wood – Secretary
tim.wood1@nhs.net