



Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2018

Welcome to the 13th edition of the society's newsletter.

Message from the Chairman

Simon Howell
Chair, VASGBI

As I write this I reflect upon an excellent year for the VASGBI but also the immense challenges facing the NHS and the impact of these on Society members and our patients. As part of acute care, vascular services and vascular anaesthetic colleagues are subject to these challenges with a steady flow of urgent cases and pressure on both ward and critical care beds. Colleagues continue to deliver excellent care in sometimes-difficult circumstances and still find time to undertake service development and deliver teaching and research. The VASGBI has achieved much over the past year and these achievements reflect the endeavors and excellence of its members.

As always the highlight of our year was the Annual Scientific Meeting. The 2017 meeting was held at the recently refurbished Institution of Engineering and Technology in London. Over 230 delegates attended the meeting and it was a pleasure to be able to welcome so many of you to this excellent venue. Drs Grainne Nicholson and Pallavi Dasannacharya of St George's Hospital

hosted an excellent program that ranged across many aspects of vascular care. Personal highlights of the first day for me included an excellent session on patient blood management and a thought provoking series of talks on the management of the amputation patient finishing with a challenging discussion of consent for high risk surgery given by a noted medico legal lawyer, Mr Bertie Leigh. We were blessed with a pleasant summer's evening at the end of day one and delegates were able to take drinks on the roof terrace of the Institute, admire the view of the Thames and chat with the speakers. Day two of the meeting started with a fascinating talk from Dr Guy Saunders on performance under pressure. Other highlights for me included an erudite exposition of the challenges of complex endovascular surgery delivered by the vascular team of St George's Hospital, and excellent talks on the management of the diabetic patient from Grainne Nicholson and on the management of the hot carotid from Indran Raju (Indy). Nearly 40 posters were presented at the meeting. Indy and Elke Kothmann organised the viewing and scoring of these with their usual meticulous efficiency. My thanks to them and to Drs Jelena Devic and Fiona Peer from St. George's who joined them in reviewing the posters. For those who were not able to attend the meeting talking slides were recorded of individual presentations and these are available to members on the Society's website.

As well as the Annual Scientific Meeting the VASGBI holds Core Topics meetings to support both anaesthetists with a regular vascular practice and those who find themselves called upon to deliver vascular anaesthesia from time to time when on call. Our next core topics meeting has been organised by Dr Adam Pichel and

will be held at the Manchester conference centre on Friday the 16th of March 2018. Topics will include optimisation of vascular patients, management of ruptured aortic aneurysms and blood management. Details can be found on the VASGBI website and I would encourage you to attend if you can and to recommend the meeting to colleagues who find themselves delivering vascular care when on call.

2018 will be a year of change for the VASGBI Committee. Elke Kothmann has demitted from her elected committee role this year but has kindly stayed on to support the organisation of the 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting in Durham. Mohamed (Mo) Eid stepped down from his post as trainee rep on the committee in 2017. Judith Gudgeon and Indran Raju will step down from the committee after the 2018 ASM. I would like to thank Elke, Judy, Indy and Mo very much for all the work they have done over the past years. It has been a pleasure to welcome Gary Matthews from the Royal Cornwall (Treliske) Hospital on to the committee. There are currently three committee places and the trainee representative role open for election making a total of four places. The committee has agreed that the trainee post should run for at least 2 years to enable anyone who comes into post within 12 or 18 months of CCT to be able to complete projects that they have begun on behalf of the Society. As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, the work of the Committee has included close collaboration with Vascular Society on the National Vascular Registry and support for Research and Training through Research Project and Departmental Grants. We have engaged with the Royal College of Anaesthetists on the revision of the GPAS guidelines and

Adam Pichel has done much work on this. It has been a pleasure to support colleagues who have been successful in the most recent ACCEA round and I would encourage members considering applying for or renewing a higher awards to seek support from the Society. I would like to take the opportunity to offer particular thanks to Karen Kerr for her work as Treasurer. It is due to her diligence and efficiency that the society is in good financial health and our subscription remains modest. I would also like to thank Tim Wood for his seamless take over the post of Honorary Secretary and his hard work in this role.

Please do consider joining us for what promises to be an excellent meeting in Durham on the 10th and 11th of September. We will be returning to the city that hosted the first meeting of the VASGBI for what promises to be an exciting meeting in an excellent venue. Finally, may I encourage you to apply for election to the VASGBI Committee. Please do contact me if you would like to discuss standing for election and the work of the committee.

Simon Howell

Chairman, VASGBI
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Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting

The 21st annual scientific meeting was held at the Institute of Engineering and Technology on the Embankment in London. This was a stunning venue with fantastic facilities and extremely helpful staff. The meeting was very ably organised by Grainne Nicholson and Pallavi Dasannacharya from St Georges Hospital.

The first day commenced with two workshops running concurrently. Transoesophageal echo and US guided upper and lower limb blocks for vascular surgery. These were very well attended and received very good feedback.

The main meeting was then opened by Grainne Nicholson welcoming the delegates before Dr Pichel chaired the first session– Rambo first blood! Dr Martin Besser from Cambridge eloquently took us through the pharmacology of the new generation direct acting oral anticoagulants highlighting their benefits and the pitfalls of use for anaesthetists. This was followed by an update on the PREVENT AND CAVIAR studies and the new guidelines for management of preoperative anaemia. Dr Klein included the rather stark reminder that from February 2018, adequate correction of anaemia will become a CQC standard.

The session concluded with a talk on Blood Management for patients having vascular surgery, which was a useful reminder of clinical guidelines and protocols.

After a very good lunch the post prandial session focused on the management of Renal Failure, - the pathophysiology of AKI and an update of Reno protective therapy...sadly we still await any clinically proven useful agents.

Finally, Professor Mark Clancy from Glasgow gave a very interesting talk on the merits of Supraclavicular brachial plexus regional block over local anaesthetic infiltration for Reno vascular access.

Tea followed and the day concluded with a session on the perioperative management of amputation and the

rehabilitation of Amputees with particular reference to vascular patients. Mr Bertie Leigh QC then very entertainingly challenged us on the merits and shortcomings of consent which provided a very eloquent vision of how this should develop in the future to fulfill the requirements of the Montgomery Judgment.



In a break from the usual convention, Delegates were then treated to an excellent drinks reception on the roof terrace of the IET with the rain mercifully abating providing the fantastic vista of the city. In view of the opportunities for dinner, theatre and sight seeing in the capital that this meeting offered, a formal delegate dinner was not held this year but the intention is for this to feature again at the meeting in Durham in 2018 where the university has a stunning dining hall.



Day two commenced with an interesting talk by Dr Guy Sanders on managing and improving our

performance under pressure. Many people went home considering management strategies for their inner Chimp!

This was followed by an extremely useful update on endovascular options to treat complex aneurysms and their relative complications given by St Georges surgical consultants, Mr Peter Holt and Professor Ian Loftus leaving us with much food for thought.

The annual Free Paper session was interesting and informative. There is a full report on all the prizewinners in the Education and Training Committee report. This was followed by a case based discussion on decision making and management of an acute aortic rupture in a high risk patient which definitely stimulated some interesting debate between the faculty and audience.

The meeting concluded with a CPD session covering the aetiology and anaesthetic management of pulmonary hypertension, Perioperative diabetic management and an update on the guidance for acute surgical management of carotid endarterectomy.

Overall it was an excellent meeting with a range of fantastic speakers from all over the country. The Committee would like to thank Grainne and Pallavi, all the speakers and the volunteers who did a fantastic job and provided 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 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. It has been a busy and productive year. The Society advertised a research project grant in the 1st round of NIAA grant funding of 2017. We are pleased to congratulate Prof Simon Howell and his team from Leeds for their success in being awarded £33,592 to investigate "The Role of Preoperative Assessment in Effective Vascular Multidisciplinary Team Decision Making."

The VASGBI Trainee Developmental Project Grant scheme that was launched in 2015 has been awarded

NIHR Portfolio status. Two awards were made during the 2017 round: Dr Alexander Spiers from Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust received £2,140 for “a randomised control trial to investigate whether pre-warming with specialised carbon polymer blankets is superior to forced air warming at maintaining perioperative normothermia in endovascular aortic repair.” Dr Christine Sathananthan from the Royal Free Hospital, London, received £500 for “Short and Long term Post-operative Health Related Quality of Life in Vascular Patients undergoing Complex Aortic Surgery using an SMS Patient Reported Outcome Measures Tool A Service Improvement Project.” The main remit of these Departmental grants is to support trainee development under the supervision of established consultants. We hope to make further awards under this Scheme in 2018 and the first round has been advertised with a closing date of 31st January 2018.

The Research & Audit 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. In 2017 we published a summary of the NVR Report with specific reference to issues relating to anaesthetic practice. This first edition of an Anaesthetic NVR Report was published on the VASGBI website and proved popular with our members. Therefore, we have decided to repeat this for the recently published 2017 NVR report.

Dr Adam Pichel leads the collaboration on the anaesthesia related data collected via the NVR and has negotiated amendments to the anaesthesia data fields. These have been agreed in principal and we are

hopeful that they will be implemented later in 2018. 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 VASGBI and NVR Project Team would like to undertake a snapshot audit for carotid endarterectomy procedures. The purpose of the proposed audit is to assess whether there is additional risk of bleeding and/or cervical haematoma in patients receiving a regional anaesthetic technique and to investigate whether patients prescribed dual antiplatelet therapy (specifically clopidogrel and aspirin) have increased risk of bleeding and complications if a regional anaesthetic technique is used. The starting date and timeline for this audit will be announced in due course on the VASGBI website.

The Research & Audit Committee is always keen to hear from interested members of the Society who would like to contribute to current activities or suggest new areas where we can contribute.

Ronelle Mouton (Chair)

On behalf of the VASGBI Research & Audit Committee

Education and Training Committee Report

2017 saw another busy year for the VASGBI Education Sub-Committee. There were a record number of abstracts submitted and presented by both Trainees and Consultants alike, which is evidence of the growing popularity of the VASGBI ASM. Over the last few years, the Free Paper and Poster Sessions have had some of the highest quality research and audit projects being presented, many of which are at the forefront of

anaesthesia and peri-operative medicine. It stays true to the founding principles of the Society, which is to advance the quality of care we provide to our vascular patients through exchange of ideas and having a forum for discussion.

The Free Paper prize was awarded to Dr Pawandee Sarai from Imperial College London and the runner up was Dr Christine Sathanathan from the Royal Free, London. Joint first prize for the poster presentations was awarded to Dr Esme Slep from Southampton and Dr Matthew Walne from Sheffield. On behalf of the Society, I would like to congratulate the prizewinners and their supporting casts. Also, congratulations to everyone who had an oral presentation or a poster at the meeting as it's never an easy task to see a project to fruition. The Society in the last year has explored various options to get these abstracts published in a mainstream anaesthetic journal. Unfortunately, this was not successful for financial and administrative reasons. There would have been an increase in the financial burden for the individual members and a commitment by the Society and membership to be affiliated to a particular journal at significant annual costs.

This year sees the departure of Dr Elke Kothmann, a friend and colleague, from the VASGBI Committee and the Education Sub-Committee. On behalf of the Committee and the Society, I would like to thank Dr Kothmann for her service to the Society and for all the very sound and astute advice over the years. Dr Kothmann's departure leaves a vacancy on the Education Sub-Committee, which has to be filled. If anyone is interested in becoming a co-opted member of the Education Sub-Committee, please get in touch with myself or any of the Committee members for more information. One of

the Society's main aims is to increase the exposure to vascular anaesthesia for specialist trainees. To this end, we have been in communication with the Royal College of Anaesthetists to engage with us in terms of having some input into the vascular component for the next iteration of the RCOA curriculum for a CCT in Anaesthesia. We will also be hosting a VASGBI stand at the 2018 GAT ASM to increase the profile of vascular anaesthesia amongst specialist trainees.

As we plough on through winter, in the literal sense for some, we head towards the VASGBI Core Topics Study day, Manchester in March 2018 and the next ASM in September 2018, which will be held in Durham. Abstract submissions for the ASM will open sometime in May or June with the closing date being in July. I wish everyone all the best with their respective projects and I look forward to seeing you all in Durham.

Dr Indran Raju

Chair Education Subcommittee

Treasurer's Report

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. The annual scientific meeting 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. Since Dublin we have added to the funds with the registrations for the ASM generating between £43k to £75k. 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 but it has not this year added to it's savings.

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, despite every effort to reduce this cost.

As we did last year we ask you to note that you are receiving the newsletter as 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.

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

After the disappointment of no successful candidates supported in 2016 it provides great pleasure to say that the society successfully supported Adam Pichel in 2017 to achieve his Bronze award.

Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (10th and 11th September 2018) will be held in Durham.

Other News

Elections

We are seeking nominations for 4 posts, (1 trainee and 3 Consultant posts) all to join the committee in September 2018. 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 2018 to all our members from the Committee.

Tim Wood – Secretary
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