



President's News

Lorna Marson

Thank you to everyone who worked to make Congress the success it was. My particular thanks to our VP, Steve Wigmore, who chaired the congress organising committee.

We have reviewed the feedback and the team is very pleased. We will take on board comments and try and create an even better programme next year.

Sustainability and Resilience Summit

We have a busy time ahead. As you will have heard we are holding a Sustainability and Resilience Summit on Tuesday 12th June in London. This is in response to an increasing number of organ donors and transplants, and the proposed introduction of opt out legislation in Scotland and England, which means that these trends are likely to continue. We are aware that transplant teams are working to capacity to manage the current workload, and that we must seek to find ways to establish a workforce that is sustainable and resilient.

The aim of the day will be to identify practical solutions that look at ways of maximising the use of existing resources, as well as ensuring that commissioners understand the significant pressure that units are already working under. A consultation has been circulated to all transplant units, and the results of this will help to inform the day. Please follow the link below to register to attend the event.

The deadline for registration is the 15th May.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/transplantsummitregistration>

We hope that you will work with us to make this a constructive day with a plan to take things forward thereafter.

Communicating Risk and Consent

Work continues following on from the consent workshop last October and discussions at Congress. We plan to hold a follow up meeting in September, which will bring together the work of organ-specific groups and we are excited about the work we are doing with the Winton centre for Risk and Evidence communication to develop personalised patient information about the risk of transplant <https://wintoncentre.maths.cam.ac.uk>.

Thanks to Prof. John Forsythe and other members of the working group who are taking this work forward with members of the BTS executive.

Other News

I am grateful to Michelle Willicombe, as the new Chair of the clinical trials and research committee for the work she is undertaking to explore the value of a BTS research network.

Enormous thanks too to everyone who contributed to the filming of the BTS/ESOT renal transplant education course in Amsterdam earlier this month. We hope this will be an excellent resource for everyone working in renal transplantation. We will let you know when it becomes available.

Kidney Research UK, in collaboration with Chiesi, is offering 10 educational bursaries for researchers who will be presenting their work at TTS in Madrid this year. See this link for details, but please note a short deadline of 14th May 2018.

<https://www.kidneyresearchuk.org/research/future-of-renal-transplantation-research-bursaries>

The new revised guidelines to the microbiological safety of human organs, tissues and cells used in transplantation, renamed as the SaBTO microbiological safety guidelines, are now available:

<https://bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/sabto-microbiological-safety-guidelines.pdf>



Vice President's report

The annual BTS Congress in Brighton was a great success according to the feedback from the very many delegates who kindly completed the feedback form.

We are always learning and know that we can improve on lunch and scheduling of sessions but overall it was pleasing to see that our members and guests really valued the quality of the speakers and the effort that they put in to making their talks interesting accurate and informative. It would take too long to go through all of the wonderful sessions but the NHSBT session was scored particularly highly as was the Crisis Management and paediatric sessions. People really valued and enjoyed the session on Organ Donation and the executive committee are keen to continue to foster this relationship with the organ donation community as we plan future congresses.

The executive committee are hugely indebted to all of our speakers and chairs and all of the other people who were involved in the background organising the congress. It is clear that people are getting more familiar with the congress App and that this has been a popular innovation particularly for asking and filtering questions. The planning for next year's congress in Harrogate has already started and we will be sending you information on this later in the year and may be calling on some of you to help in the organisation of the meeting.

The presentations and videos from 2018 conference are now available on the congress pages of the website <https://bts.org.uk/events-meetings/bts-congress-2018-highlights/>



Treasurer's report

If you were present at the Annual General Meeting this year you will know that the Society is facing some financial challenges, and as a result we need to be somewhat austere for the next year or so. In response to this we have been obliged to put a number of measures in place.

Firstly we have this year increased the subscription fees across all levels of membership, which brings us closer into line with other professional societies, while still, we believe, offering good value to our members. To address a longstanding issue with event debtors we have now introduced a cancellation policy, and we also now require payment for events at the time of registration rather than later. This is to reduce the time and money that we spend chasing event debtors. We are also trying to be leaner as a Society which means that we will do more of our work through teleconference and spend less time in face to face meetings.

We are also working very hard to maintain good relationships with our corporate sponsors, who we rely on to help us to provide high quality meetings, especially the Annual Congress, which I hope you will agree was hugely successful this year in terms of the quality of the work presented as well as a lot of fun for delegates!



The Secretary's Corner

Hello for the first time from me in the secretary's corner. Thank you to the executive committee and secretariat team for their welcome.

Many thanks in particular to Lisa Burnapp for the seamless baton handover, hopefully I'm not now about to drop it. Fortunately Lisa has provided me with a comprehensive guide to the secretary's role, which should keep me on the straight and narrow in the first instance at least. I'm sure I speak for many in acknowledging Lisa's extraordinary contribution to the society over the last few years, and I'm looking forward to continuing a close working relationship with her in her role at NHSBT.

In such busy times, the annual Congress is always a welcome opportunity to take time to look up from the pressure of daily work and out at what's happening elsewhere around the country. The enthusiasm to share knowledge and experience, together with networking and opportunities for collaboration, are central to the success of the Congress and momentum of the Society.

The Congress is also the time to announce new appointments to Council, and we're delighted to welcome the following colleagues:

New committee Chairs

David Van Dellen (Education)

Michelle Willicombe (Clinical Trials and Research)

Refik Gökmen (Ethics)

Additional committee members

Gourab Sen (Education)

Anthony Dorling & Rachel Johnson (Clinical Trials and Research)

New Councillors:

Chris Callaghan (Portfolio to be confirmed)

Gavin Pettigrew (Transplant Science)

Jasvir Parmar (Lung Transplantation)

In addition, the following have been re-elected

Krishna Menon (Liver Transplantation),

Stephen Large (Heart Transplantation)

Varuna Aluvihare (Hepatology)

Transplantation is a small specialty that continues to go from strength to strength. Our rapid sharing and adoption of new techniques and therapeutic approaches is unrivalled.

A national collaborative approach has underpinned the success of transplantation in this country and remains key for future progress. The executive looks forward to discussing plans for the forthcoming year with committee chairs over the next few weeks.

“If we confine ourselves to our own small corner, we shall think small thoughts and do small things”.

Margo McDonald (1943 – 2014)

I'm looking forward to what the next three years have in store!

