



President's News

Lorna Marson

It is hard to imagine that it is that time of year again! The abstracts are in and are being marked this week for the Joint BTS/ODT congress which we are very excited about. Elections will take place for several positions, including Vice President, and three Councillor positions. Please do think about getting involved, and shape the future of the Society.

It is extraordinary to think that my 4 year tenure as VP and P is coming to a close, and it has been an honour to fulfil this role. We have an excellent council, who is keen to take work forward for the Society and, of course, an exec team that works tirelessly to keep the show on the road, not to mention the secretariat who support us in all of this. Included in this edition of the newsletter is news from the Chair of the Chapter of Surgeons, Nizam Mamode, and from the Chair of the Clinical Trials and Research Committee, Michelle Willicombe, giving you a flavour of the work going on in these areas.

The sustainability work continues after the June summit, and recently there was a follow up meeting of a regional London collaborative, which was led by John Forsythe, and ODT. It was an excellent meeting, and there seemed a real appetite from representatives from each London unit to explore how we might all work more collaboratively, particularly during times of high activity. Steve will lead the development of career pathways within the multidisciplinary context of transplantation.

We are continuing work to develop information for patients prior to listing for transplantation, with excellent support from staff at the Winton centre, and from representatives for each organ.

Please do register for Congress, which will be held in Harrogate 6-8th March, and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a great 2019!



Vice President's News

The final congress plan has now been agreed. This year we had an unprecedented abstracts submission with almost 300 papers submitted to the meeting and we are grateful to everyone for marking these so studiously.

Competition for oral presentations was higher than ever and some excellent quality work has been submitted for presentation. The Medawar session will feature no less than 7 separate centres among the 8 papers to be presented, indicating the health of transplantation research across the UK.

The joint congress with the Organ Donation community will we hope be an exciting event with something for everyone and so we would encourage you to register early to take advantage of the financial benefit this offers. Early bird registration closes midnight on 2nd February 2019.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2019!



Treasurer's News

Since the last newsletter we have been busy planning the 2019 Congress, which will be held jointly with ODT and is shaping up to be a brilliant meeting. Don't forget to register soon to get the early bird rates! Also don't forget to renew your membership so that you don't miss out on the massively discounted registration fees!

I am delighted to tell you that Chiesi and Astellas have agreed to remain Gold Corporate Partners for 2019 and that Sandoz remain Silver Partners. Please be welcoming and engaged with our Corporate Partners if you see them at BTS events, or elsewhere, as we really do rely upon their support.

Although we have made a small increase in both the membership fees and Congress registration fees for 2019, we are still very good value in comparison with other professional societies.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you at Congress!



The Secretary's Corner

I'm writing my reflections en route to a Congress sneak preview – aka the abstract review meeting. A total of 297 submissions is a clear sign that we've all been busy! Many thanks to the numerous society members who have been involved in scoring.

We all know that many audits and retrospective analyses benefit considerably from pooling experience in different units with bigger numbers strengthening the validity of results. With this in mind, the renal SpR club, chaired by Matt Graham-Brown, has plans to use the successful STARSurg model (Student Audit and Research in Surgery, starsurg.org) to conduct multi-centre audits. Transplantation is a subspecialty area that would clearly benefit from this approach.

The rare renal disease registry (rarerenal.org) is a portfolio-listed initiative to collect national information on an increasing number of conditions. In addition to collecting demographic information and facilitating UK-wide audit, Radar includes consent to contact for additional research studies. BK nephropathy has recently been accepted as an eligible diagnosis. A number of bespoke data fields will be added to ensure appropriate detail of data collection, in recognition that what you get out is only as good as what you put in. A longer term aspiration is that this will be the first in a series of other complications of transplantation, details of which can be collected on a national basis under the Radar umbrella.

You may be aware that production of Cr51-EDTA will be ceasing shortly, with implications for the assessment of renal function in living donors. The alternatives are DTPA and isotopic iohexol. A small working group led by Caroline Wroe and Graham Lipkin (RA) has been convened to produce a short guideline for clinicians.

Finally a quick heads up: new guidelines coming your way soon – those for the management of PTLD (jointly with the British Society of Haematology) and NODAT (jointly with the Renal Association and Association of British Clinical Diabetologists) are in development. What do you do in your unit?

For future newsletters – if you have any announcements or information to share – please send to us for inclusion.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!





Clinical Trials and Research Committee, Michelle Willicombe



Following a scoping meeting held at congress this year, a working group has been engaged in planning the implementation of a BTS research network.

The primary objective for the BTS is to develop an infrastructure which will facilitate collaborative research, enhancing the quantity of high quality research in organ donation and transplantation in the UK. Transplant research collaboratives are already active in both the US and Canada and are proving to be extremely effective not only in increasing research outputs but also translating the work into clinical practice for patient benefit.

Over the course of the year, the BTS working group have met with affiliated groups and stakeholders in order to co-ordinate the integration of the network with existing resources. We plan to present an overview proposal to the BTS members at congress in March, at which time we will encourage feedback prior to the official launch. We will also circulate a detailed overview of the proposal to all members following congress for those unable to make the session.

The working group are also encouraging any researchers who have a research proposal they wish to share with other BTS members to come and present at the clinical trials and research session at congress (Friday 8th March). We are especially interested in study proposals which will result in multicentre collaborative studies.

Please e-mail Michelle.Willicombe@nhs.net before the 22nd December if interested.





Chapter of Surgeons, Nizam Mamode



The Chapter of Surgeons represents transplant surgeons of any grade in the UK, and is a sub-section of the BTS. Our aims are to provide a voice for transplant surgeons, drive forward improvements to education and training and create for a where surgeons can network and discuss relevant issues.

Recently we have:

- 1) Organised a two day educational meeting with the Carrell Club, including non-technical skills training and retrieval
- 2) Participated in the development of the new surgical curriculum, including transplant competencies and plans for regional approaches to transplant training
- 3) Organised a forthcoming BTS Congress session on 'Bleeding and how to manage it'

Our future plans include post-CCT transplant fellowships, and a monothematic conference in 2020. Our aim is to provide a strong voice for transplant surgery, particularly given the changing landscape in organ transplantation, with higher out of hours work and greater governance. We are always keen to hear from surgeons with ideas about how the Chapter can progress and where it should focus its energies.



Transplant Survey

We would like to invite you to participate in a short online survey regarding the potential use of kidney bearing small renal tumor as a potential donor for renal transplant, after the renal mass has been removed ex-vivo with complete clearance and pathology confirming low grade disease or a benign lesion.

A similar survey has been directed to nephrologists and urological surgeons as well.

Further background of the study is included in the survey and the total time to completion will be less than 5 minutes. I would be most grateful if you can complete survey linked below.

TAPER study (Transplant Surgeon survey)

www.surveymonkey.co.uk



Living Donor Forum & Winter Ethics Symposium 2018

15th November, 2018
Park Inn by Radisson, York

Ethics Committee, Refik Gökmen

This year's joint BTS Live Donor Forum and Winter Ethics Symposium was held in York on 15 November; the theme of the meeting was Directed Altruistic Donation. This topic was last discussed at meetings in late 2012, and BTS guidance was published in 2014. Since that time, the landscape of directed altruistic donation has changed considerably: most transplant units have now encountered donors who have come forward as a response to social media appeals, and it seems timely to re-examine both the practical challenges and the ethical issues raised by this route of donation.

The programme included compelling presentations by both a kidney transplant recipient who had found a donor through a social media appeal, and a donor who had responded to a similar appeal. They were joined by transplant professionals and a representative from the Human Tissue Authority.

The themes explored during the day included:

- Practical considerations in managing donor enquiries generated from a social media appeal
- Concerns regarding the 'beauty pageant' involved in such appeals, and equity of access to transplantation
- Ethical issues raised by requests to donate exclusively to certain religious or ethnic groups
- The challenges involved in the assessment of directed altruistic donors from overseas

The day concluded with the Hoffenberg Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr Miran Epstein, Reader in Medical Ethics at QMUL. His lecture, entitled 'Directed Altruistic Donation: Two Fictions, One Context', challenged the audience to re-examine some of the assumptions that underlie our practice in transplantation.

The discussions at this meeting will now form the basis of an update to the BTS guidance on directed altruistic donation.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



The Voice of Transplantation in the UK

