



President's News

Krish Menon

Hope you all have started to enjoy your much needed summer break!

As a Society we have had a very busy start to the year with the joint NHSBT Congress in Edinburgh that was a huge success. We said 'Au revoir' to Lisa Burnapp who had led us brilliantly through the pandemic and beyond and were joined by our new Vice President Richard Baker! As a team we have been joined by new elected council members and look forward to exciting times ahead.

We have recognised the importance of social media and our commitment to sustainability and have appointed new council members to take on these roles in real earnest.

As a Society, we are deeply committed to our sustainability goals and will be working in three broad areas. Our manifesto on sustainability as a society will soon be published on our website. Firstly, we will make every effort to make our national congresses sustainable going into the future as you will see from the VP update. Doing away with plastic, flyers and having sustainable food are just some goals. Also, get yourself in shape, as we are also planning a 'Cyclothon' from London to Harrogate and ambitious as it may seem we will give it a go and our measure of success will be seeing us in one piece at the Congress! The plan is to incrementally do more each time to show our focus and drive to make our planet greener. We are also looking into continuing with our 50th Anniversary commitment to plant trees and are looking to put aside a small amount from each registration at congress towards 'Tree planting'.

Secondly, we have started to collate evidence to assess how as 'transplant units' we can start to move towards a 'net zero carbon transplant' not just from a surgical perspective but in all aspects of transplantation. This is work we will do in conjunction with NHSBT.

Finally, we would like to be more visible nationally to the general public as a Society throughout the year that is committed to a 'cleaner planet' and we are putting together activities such as taking part in the annual 'Great British Beach Clean' involving our membership starting in the Autumn.



I represent the Society on the National 'Organ Utilisation Implementation Group' and we do hope that we can get funding to progress on improving organ utilisation. In addition to Congress next year, we are hosting a National Monothematic meeting on 'Machine Perfusion' with NHSBT, to come up with a unifying strategy on how to move forward with the pathways for use of the technology to improve organ utilisation.

On another note, our hospital jobs have become more challenging so please do look after yourselves and each other and do not forget to enjoy last of the summer wine! I would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on what we could achieve together so please do get in touch.

Krish Menon





Vice President's News

Richard Baker



I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer. As Vice President my time is largely consumed by organising the Annual Congress for next year. As an adopted Yorkshireman I am delighted that the 2024 Congress will be held in Harrogate between Wednesday 6th March and Friday 8th March. In addition, we are planning to hold a Postgraduate Masterclass and a Nursing Symposium (focusing on Advance Communication skills) on the Tuesday before Congress. More details will follow soon regarding these events.

The working theme of the Congress is "Rethinking Resource". We believe that this reflects a constructive approach to the challenging environment in which we are all working. There has never been a better time to appraise the resources that we have and to optimise them going forward. With this in mind, we are preparing an exciting and challenging programme which we look forward to announcing in the next few weeks. Several of our most popular sessions will be reappearing with a strong emphasis on education. We will also be holding novel sessions addressing anaesthetics and critical care and continuing with the retrieval forum. We are also pleased to increase the number of sessions for the Nurse's chapter.

Two notable dates will fall during this year's congress. The first is Thursday 7th March, which is World Book Day. As a result, the gala dinner on Thursday night will be themed on books, so why don't you come along as your favourite character from a book? On a more serious note, Friday 8th March is International Women's Day. We will be holding a special plenary session at congress on "Diversity in Transplantation" to celebrate the varied nature of our workforce.

We are aware that conferences can take a heavy toll on resources and the environment, often generating significant waste. We remain committed to making the conference as sustainable as possible. Together with the secretariat I have had discussions with the organisers of the Glasgow and Egypt COP summits, and we are formulating a sustainability agenda which will increase year on year. For example, we will have no plastic or paper on the industry stands this year and we are looking at sustainable and local food sources. We are delighted that we have received a 25% reduction in LNER rail fares for delegates who travel by rail to the conference. While we welcome overseas speakers we have asked that they are only invited to speak on line or in person if they are already in the UK for other purposes. We will not support air travel solely to speak at the congress.

Richard Baker



The Secretary's Corner

Hello! Greetings from the Secretary's Corner.

It has been a time of change and evolution within the Society and the Council has changed quite considerably over the last 12 months. At the recent meeting in Harrogate we welcomed new Councillors: Rommel Ravanan (Nephrology), Lucy Dames (Donor Co-ordination) and Aimen Amer (Social Media) to Council. Expectations are high for a packed program of work to extend and strengthen the ties between BTS, professionals and the patient community.

One of the highlights of Council discussions was around the composition of Committees. The current Society rules stipulate that each committee should have five elected members and co-opted members as required- however we believe this should be changed to reflect changing times. The BTS is a broader and more inclusive Society than ever before with nurses, pharmacists and anaesthetists as well as the more traditional surgeon and physician contingents needing a voice and representation.

For various reasons not as many people stand for election these days- the pressures of the intense NHS environment being at the core. Also, certain sections of the membership are reluctant to expose themselves to the glare and spotlight of elections, but are still keen to contribute and commit to the work of the Society. The general consensus was therefore, that we should move to reduce the numbers of elected and expand the co-opted members. We will bring this to the AGM in Harrogate March 2024 for discussion and a vote.

Last but not least I am delighted to announce Miriam Cortes-Cerusiolo as the winner of the first Andrew Paris BTS Travelling Fellowship. The Education Committee marked the strong applications but came to a clear decision that her application to support and develop a UK robotic live donor program for the benefit of families where a young child needed a liver transplant was the most deserving. My sincere thanks to Cat Boffa for her leadership of the Education Committee and co-ordinating the marking.

Please contact me if there are any issues you need help with or need highlighting
generalsecretary@bts.org.uk

Colin Wilson



Treasurer's Chest

It is hard to avoid financial and money matters at the moment.

The worrying state of the nation's economy, NHS finances and pay disputes are daily news. The Society's finances are perhaps more stable. We are delighted to have increased our corporate sponsorship and are very grateful to our Gold sponsors Astellas, Chiesi, Hansa and Takeda, and to our Silver sponsors Astra Zeneca, Eurofins and Sandoz. The central event for our sponsors is the annual congress, and this year was hugely successful. The exhibition hall was buzzing - largely due to the fantastic work of the Moore Insight events team - massive Thank You to the whole team.

Although the costs of running the Society - which are subject to inflation - have increased, I am pleased to say that we do not propose to increase membership fees for the year 2023-24 - at least not for those paying by direct debit! However, the administrative burden of collecting fees from those not paying by direct debit is becoming an increasing challenge. So for 2023-24 there will be a small surcharge for members choosing not to pay by direct debit - £5 for reduced and ordinary members, and £10 for consultant members. The membership team will be sending renewal notices in the autumn - so please give serious thought to switching to direct debit.

And - just as important - encourage your colleagues to join BTS and be part of our thriving and inspiring society.

Nick Torpey



Upcoming Events

BTS Monothematic Meeting

The Wellcome Trust, London

Friday 3rd November

Registration will open Mid-August

The BTS will hold a joint one-day meeting together with NHSBT OTDT examining the role of machine perfusion in liver transplantation. The use of novel technologies, primarily to increase organ utilisation, but also to facilitate workforce sustainability, equity of access and research interventions will be a major growth area in the coming decade, and we want the UK transplant community to be at the forefront. This aspiration has been embodied in the eighth recommendation of the recent OUG report. This meeting will be an inclusive event to allow all the UK centres to reflect on their own practice and experience, followed by an opportunity to formulate a blueprint for working together going forwards to become a major international force in this arena.

