



The Voice of Transplantation in the UK

## BTS Andrew Paris Memorial Fellowship

In 2021, the British Transplantation Society was approached by Susan Paris, widow of the late Andrew Paris, who had been instrumental in setting up and running the St John Ambulance Airwing. This service, provided by the well-known charity, had been established in 1972 to provide a volunteer light air service for the rapid transport of organs, drugs, blood supplies and patients when other means were not available.

In 1973 there were over 100 pilots with more than 60 aircraft on stand-by. In 1972-3 alone, they transported 72 kidneys (*Br Med J* 1973;3:589). The Airwing was active all through the 1980's, but was disbanded in 1993 when the NHS established more formalised transport systems (see "History of the BTS", <https://bts.org.uk/about-bts/history-of-the-bts/>).

Under Andrew Paris' careful administration, the charitable donations and investments flourished, and fellowships for junior healthcare personnel have been provided on an annual basis to continue the movement of transplant knowledge and experience, in lieu of physical organs. On Andrew's death, the British Transplantation Society was offered a generous bequest and asked to continue the legacy.

Transplant healthcare professionals, and ultimately patients, benefit from the opportunity to travel and learn from best practice, establish new techniques and pass on lessons learned to colleagues. This practice has been established and ingrained within the Society by the original St John Airwing Travelling Bursary.

There will be an open annual competition administered by the BTS Education committee and General Secretary and overseen by the BTS Executive.

The Education committee will distribute and promote the Fellowship, collate the application forms and provide a shortlist for the Award committee to score and award. The Award committee will be chaired by the Society President and include the BTS Executive and the chair of the Education committee. Other members may be co-opted to provide rigour if, for instance, the members are conflicted or lack specific expertise with respect to individual applications. In exceptional circumstances the fellowship may be shared between two individuals. The Fellowship will be awarded to the individual/s who, in the view of the committee, are likely to gain the most from the Fellowship. The BTS Secretariat will administer the finances in a separate part of the Society's accounts.



The Voice of Transplantation in the UK

## BTS Andrew Paris Memorial Fellowship

A maximum of two Fellowships will be awarded annually. The aim is to benefit transplant patients and to commemorate the work of the St John Ambulance Air Wing 1972-1993 established by Andrew Paris.

1. The purpose of the awards is to enable the recipient to visit other transplant centres in the United Kingdom or abroad to widen their knowledge and experience.
2. Awards of up to £2,500 each will be made in a calendar year.
3. Applications are invited from healthcare professionals in all aspects of transplantation. These may include basic scientists, surgeons, physicians, nurses and others whose work benefits transplant patients.
4. Applicants should be resident in the United Kingdom and a current member of the British Transplantation Society at the time of the application being submitted.
5. Applications should include a summary (of not more than 1000 words, see separate document) of the proposed visit, the particular interests of the units to be visited and the expected benefits in terms of:
6. Agreement from the host centre(s) to be visited should be obtained before application.
7. Applications should include a short curriculum vitae and be accompanied by a supporting letter from the applicant's head of department and a statement of support from the head(s) of the host centre(s).
8. Applications must include the estimated total cost of your project and the amount that you are applying for. Appropriate receipts must be available for inspection.
9. Awards will be paid in two parts; 50% when the award is made and the final 50% when an adequate report of the project has been received (minimum 1000 words).
10. A report will be expected within six weeks of the end of the visit, which will be published on the BTS website.
11. The Fellowship recipient(s) will be expected to attend and present their experience at the following BTS Congress as an Invited Speaker.
12. Any award is at the discretion of the selection committee convened by The British Transplant Society Executive, whose decision is final.
13. The closing date for applications is **5pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**



**BTS Andrew Paris Memorial Fellowship**

Commitment to transplantation (maximum 15 points)

Supported by

- Current role within transplantation (maximum 5 points)
  - Applicants must reside in the UK
  - Applicants must be a member of BTS at time of application
- CV (maximum 10 points)
  - Should show evidence of jobs/courses/research related to transplantation

Relevance of project (maximum 20 points)

Supported by:

- Aims of project (maximum 10 points)
- How will your project make a difference to transplant patients? (maximum 10 points)

Achievability (maximum 10 points)

Supported by:

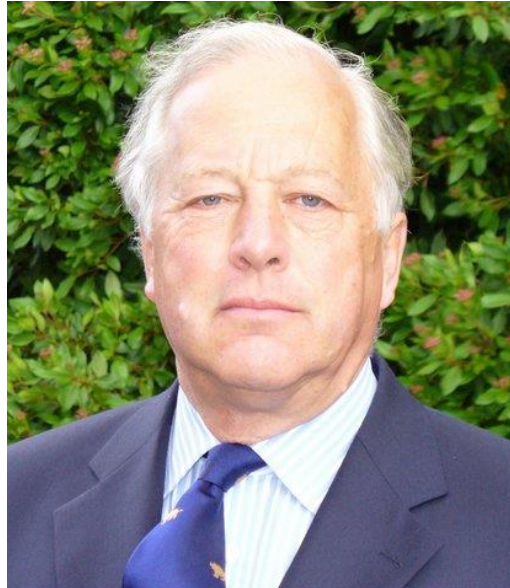
- Summary of project plan and how aims will be achieved (maximum 10 points)
  - This should be detailed enough so that it is clear how the applicant will spend their time at the host centre(s)
- Letter of agreement from host centre(s) (mandatory)

Costings (maximum 5 points)

Supported by:

- Proposed costings

TOTAL SCORE OUT OF 50:



Andrew Paris studied Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, qualifying in 1964 and gaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1971. In 1976 he was appointed Consultant Urologist at the Royal London Hospital, a post he held until 2005, with similar appointments at other hospitals, among them the Italian Hospital (1979-90) and St Bartholomew's Hospital (1994-2005). From 1979-2002 he was Clinical Director of Surgery at Barts and the London NHS Trust. After retirement in 2005 he continued as an Emeritus Consultant at Barts. Among numerous distinctions he was vice-president of the Section of Urology of the Royal Society of Medicine (1989), from 1984 a Freeman of the City of London and in 2007-2008 Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

His association with renal transplantation began in its early days, before the development of modern cross-matching techniques and organ preservation methods. An early and long-serving member of the British Transplantation Society (BTS), he performed many transplants in the London region at a time when rapid transport of a deceased donor organ to the recipient hospital was a critical factor in ensuring a successful result (which was then still difficult to achieve). His involvement was both clinical and scientific. He carried out experimental transplant surgery at the Max Planck Institute and published the results with Professor Hilliard Festenstein.

One of his most significant contributions was as co-founder of the St John Ambulance Air Wing 1972. The first UK organ transplant flight took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1971, even before the Air Wing was officially established. It was full of drama. A kidney from Cardiff was on its way to London by train when the recipient was found to be too unwell for surgery. The next-best-matched patient was in Nancy in eastern France and unreachable in time by the usual transport methods. However, through a special arrangement with the London Hospital, two of the selected volunteer pilots, Malcolm

McClaren and Tony Gyselyneck, took off at night from Booker Airfield in Buckinghamshire (now Wycombe Air Park) in a Piper Arrow plane and were given priority landing at Heathrow, where they were briefed on the flight and then flew on to Nancy with the kidney. 'It arrived', Andrew remembered, 'in time to be transplanted. The story of the first flight had so many fascinating and fantastic aspects that it was reconstructed by ATV for a film called *Too Late Tomorrow*'.

From its first official mission, flown from London to Manchester by Pat Pattison and Bob Paterson on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1972, the Air Wing was an outstanding success, performing well over a thousand organ donation flights until it was eventually decommissioned in the early 1990s, when the advent of specialist organ retrieval teams and the development of improved preservation methods ended the need for so much reliance on its assistance.

The story of the Air Wing, briefly covered in the British Transplant Society's History, is fully told by Norman Franks in his excellent book, a copy of which was kindly donated to the BTS in 2021 by St John Ambulance. The book is a lasting tribute to the unsung heroes who contributed to the success of one of the twentieth century's medical triumphs – not only those who could fly but also all who, in the best tradition of St John Ambulance, gave their time, ability and often courage to offer new hope and health to others.

Andrew Paris' special role, for which he deserves much credit, was to perceive the need for an emergency air transport system, realise the possibility of using volunteer pilots to supply it and ignite the spark which led to the creation of the Air Wing. In 1985 he received the Order of St John in recognition of his services. Following the decommissioning of the Wing in 1992 he set up a Travelling Fellowship in its memory, whose purpose was to enable Fellows to visit other transplant centres in the United Kingdom or abroad in order to widen their knowledge and experience.

Andrew Paris died, aged eighty, in 2021, leaving a generous legacy to the British Transplantation Society for the promotion of research.