



## President's News

Krish Menon

Hope you all have enjoyed your much needed summer break!

Richard Baker and team are already putting together a great program for the joint Congress with NHSBT in sunny Brighton! In addition, this autumn we have a BTS two-day meeting at the Fetal Medicine Centre, King's College Hospital, London.

The first day is a Monothematic day on 'Ageing and Transplantation' where we would hope to discuss clinical issues surrounding our aging donor and recipient population and understanding the research aspects of 'senescence'.

The second day is co-badged with the International Living Donor Liver Transplant Group (iLDLTG) to host the 'International Living Donor Liver Transplant (LDLT) UK Symposium'. This is in keeping with the national drive from NHSBT to promote living liver donation, particularly 'adult to adult' LDLT that has been lacking in the UK. Included in the program there is a 'Mentor and Mentee' session for young surgeons wishing to pursue training in LDLT and there will also be an opportunity to do this by applying through the BTS bursary scheme.

The details of the programme are on the BTS website, and we have a got together a very good national and international faculty for the two days. Below is the link for the programme and registration.

[BTS-iLDLT-Draft-Programme](#)

[Monothematic & iLDLT registration](#)

The two Council members appointed for social media and sustainability have taken on their roles in real earnest. We hope to continue to add to the good elements in making the Congress more sustainable and use social media to keep the Society and members abreast of our activities.

Also, get yourself in shape, as we are also planning a 'Cyclothon' from London to Brighton on Monday the 10th March 2025, details of this will be sent out early next year! All are welcome to join!

We are in the process of collating evidence to assess how as 'transplant units' we can start to move towards a 'net zero carbon transplant'.

Please do look after yourselves and each other and see you in London on the 7th and 8th November 2024! 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



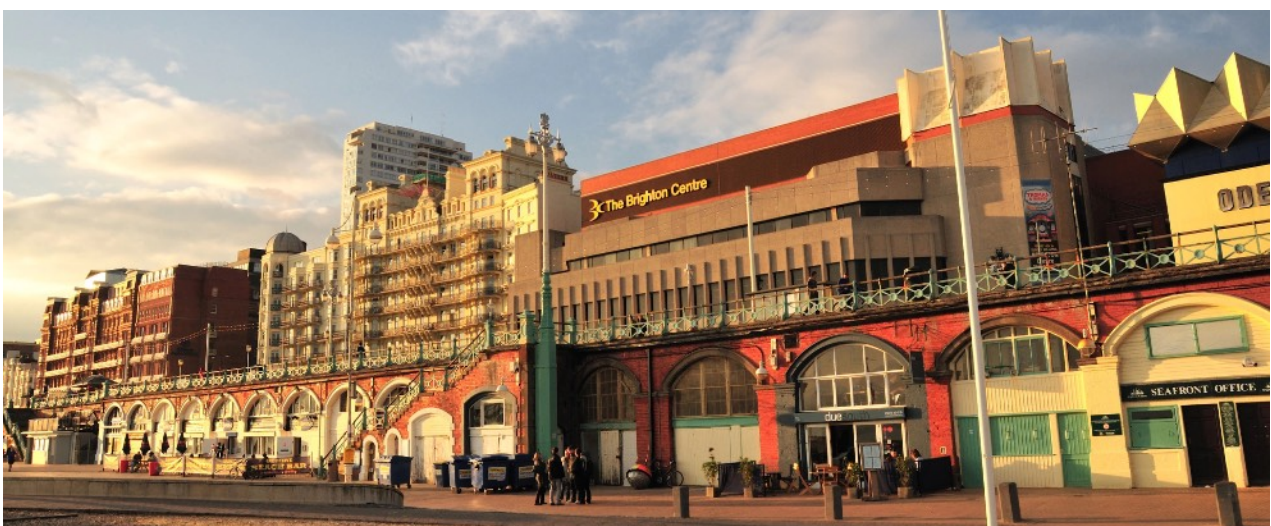
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## Vice President's News

Richard Baker

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed some quality time away from work over the Summer.

As Autumn approaches we have a number of excellent BTS events and my thoughts turn to the year ahead and the Annual Congress in Brighton. We have a magnificent beachside venue in the Brighton Centre, a brutalist architectural triumph and home to many political party conferences as well as Bing Crosby's final concert!



The 2025 Congress will be held between Wednesday 12th March and Friday 14th March. In addition, we are planning to hold both Postgraduate and Nursing and AHP Masterclasses on the Tuesday before Congress. More details are available on the website regarding these events ([BTS NHSBT Annual Congress 2025](#))

The banner features a purple background with a photograph of Brighton Pier at dusk. In the top left, the NHS Blood and Transplant logo is displayed alongside the 'Yes I donate ORGAN DONATION' logo. In the top right, the BTS British Transplantation Society logo is shown with '50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY The Voice of Transplantation for Fifty Years' below it. The central text reads 'Joint Congress 2025' in large white and pink letters, followed by 'Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th March' and 'The Brighton Centre, Brighton'. On the right side, the Brighton Centre logo is shown above the website address 'brightoncentre.co.uk'. The Brighton Centre logo itself is a stylized white 'BC' inside a square frame.

2025 will once again see a joint congress with NHSBT and we look forward to welcoming members of the donation community. The working theme of the Congress is “Nurturing Interdependency” which reflects our joint sense of purpose across the whole transplantation pathway. With this in mind, we have prepared an exciting and challenging programme, the highlights of which are available on the website. More details will follow over 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:

- The concerns of patients and carers
- What the world’s best donation programme looks like
- What AI has to offer transplantation
- Concerns in paediatrics
- Advances in histopathology
- Donation after euthanasia



We are also honoured to be addressed by one of our transplant surgical colleagues, Mr Zubir Ahmed, who has recently been elected as an MP and is working at the heart of the new government.

We are aware that conferences can take a heavy toll on resources and the environment, often generating significant waste. It is especially fitting that this conference is in Brighton, which has been represented by a Green party MP since 2010, and we remain committed to making the conference as sustainable as possible. We will maintain the measures introduced last year while looking to extend our commitments. For example, the default option at our annual dinner will be vegetarian (an alternative option will be available) and we have worked closely with venues to minimise our carbon footprint. We will again be offsetting so that the conference is carbon neutral. For those wishing a eco-friendly travel option we will also be organising a BTS London to Brighton cycle ride on Monday 10th March and more details will follow.

Following on from the success of last year's "Diversity in Transplantation" session which celebrated the nature of our workforce, we are determined to continue with an ongoing EDI programme under the stewardship of our co-opted representative, Professor Adnan Sharif. It has been a particularly poignant twelve months for the Transplant Community with the publication of the RCS report on "Sexual Misconduct in Surgery" and a further high-profile case this year. The executive feel that this issue needs to be addressed head on, and we will be holding a plenary session on "Sexual Safety in the NHS Workplace". We remain totally committed to ensure that the BTS is an all-inclusive society that deplores abuse or intolerance in any shape or form.

Finally on a lighter note we hope that as many of you as possible will join us at the Hilton HoeDown on Thursday night for some line dancing and Country and Western Music. There will once again be a prize for the best dressed!

I look forward to sharing the full programme with you in the next few weeks but in the meantime, I hope you enjoy the Autumn!

**Richard Baker**



## The Secretary's Corner

Hello! Greetings from the Secretary's Corner

It's been a busy time over the last few months, with lots of meetings being planned and a few weeks off to enjoy some summer sun! The BTS held a Council meeting on 21st June, where we welcomed new colleagues, and expressed our thanks to Ellie Asgari for the outstanding work that she's done as Chair of the BTS Standards and Guidelines Committee. The Exec are delighted to announce that Stephen O'Neill (Belfast transplant surgeon), has agreed to take over as Chair, with the support of Ailish Nimmo (Bristol nephrologist), as Vice-Chair.

A reminder to all that the **BTS Monothematic Meeting on 'Aging in Transplantation'** is drawing near, with a fantastic line-up of speakers scheduled for Thursday 7th November in south London. Please book your ticket as soon as possible.

Much like the Oscar season, the BTS is gearing up for a busy period of awards. We are very pleased to announce that the BTS Andrew Paris Memorial Fellowship for 2024 is now open, with two awards of a maximum of £2500 each. The Fellowships are designed to support healthcare professionals to visit other transplant centres in the UK or overseas to widen their knowledge or experience. Further information is available [here](#). Please apply!

**BTS Educational Bursaries** are open throughout the year to support trainees to attend educational courses, with a maximum value of £500.

Although Medawar Medals, Nursing and AHP Award, and the Calne-Williams Medal are awarded through the Annual Congress abstract submission processes and after judging at the meeting, please note that there's a separate application process for the prestigious **Roy Calne Award**. This is awarded to younger members of the BTS with outstanding work published in a peer-reviewed journal. More information will follow in the coming months.

Finally, there will be a number of **Exec, Council, and Committee** positions coming up for election at the end of this year. Your Society needs your input and voice, and we're looking for the involvement of a breadth of colleagues from many disciplines across the UK.

Please consider standing for election; if you have any questions about how the Exec or Council function, please don't hesitate to email me at [chris.callaghan@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:chris.callaghan@gstt.nhs.uk).

Chris Callaghan



## A note from the Treasurer

The BTS is pleased to announce the availability of educational bursaries to support Nurses, Pharmacists and AHPs attend the BTS Congress 2025. The BTS is very grateful to Chiesi Limited for funding these bursaries.

Those who wish to be considered should ensure they tick the box in the abstract submission form. Guidelines for submitting forms can be found here:

[British-Transplant-Society-2025-Educational-Bursaries-Advert-Approved.pdf \(bts.org.uk\)](#)

Rommel Ravanan

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## Upcoming Events

### BTS Monothematic Meeting – Ageing and Transplantation

7th November,  
London

### BTS - iLDLT UK Symposium

8th November,  
London

### BTS NHSBT Joint Congress 2025

Save the Date – Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 March,  
The Brighton Centre, Brighton

### The Fundamentals of Transplantation: A Joint Educational Event by The Herrick Society of Trainees in Transplant Surgery & The British Transplant Physician Trainees

Monday 2nd December 2024 09:00 – 17:00

RCSEng Outreach Hub North and Midlands at The University of Manchester Innovation Centre (UMIC)



## Life In Transplantation

Dr Ahmed Ahmed, Consultant Nephrologist at  
St. James's University Hospital in Leeds

Born and raised in Sudan, my passion for solving puzzles led me to a pivotal choice: medicine over music. While I loved the melodies, the complexities of the human body captured my imagination and became my next big milestone. This passion carried me to the UK, where I eventually pursued further training in nephrology, diving deep into the intricacies of kidney health.

As I honed my skills in nephrology, my fascination with transplantation blossomed, particularly the immunological marvels that dictate success or failure in this field. It was a thrilling blend of science and humanity that fuelled my ambition to make a difference. I soon recognised that transplantation is not just about organs; it's about people, and addressing health inequalities became a driving force in my career.

Through an incredible opportunity, I embarked on research that linked transplantation with health equity, aiming to shed light on disparities in access to care. BTS provided a fantastic platform for me to share my work with an inspiring network of colleagues from the UK and beyond. This collaboration has been instrumental in my ongoing efforts to improve patient outcomes.

Recently, I joined a dynamic team of transplant nephrologists and surgeons in Leeds, where I continue to care for transplant patients while advocating for more transplants for renal patients, particularly those from the underserved groups. Every day at work is a chance to push for equitable access to life-saving treatments.

And on a lighter note, amidst my busy medical journey, I've also managed to teach myself the keyboard! Who says you can't mix a little music with medicine?

Dr Ahmed Ahmed

