



President's News

Richard Baker

Dear Colleagues

I hope you are all well and looking forward to a summer break. I hope that you enjoyed Llandudno as much as I did and it was reassuring to receive so much positive feedback. Our thoughts now turn to Bournemouth in 2027 as planning begins for next year.

As we go forward, I am keen to progress a number of strategic initiatives before my time is up next March. The first of these is engagement. The BTS is your society, and I would like to encourage you to get involved and help shape the agenda. We are a broad church across all organs and involving the entire pathway from donation to implantation, so it is important that you are all represented. There will be several posts up for election in the Autumn so please put yourself forward.

We need to establish more ways to interact with our membership and after the survey last year we are trying to improve matters. Watch out for announcements related to the website over the next few months. Another priority area has been equity, diversity and inclusion and I sincerely hope that all our members view the BTS as a safe respectful space in which to express their views. We aim to continue develop this theme with seminars and sessions at congress over the next 12 months.

Education is another priority area and following your feedback in the survey we are keen to increase the number of educational events over the next 12 months. We have increased the number of webinars to six and I would like to congratulate Aimen Amer who organised excellent opener on, "Digital health in Transplantation" last month. Details of the other webinars are below and please do join us as they are free and all you have to do is register.

In November we will be holding three one day events on consecutive days in York. These are:

Tuesday November 10th - Liver transplantation 2026: Capacity, capability and the next decade

Wednesday November 11th - Bolder, braver – Donation in the next decade

Thursday November 12th - BTS UKKA Renal Transplantation Meeting

See the upcoming events section at the end of this newsletter for more information

Sustainability remains high on the agenda, and we are committed to working with the Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation (ESIT) group over the next few years. We also intend to keep the annual congress carbon neutral. I hope some of you may be interested in the National Emergency Briefing who produced a thought provoking film that you can view at the following link <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

Finally, I would like thank Rommel for his notable contribution to the Society as he leaves to take up his new post. He has left the society in a robust financial position, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him well.

I wish you all well for the summer and look forward to meeting up soon. Please do email me if you have any ideas (richard-j.baker@nhs.net)

Best wishes

Richard



Vice President's News

Dear Everyone

Llandudno may seem only a few weeks ago, but we are already thinking about next year's meeting in Bournemouth.

First of all - a huge Thank You for all your effort and contributions to Llandudno.

The theme for next year's conference in Bournemouth (2nd - 5th March 2027) is going to be around introducing and influencing change - amongst healthcare professionals, patients and the public. Any suggestions for a snappy strapline gratefully received. We already have pencilled in some great

examples of how to influence change in general (including a focus on climate change), how change may be a challenge (xenotransplantation), and where change has been successfully introduced (ARCs)

Any suggestions or ideas for sessions, content or speakers very welcome - please e-mail me nicholas.torpey@nhs.net and the Secretariat secretariat@bts.org.uk.

There is much to look forward to before next March – all the events are listed at the end of this newsletter.

I hope everyone has a great summer

Nick



Treasurer's Report

Dear BTS family

Following on from presentations followed by discussions at council in March, we have commenced the process of reviewing and updating the BTS website to provide a smoother user experience as well strengthening our cyber-security protections. We are working to have this in place for the start of the new membership year in November 2026.

With an eye on the future, as well as reflecting the executive and council view of finding ways to improve engagement with the society's members, we have also started exploring membership apps and hope to update on progress of these discussions at the June council meeting.

Finally, I want to thank all members for their help and trust during my tenure as treasurer. I especially want to thank colleagues on council and executive team without whose support, encouragement and trust, I would not have been able to deliver in the role. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the BTS and its' members, I will continue to champion the Society from the sidelines.

Kindest regards

Rommel



General Secretary's Report

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the recent Congress in (mostly sunny) Llandudno, and to welcome new members of Council and the Committees at the AGM. We look forward to meeting new Council members in person at the next Council meeting in June.

The BTS affiliates programme goes from strength-to-strength, and we welcome the British Association of Paediatric Nephrologists (BAPN) to the fold. It's great to have stronger representation of the paediatric transplant community within the BTS. If you are a member of both societies, please be aware that you can get 50% off your BTS membership when you renew.

Please note that there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of BTS members on Thursday 11th June between 4.30pm and 5pm to discuss the proposal to appoint Sarah Hosgood as interim Treasurer to take over from Rommel Ramanan until elections can be held for the four-year post at the usual time of year. Thank you very much to Sarah for being willing to be nominated for the interim role and thank you to Rommel for his service to the BTS as Treasurer.

You will have received an email giving you details of how to register for this virtual event – if you haven't, or if you need further information, please contact the Secretariat at secretariat@bts.org.uk.

Following on in the same vein, it is still early days, but please note that there will quite a few posts coming up for election to the Exec, Council and Committees – please consider putting yourselves forward and getting involved! Again, if there are queries, please contact the Secretariat and we'll get back to you.

With my very best wishes,

Chris





People In Transplantation

Vikkineshwaran Subramaniam

Fellow in transplant surgery at Hammersmith Hospital and Treasurer of the Herrick Society, the BTS sister chapter representing transplant trainees across the UK

I am originally from Malaysia. I moved to Ireland during the pandemic for personal reasons, completed a Master's in Surgical Science and Practice there, worked in general surgery for a year, and then moved to the UK in pursuit of surgical training. One of the biggest influences on me was Professor Oscar Traynor in Ireland, who started liver transplantation there and was a huge role model to me. I have also been very lucky with mentors in the UK, especially Ms Fiona McCaig, who has guided me through exams and career progression with far more patience than I probably deserved.

I chose transplantation because it has exactly the right mix of structure and chaos. Every case is different, but the principles and steps remain the same. I have a clinical diagnosis of ADHD, and it becomes fairly obvious to anyone who works with me that I am, at heart, a hyperactive man-child. In transplantation that often feels more like an asset than a flaw. I tend to switch on when most people switch off. I enjoy the uncertainty, the odd hours, and the fact that there is still order within the chaos. My long-term ambition is to enskill myself in multivisceral transplantation.

One of the best moments in our job is calling a recipient to tell them we have a match. It feels a bit like telling someone they have won a million pounds. There is so much excitement and relief in that moment. I love that. It is probably one reason I am drawn to transplant surgery. I get to deliver more good news than bad.

Outside work, I play music, collect plants, and write, usually on my commute to work. I keep a Substack called Vikkipaedia, where I recently wrote a longer reflection on my attachment in Santander. I am also active with the European Aroid Society and the International Aroid Society, where I am involved in education and research. Plants are quieter than patients, but not always less dramatic.



A particularly memorable recent experience was an attachment in Santander, Spain, where I spent time with the transplant and intensive care teams to learn more about controlled DCD and perimortem interventions. I deliberately shadowed the intensivists and donor coordination team rather than the retrieval surgeons, because retrieval is already the part I know best from UK practice. What interested me was the earlier phase, donor identification, pathway activation, and how interventions such as NRP were built into ordinary practice.

What struck me most was how normal transplantation felt. General surgeons retrieved the liver and pancreas. Urologists retrieved the kidneys. It all sat naturally within an ordinary working day rather than feeling niche or mysterious. There was a strong teaching culture, serious emphasis on research, and, refreshingly, doctors who seemed to have lives outside work. They swam, hiked, and looked suspiciously well adjusted. I came back impressed, and slightly envious.

I have also written a longer reflection on the Santander attachment on Vikkipaedia, which can be accessed via the QR code.



NOTICES

ESOT are running a Europe wide survey on CMV Clinical Practice

If you are interested in getting involved then please visit.

<https://cmvsurvey2026.com>

BASL/BSG Optimizing Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Working in Hepatobiliary (HB) Oncology Survey

A survey for any members involved in the care of patients with primary liver cancer (Closing on June 3rd)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYHBDSV>

Upcoming BTS events for 2026/2027

BTS Webinar – Broadening horizons: the latest scientific and clinical advances in transplantation

26/05/2026 17:00 – 18:00

Online Event

[Book here](#)

BTS Webinar: Making Transplant Happen: The Critical Roles Behind the Donation and Transplant Timeline.

08/07/2026 – 14:00-16:00

Online Event

Registration to open soon

[Upcoming BTS Events - British Transplantation Society](#)

BTS Webinar: The Do's and Don'ts of Whistleblowing: Speaking Up Without Blowing Up

29/09/2026 – 17:00-18:00

Online Event

Registration to open soon

[Upcoming BTS Events - British Transplantation Society](#)

BTS Autumn Programme

Liver Transplantation 2026: Capacity, Capability and the Next Decade

Tuesday 10th November | York

Bolder, Braver: Donation in the next decade

Wednesday 11th November | York

BTS UKKA Renal Transplantation Meeting

Thursday 12th November | York

[BTS Autumn Programme - British Transplantation Society](#)

British Transplantation Society Annual Conference 2027

Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th March 2027

Bournemouth International Centre

[British Transplantation Society Annual Conference 2027 - British Transplantation Society](#)