



# SBNS Newsletter

SPRING 2004

## Message from the President, Mr David Hardy

### Training in Neurosurgery

The proposals for a new training programme for Neurosurgery which I mentioned in my last Newsletter, were extensively discussed at a very interesting and helpful satellite meeting held before the Cardiff Scientific meeting in September. The event was very well attended and the proposals have now been well debated. Since that meeting there have been a number of briefing meetings including face-to-face meetings with the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and Edinburgh. Our proposals have received enthusiastic support. There has been a meeting with the Department of Health on our Joint Training proposals in January to discuss how best to move the proposals forward and I hope that following the next meeting in April we will be in a position to put our latest proposals to you in a more detailed way.



### The National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions

Likewise the External Reference Group of the National Service Framework for long-term conditions has continued to meet and appears to be making some progress. However I remain equivocal about whether or not we will succeed in producing a document which will ensure the necessary changes in investment and resources for acute Neurosurgery. The "Advice to Ministers" is expected by March 2004. It is confirmed that, if at all possible, we will meet this deadline. This is important in the light of the timetable for the next three-year spending review, negotiations for which begin in March. If the NSF is to have any prospect of achieving the necessary funding there will have to be a "marker" down by that date.

### Clinical Standards

I was pleased to Chair a recent further meeting with the Regional Specialist Commissioners at which we discussed the progress of the Standards Document. The current position was ably presented by Mr Barrie White

who informed us that 15 units have now completed the questionnaire. From the information received most units have scored well with regard to management but fairly poorly with regard to access and for rehabilitation facilities. The self-assessment questionnaire presents units with an effective tool to highlight any resource shortcomings and any shortcomings in the functioning of the units. I would urge all those units which have not completed the questionnaire to do so and to send their results to Barrie. The Commissioners for London and for South West, South East and

Eastern regions have jointly developed a new document setting out Standards for Spinal Injury Services. Although there was little involvement of the Society, the Standards produced are very similar to those set out in our document. I hope the Commissioners have now accepted the need to involve the Society in joint working to develop any new Standards in future.

*Copies of the Standards document and the questionnaire can be obtained from the SBNS Office [admin@sbns.freemove.co.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.freemove.co.uk) or from the SBNS Website, under Society Reports.*

### NICE Guidelines Development Group for Neurological Tumours

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence recently held a "scoping day" which Professor Garth Cruickshank and I attended on behalf of the Society. This was to determine the brief for a Guidelines Development Group being set up by NICE to develop service guidelines for brain tumours. Likewise the Cancer Collaborative has agreed to consider brain "cancer" in its work programme and has asked for involvement of the Society. Since NICE guidelines now have a quasi-legal status, it is important the Society be involved in these developments. Professor Cruickshank has been nominated as the Society's representative on the NICE Guidelines Development Group and Professor David Thomas as the representative for the Royal College of Surgeons. I have asked Garth to convene a Short-Life Working Group to assist him in his work with NICE and a number of colleagues have already volunteered to assist. In view of the great importance of this subject, if you wish to become involved in the short-life Working Group

please contact the Society's Secretary Mr Gurusinghe to register your interest.

### Reconfiguration of Services

It is likely that both the NICE recommendations on tumours and the ISAT study will both have a powerful effect on the reconfiguration of Neurosurgical Services. Consequently I am anxious to give members the maximum opportunity to participate in debate on these important issues. Please feel free to write directly with your views or to communicate them via email to me or to Nihal or the Society's website.

### "Talkback" Visits

The Vice President, Secretary and I have now begun a programme of "Talkback" meetings. The first four meetings have now taken place and appear to have been well received. The local teams who have been kind enough to host these sessions tell me they have found them valuable and we intend to continue the programme, visiting as many units as is logistically

possible. If you have not already requested a date for a visit please contact the Secretary. I recognise that not all members will be able to attend these sessions, but please feel free to brief your colleagues or to express your views separately. I hope everyone will feel able to tell us directly or indirectly what you consider your Society should be doing for you.

I wish you all the best for the coming year and am looking forward to meeting as many as possible of you either at a Talkback visit or at the Oxford meeting in the Spring.

**David G Hardy**  
President – SBNS

## MESSAGES/NEWS

### From the Honorary Secretary Mr Nihal Gurusinghe

### Membership Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions were due on 1 January 2004.

Full Members = £200, Associate = £100

If you pay by standing order please ensure that you have altered your instructions to your bank to take into account last year's increase. Thank you.

### Welcome to new members

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting in Cardiff.

#### FULL

Mr J Allibone – Stanmore

Mr M O'Sullivan – Cork

#### Associates

Mr J Crossman – Newcastle

Mr D O'Brien - Dublin

Mr E St. George- Birmingham

### Ballots

The call for nominations to fill 2 vacancies on the Council of the SBNS commencing July 2004 will be with you shortly along with the ballot papers for the SBNS representative on the Intercollegiate Board.

### SAC in Neurosurgery

There is a Vacancy for the College Representative on the SAC in Neurosurgery. Applicants should have had previous experience as a Programme Director or a Member of a Specialty Training Committee and a

commitment to surgical training. All SAC members will be expected to take an active role in the changes taking place with the formation of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. All those appointed will be required to attend a training day within a year of appointment. For further details and an application form please visit the JCHST web site at [www.jchst.org](http://www.jchst.org). The closing date for application is 29<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

### SBNS Website - Feedback Forum for Full members

Last December I wrote to all Full members of the Society announcing the introduction of a 'Feedback Forum' to the SBNS website. To access this section please log in to the SBNS website ([www.sbns.org](http://www.sbns.org) or [www.sbns.org.uk](http://www.sbns.org.uk)), click on "members pages", key in your surname and Membership number then click on "**Feedback Forum**". *To view the Feedback Forum requires a second password which can be obtained from the SBNS Office.* This will reveal the various sections of the Forum. Simply click on the box you wish to view and you will have access to documents that have recently been posted for viewing. If you wish to submit a comment simply click on the "**reply**" button and key in your comment and submit it. Other members as well as Council can view all comments posted and I hope this facility will provide a useful means of disseminating information and learning your views and ideas quickly.

**By registering your email address on the site you will automatically be informed when new information has been posted for viewing.** Please note that whenever possible future communications

from the SBNS office will be by electronic mail or via the Feedback Forum on the Website and is essential that the SBNS Office is informed of your current email address and notified of any future changes.

### **Dataset Scoping Meeting**

In advance of the open publication of surgeons' performance as measured by HES data, a group has been formed to consider the development of a national database for neurosurgery. It is intended to include severity scoring and outcome measures in addition to accurate operative figures. Much of this work will be done by e-mail and if you would like to be involved please contact Suzanne Murray or Barrie White via the SBNS Office: [admin@sbns.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.freeserve.co.uk). The first Scoping Meeting took place at the RCS, London on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004, and a report will shortly be placed on the SBNS website for downloading.

### **Communication from The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB)**

The Society has received a letter from PMETB's Chair Clive Morton and Chief Executive Stuart Gray regarding PMETB Vision, Values and Main Aims. This document has been placed on the SBNS website under "Latest News". I recommend all members to view this important communication.

### **NICE – New Interventional Procedures**

A number of new procedures are being reviewed by NICE to provide guidance to clinicians and the provisional information released for public consultation has been sent to the Unit Liaison Officers for circulation to all neurosurgeons. It is extremely important for NICE to receive comments from practicing clinicians especially those involved in using such new interventions. Please obtain details from your ULO and send comments to NICE with a copy to the Society Office.

### **National Confidential Enquiry into Preoperative Deaths (NCEPOD)**

On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2003 NCEPOD published its 15<sup>th</sup> report entitled 'Who Operates When? II'.

At the end of the foreword to the 1997 NCEPOD report entitled 'Who Operates When?' a challenge was laid down to repeat the study in five years' time. This report details the results of the repeated study. The reasons that were suggested for a possible repeat of the study were to see what changes there might be as a result of the Calman reforms, the introduction of shorter working hours for junior doctors and the promised increase in consultant numbers.

Further information can be obtained from:  
NCEPOD

Tel: 020 7920 0999,  
e-mail: [info@ncepod.org.uk](mailto:info@ncepod.org.uk)  
[www.ncepod.org.uk](http://www.ncepod.org.uk)

### **Marjorie Newsome Travelling Fellowship**

This award worth £10,000 (contingent on the availability of funds) will be offered to the candidate who obtains the highest score in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Neurosurgery in the relevant calendar year. The recipient will be expected to use the award to attend the AANS meeting, visit the Barrow Neurological Institute for 3 weeks and spend 3 weeks in at least 2 other US/Canadian Centres. The Trustees hope to make an award for 2003 and further information will be available by the Spring meeting in Oxford.

### **European Brain Injury Consortium (EBIC)**

The Secretary of the EBIC has requested my assistance to update their database list of UK Neurosurgical Units interested in participating in the projects. Colleagues who wish to register their Unit (including those Units who have already been registered in the past) should contact Dr Mark Dearden at the address below with the name of the Unit and of 2 colleagues (ideally one Neurosurgeon and one Intensivist) who will be the link persons with the EBIC.

Dr Mark Dearden, Nan tan House, Wortley, Leeds, LS12 4AD - E-mail = [RichardDearden@aol.com](mailto:RichardDearden@aol.com)

### **European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS)**

I have been requested by the Secretary of the EANS to inform you that membership of the EANS entitles you to the following fringe benefits: A free copy of their Journal ACTA as well as reduced registration fees for EANS meetings. Please contact [Stephanie.Garfield@virgin.net](mailto:Stephanie.Garfield@virgin.net) or visit the EANS website: <http://www.eans.org> for further details.

### **Mr Nihal Gurusinghe Honorary Secretary**

**SBNS Autumn Meeting, Cardiff  
17-19 September 2003**



**Group Photo taken at the Cardiff Meeting**

Electronic copies (A5 size) can be obtained free from the SBNS Office. For hard copies please contact the Conference lead at Cardiff, Mr R Hatfield. [Hatfield@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Hatfield@Cardiff.ac.uk)

**Llongyfarchiadau a Diolch**

(Congratulations and Thank You)

On behalf of the SBNS I would like to say a big thank you to our Colleagues in Cardiff for organising an excellent meeting last September.

The symposium on 'The Future of Neurosurgical Training' held on Wednesday 17th, organised by Mr Jake Timothy, Chairman of the BNTA was a great success and over 100 delegates attended. A report of the meeting can be obtained on the SBNS Website under Society Reports.



**Mr R Edwards**



**Mr H C Patel**

The academic programme was of its usual high standard, and the award for the best abstract was shared between: Mr R Edwards, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, and Mr H C Patel, of Hope Hospital, Manchester. A copy of all the abstracts presented at the Cardiff Meeting is available for downloading from the SBNS Website:

[http://www.sbns.org.uk/members/society\\_reports/Cardiff\\_Abstracts\\_September2003.doc](http://www.sbns.org.uk/members/society_reports/Cardiff_Abstracts_September2003.doc)

They will also be published in the British Journal of Neurosurgery.

The social program included a boat trip around Cardiff's newly renovated Bay followed by a wonderful Indian meal on Thursday night. The Gala dinner on the Friday night was a memorable occasion as the attendees were treated to the operatic talents of a Welsh singing group in the impressive surroundings of the Cardiff National Museum.

## **SBNS Spring Meeting, Oxford 21-23 April 2004 - Joint Meeting with the Brazilian Neurosurgical Society**

The Neurosurgical Department from The Radcliffe Infirmary is delighted to welcome you all to Oxford this spring for a lively and yet relaxing time amongst the dreaming spires of Oxford. The Meeting will be held in the Oxford Conference Centre, which is located about a mile away from the City Centre.

### **Academic Programme**

The meeting kicks off with a Teaching programme for trainees on Wednesday (free for SBNS Members, £100 for non members). The Full academic meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday with oral/poster presentations and invited lectures from prominent guest speakers.

The SBNS Business meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon at 4.00 pm, (Full Members only). The BNTA will be convening a meeting for its members on Wednesday, 5-7pm. The preliminary programme will be available on the SBNS Website prior to the meeting.

### **Social Programme**

The Social programme includes an informal welcome reception in Blackwells Bookstore on Wednesday evening and a fun casino night/buffet supper at the Randolph hotel on Thursday night.

A golf competition has been arranged at Studley Woods Course on Wednesday afternoon for all those budding Tiger Woods out there.



The Gala Dinner will be held on Friday evening (black tie) at Rhodes College, one of Oxford's most eminent of colleges. Rhodes House was built in 1926 to serve as a memorial to the founder, Cecil Rhodes, although the site of the

house was originally part of Wadham College. Dinner will be in the Milner Hall, which has many original features with some modern additions such as tapestries commissioned to mark the centenary of the Trust and the work and support given to Africa. And if enjoying a delicious meal in these beautiful surroundings was not enough, we also have some surprisingly good entertainment planned ..... our lips are sealed, although the waiting staff's may not be! (Please book early, as numbers are limited).

### **Partners Programme**

The partners programme includes entrance to the Welcome Reception at Blackwell's Bookshop on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, a walking tour, including a visit to Christchurch College, a day out in the Cotswolds, a tour and tea at Blenheim Palace, some sport for the energetic and some time for shopping or sightseeing in this beautiful city. Partners are also welcome to attend the Gala Dinner on Friday.

For further information regarding travel, accommodation and registration, please contact the local organiser: Julie Archer, Tel: +44 (0) 1608 731800 Fax: +44 (01608) 659911

Email: [julie@archer-yates.co.uk](mailto:julie@archer-yates.co.uk)

### **Obituaries**

Dr Franklin Robinson, clinical Professor of neurosurgery at Yale School of Medicine and attending neurosurgeon at Yale-New Haven Hospital, died on 30 August 2003. He regularly attended SBNS meetings and showed a great interest in the Society and British Neurosurgery.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **European Association of Neurosurgical Societies**

Endoscopic Pituitary Surgery – 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop, May 24-25, 2004, Naples, Italy

For information e-mail: [acanfora@mcmcongressi.it](mailto:acanfora@mcmcongressi.it)

#### **The Royal Society of Medicine**

##### **Meeting of the Clinical Neurosciences**

##### **New Insights Into Early Detection and Treatment of Cognitive Decline – 4 March 2004**

##### **Service Frameworks in the Neurosciences – 1 April 2004**

##### **Neurosciences Intensive Care – 6 May 2004**

Email: Kelly Robinson - [cns@rsm.ac.uk](mailto:cns@rsm.ac.uk)

#### **Workshop on Endoscopic Neurosurgery**

##### **Holiday Inn in Ghent in Belgium, 7-9 March 2004**

<http://www.neuroendoscopy.org>

Email: [Beatrijs.janssens@uzgent.be](mailto:Beatrijs.janssens@uzgent.be)

#### **First Announcement -Gamma Knife Meeting**

##### **26-27 March 2004 – Munich**

For further details please contact:

Stephanie Garfield-Birkbeck: [Stephanie.Garfield@virgin.net](mailto:Stephanie.Garfield@virgin.net)

##### **Spinal Cord Stimulation & Drug Delivery Systems:**

##### **A Practical Course 26-28 April 2004**

[www.painrelieffoundation.org.uk](http://www.painrelieffoundation.org.uk)

Mrs Brenda Hall - tel: +151 529 5822

Email: [pri@liv.ac.uk](mailto:pri@liv.ac.uk)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> June 2004 'Pituitary Surgery, Past, Present and Future'**

One Day Symposium to commemorate the centenary of Sir Victor Horsley's first Pituitary Operation  
Including a live demonstration of Endoscopic Surgery  
Department of Neurosurgery, Preston, UK.  
Email: [gareth.roberts@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:gareth.roberts@lthtr.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 01772 522583

#### **SBNS Safe Neurosurgery Conference, at the RCS , London - 11 June 2004.**

(Invitees only)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN)**

**June 23-26, 2004 in Vienna, AUSTRIA.**

[info@come2vienna.org](mailto:info@come2vienna.org)

<http://www.come2vienna.org>

#### **SBNS Autumn Meeting, Manchester 22-24 September 2004**

Further details will be sent to members nearer the time and placed on the SBNS Website under Meetings Calendar.

#### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Micro-neurosurgical Anatomy**

**30 September – 3 October 2004 in Porto Bello**

**Hotel, Antalya, Turkey**

[www.isma2004.org](http://www.isma2004.org)

### **Neurosurgery Courses 2003/04**



The Royal College of Surgeons of England

#### **Contemporary Treatment Strategies in Neurovascular Disease**

A one day symposium and one-day practical workshop for consultants and HSTs

**22-23 March 2004**

#### **Approaches to the Skull Base**

A hands-on cadaveric workshop for consultants and HSTs 4-6

**29-31 March 2004**

#### **Approaches to the Thoracic and Lumbar Spine**

A hands-on cadaveric workshop for consultants and HSTs 4-6

**5-7<sup>th</sup> April 2004**

#### **Core Skills in Neurosurgery**

A hands-on cadaveric workshop for post-MRCS SHOs and HSTs 1 to teach the anatomy and principles of basic neurosurgical approaches

**12-14 May 2004**

### **Intracranial and Spinal Anatomy for Neurosurgeons – A range of courses at higher surgical training**

#### **Neurological Anatomy**

A hands-on cadaveric dissection and lecture based course emphasising tract and vascular anatomy

**1– 3 March 2004**

#### **Neuroradiology**

Lectures and tutorials covering radiological intracranial and spinal anatomy

**4 March 2004**

#### **Approaches for Intracranial Surgery**

A lecture and demonstration based course covering applied anatomy

**5 March 2004**

#### **For further information on these courses, contact: Neurosurgery Courses Assistant**

The Raven Department of Education

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London, WC2A 3PE

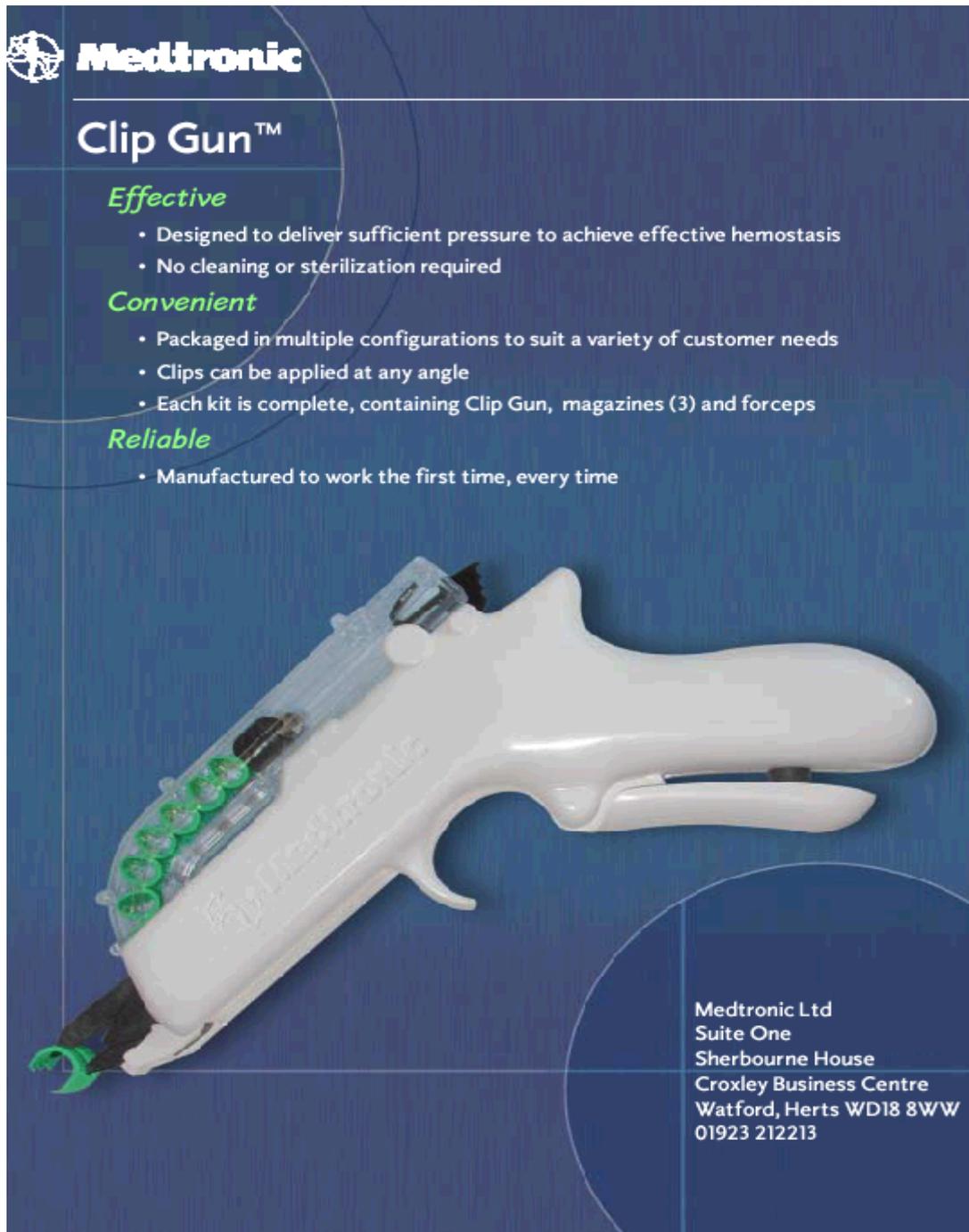
Tel: 020 7869 6341 Fax: 020 7869 6329

Email: [neurosurgery@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:neurosurgery@rcseng.ac.uk) Web:

[www.rcseng.ac.uk](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk)

*The Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS Colleagues and is also a vehicle for any announcements of interest to Society members. This is your newsletter and contributions are welcome for the next issue.*

The SBNS greatly appreciates the sponsorship of this issue by  
Medtronic Neurologic Technologies

The advertisement features a white Medtronic Clip Gun with a clear magazine containing green clips. The background is dark blue with white and green text. The Medtronic logo is in the top left. The product name 'Clip Gun™' is prominently displayed. Three key features are listed: Effective, Convenient, and Reliable, each with a bulleted list of details. The company's contact information is provided in the bottom right corner.

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For information on sponsorship of further issues please contact the SBNS Office.

*Suzanne Murray, SBNS Administrator at the SBNS Office, London*  
**SOCIETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS**

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN

Tel: 020 7869 6892 Fax: 020 7869 6890E-mail: [admin@sbns.freemove.co.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.freemove.co.uk) [www.sbns.org.uk](http://www.sbns.org.uk)