



SBNS Newsletter

Summer 2004

Message from the President, Mr David Hardy

It seems no time since I wrote my first newsletter as President and as I hand over the reins and responsibilities of the office to my successor, Mr James Steers, the Agenda he faces seems no less daunting and wide ranging than the one I faced two years ago. I would particularly like to pay tribute to all the members of the Council and those members of the Society who have contributed over the past two years at Council Meetings, at Business Meetings and elsewhere to the running of the Society. I am extremely aware of the very demanding work schedules that we all face and have been conscious of the additional burden which you have been kind enough to undertake on behalf of the Society. I have greatly appreciated this. In particular I would like to pay a special tribute to my colleague, Mr Nihal Gurusinghe, the Honorary Secretary. He has been my indispensable aide and an invaluable support during the whole of my time as President. His commitment to the Society has been phenomenal and he has been unstinting of his time, wisdom and expertise on behalf of the Society. His meticulous thoroughness has been an indispensable part of the smooth running of the Society for his past four years as Honorary Secretary. He has my special gratitude and thanks and the gratitude and thanks from the Society as a whole. It is with great pleasure I am able to announce the election of Mr Phil van Hille as the new Honorary Secretary. His term of office begins at the Business Meeting in Manchester. My grateful thanks to him for the enormous task he has agreed to shoulder.

have been particularly pleased that our new proposals for training are continuing to evolve. Thanks to the enormous hard work by the Chairman and members of the SAC, of the

Intercollegiate Examination Board and of the members of the Education and Training Committee, we are now beginning to refine our original

proposals and develop the detail of how the new proposals might be made to work in practice. A summary of the new proposals will be published in a forthcoming edition of the British Journal of Neurosurgery. Many problems still require to be resolved before we can begin to appoint trainees to the new training programmes but things are continuing to progress.



The Safe Neurosurgery Conference which took place in June was a considerable success and a varied programme was provided with presentations on training, workforce, neurological networks and the work of NCAA. The programme tied together most of the main themes that have concerned us all over the past two years. It is evident from the presentations made on

the day that in various parts of the country great progress is being made in reconfiguring neurological services and in improving the effectiveness and functioning of our already existing services.

***A copy of the Safe Neurosurgery Report can be downloaded from the SBNS website:
<http://www.sbns.org.uk/documents/default.asp>***

The "Advice on Job Planning" which Council developed and which was circulated to all members last autumn has apparently proved helpful. When the new round of job planning and review for the next financial year begins this autumn it may prove necessary to modify the document. It would be very helpful if all members were to provide the Office with feedback on problems encountered. If this indicates that our "Advice" needs modifying then new "Advice" will in due course be circulated to all members.

New figures for our future manpower requirements are being refined and I hope they will shortly be published as an "Amendment" to our National Neurosurgical Workforce Plan. I am pleased to inform you that I have obtained agreement from the Editor of the British Journal of Neurosurgery that an updated National

Neurosurgical Workforce Plan can be published in the British Journal of Neurosurgery.

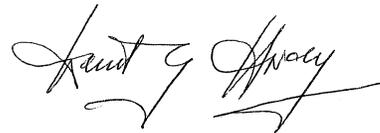
The "professional practice" aspects of Neurosurgery continue to demand our attention. New guidelines are awaited from NICE on Service Configuration for Neurosurgical Tumours (including metastatic spinal tumours). Various other clinical guidelines are also under development and will be appearing in due course. Many thanks to those many members who contribute to this work. It is necessary that we have high quality data about our work and about the outcomes our patients can expect, but for this to be of value data will need to be collected and collated nationally. Towards this end, the work being done by Barrie White and Lawrence Dunn on Clinical Coding and on a National Neurosurgical Minimum Data Set is a key part of our work. I would strongly encourage all units who are interested in participating in a trial of use of the new data set and coding to contact Barrie or Lawrence direct and become involved in the pilot. I believe it will be extremely helpful if the New Data Set has been thoroughly trialled before we set about requesting the necessary funding to make it workable and effective.

In October the Society, together with the Neuroradiologists and Commissioners is holding a Consensus Conference on Neurovascular Disease. In particular we hope to determine the most appropriate future configuration for Neurosurgical Vascular services. If this is successful then we should be able to advise the commissioners on the most appropriate commissioning arrangements for this aspect of our services. This important conference will take place at the RCS in London on 07 October 2004. It will be Chaired by James Steers. I am sure it will be a great success and will make a helpful contribution to this aspect of service reconfiguration.

Many challenges still face Neurosurgery and the Society's membership and I believe the "Talkback programme" which we have been running for the past two years has proved helpful in giving members a more leisureed way of discussing with the Society's officers some of the more complex issues we all face in our professional practice. I know James intends to continue with the programme and if any of you have not yet booked a visit but wish to do so please contact Suzanne at the Office. To that end we are also actively considering how to make the Business Meetings held at the twice yearly Scientific Meetings a more effective channel of communication. I hope ways can be found to allow more extended debate on the more controversial issues and allow a wider contribution by members to those debates. The Scientific Meeting itself is going to have a new format. The programme will commence at lunchtime on the Wednesday and finish at lunchtime on the Friday. At the Manchester meeting I have asked the meeting organisers to obtain your views of the new arrangements and hope you will feel able to make your views known. It is currently proposed that we use the new format for the next two or three meetings. You will then have an opportunity to make a decision on whether to adopt the new format or revert to our previous pattern. Your comments either through the feedback process or directly to the SBNS office would be much appreciated.

Finally I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and best wishes to my successor. Have courage James!

David G Hardy



SBNS President

MESSAGES/NEWS

From the Honorary Secretary Mr Nihal Gurusinghe



Dear Colleagues,

Four years have passed very quickly since I took over as Honorary Secretary. It has been a busy and challenging task but one which I have enjoyed immensely in having the opportunity to actively contribute to promote and direct the Society through a time of enormous evolution for our profession. More changes will take place over the next few years and I believe it is important that we influence these with wise counsel and tactful 'compliance' to political will.

It has been a great privilege and enriching experience to serve two Presidents with such profound wisdom, vision and commitment. Graham Teasdale and David Hardy with differing styles have raised the profile and stature of the Society from the platform of *Safe Neurosurgery* to defining the *Standards* we require to practice safely and with the new proposals for the training of future Neurosurgeons.

My responsibilities were made so much easier being part of a superb team of 'Officers' and Council members providing ever present support. Very special words of appreciation are due to Suzanne Murray and Dorothy

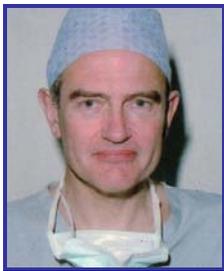
Keightley for their dedication and hard work to ensure the smooth running of the Society offices. Likewise, I am also grateful to my colleagues at Preston for the sincere understanding and co-operation during the past four busy years.

I hope to remain involved in Society activities initially to assist James and Phil in their work. I wish them well and will take this opportunity to encourage colleagues to become actively involved in Society matters because each contribution is valuable in protecting our patients and the traditional high standards of the discipline.

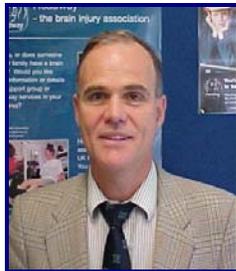
Thank you and very best wishes,
Nihal Gurusinghe

Ballots

I am pleased to announce that Mr Phil VanHille takes over from me as Honorary Secretary in September 2004 and Mr M Powell, from the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London and Mr B Mathew from Hull Royal Infirmary are the newly elected members of the SBNS Council.



Mr M Powell



Bruce Mathew

Welcome to new members

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting in Oxford, April 2004.

Full

Mr A Elsmore – Barts and Royal London
Mr P Hutchinson – Cambridge
Mr J Timothy - Leeds
Mr J Yeh – Barts and Royal London
Mr B Chitnavis – Kings College London
Mr R Kett-White - Swansea
Mr A Martin – St Georges Hospital
Mr M Carter – Frenchay Hospital, Bristol

Associate

Mr R Johnson – Hurstwood Park
Mr R Kumar – Hull Royal Infirmary
Mr E Shenouda – Plymouth
Mr M Tait – Hurstwood Park
Mr T Blackburn , London
Mr N Ross – Southampton
Mr N Jeelani – Old Church Hospital
Mr M Lee – Edinburgh

Senior

Mr J Punt
Mr A Hockley

Paying your Subscriptions by Credit Card

The Treasurer is pleased to announce that members who wish to do so can now pay their annual membership subscriptions by credit card. Please contact the SBNS office to obtain an application form.

Full Membership - £200 per annum

Associate Membership £100 per annum.

British Journal of Neurosurgery

Good News for SBNS Members. The Publishing Editor has informed me that they have set up special rates for SBNS Members.

Usual annual subscription: £245 per annum, concession rate to SBNS Associate Members: £77 per annum & Full Members: £110 per annum

For further information please visit their website:

www.tandf.co.uk

Documents for Information

Neurocritical Care Report

The Neuroscience Critical Care Report proposes recommendations and examples of good practice that can be adopted/adapted locally to improve access, experience and outcomes for patients with potential or actual need of specialised neuroscience critical care. It is now available for downloading:

http://www.modern.nhs.uk/scripts/default.asp?site_id=20&id=7117

Spinal Cord Stimulation Guidelines

Provisional recommendations produced by the Pain Society in conjunction with the SBNS is available on the Spine Society's website.

http://www.britishpainsociety.org/pdf/scs_provisional_doc_2004.pdf

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

The Society has received a letter from PMETB's Chief Executive Stuart Gray and Chair Clive Morton regarding PMETB Vision, Values and Main Aims. Please visit the Latest News section of the SBNS website to download a copy.

European Working Time Directive - A new European Working Time Directive web area has recently gone live on the College website. This can be viewed at

<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/ewtd/>

This section aims to bring together all relevant information about EWTD in one place, including tips on

designing a compliant rota and the impact of EWTD on surgical service and training.

If you have an example of an EWTD-compliant surgical rota, they would like to hear from you so that we may share your experiences with other members as part of the 'Good Practice' section. They would also welcome general comments on the site. Please contact: JMitchell@rcseng.ac.uk

Medical Device Alert - Injectable polymeric cements used in percutaneous vertebroplasty, balloon kyphoplasty and pedicle screw augmentation: update. For the full text on this notice please visit: <http://mhra.gov.uk>

World Federation of Neurological Surgeons (WFNS) NEWS

13th International Congress of Neurological Surgery (Medal of Honour)

Aside from the main congress this will be a very special occasion for the SBNS as Professor Graham Teasdale (SBNS President 2000/2) is to receive the Medal of Honour by the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) during the opening ceremony of the World Congress in Marrakech on 19th June 2005. This prestigious award is one of the highest levels of recognition within our discipline and is an acknowledgement of his personal life contribution to Neurosurgery. I hope members will make every effort to attend and share this occasion with Graham.

Please see Dates for your Diary section for further details on the World Congress in Marrakech.

Young Neurosurgeons Award

This award is for the best paper submitted for the International Congress in June 2005 and will be presented at the opening ceremony. Young Neurosurgeons (less than 10 years from attaining Neurosurgery qualification) who are interested are advised to visit the WFNS Website: www.wfns.org.

Certificate

The WFNS has created a Foundation for the purpose of supporting neurosurgeons worldwide who have difficulties in treating their patients due to lack of funds. In order to raise funds for the Foundation they have created a special Certificate available to all neurosurgeons who are members of the WFNS member society having full membership status. The cost of the Certificate is \$100.00. The Certificate serves as a document of recognition for being a Fellow of WFNS and may be of interest to you, not only from a personal point of view but also from the fact that the funds received will go towards a good cause. For further information on how to obtain a Certificate please contact the SBNS Office.

World Listing of Neurological Surgeons

The WFNS is undertaking a web-based project that will provide a World Listing of Neurological Surgeons. All data will be in a new website: <http://www.wfns.net>. They anticipate having several categories of listings, basic, intermediate and advanced. For further information on how to subscribe please contact:

Dr. Eduardo Karol
WFNS Internet Editor
drkarol@fibertel.com.ar

Mrs. Veronica Salvetti
vsalvetti@fibertel.com.ar

Your Life in Their Hands

The BBC are currently making the second series of Your Life In Their Hands, which is a strand of medical documentaries that profile the work of surgeons in various different fields. They are basically trying to find:

- An interesting area of neurosurgery where they may have been some recent advances.
- A surgeon/surgeons/surgical teams who are able to articulate their work for a lay audience, and are willing to contemplate the possibility of having their work filmed.

If you are interested in taking part in the programme and would like further information please contact:

Peter Hall
0208 752 7128
07932 041852
peter.hall@bbc.co.uk

As a general guidance members are advised to work with the program producers to ensure that the content does not cause concern or anxiety to patients.

Neurosurgery Courses 2004 –2005

The Royal College of Surgeons are running a number of Neurosurgery Courses during 2004/5. For further details please contact:

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
Web: www.rcseng.ac.uk



**The Spring Meeting of The Society of British Neurological Surgeons with The Brazilian Society of Neurosurgery
Oxford - April 2004**

Electronic copies (A5 size) can be obtained free from the SBNS Office. For hard copies please contact the Conference Organiser Julie Archer, Tel: +44 (0) 1608 731800 Fax: +44 (01608) 659911 (the original copy is much clearer). Email: julie@archer-yates.co.uk

Richard Kerr and his colleagues at the Ratcliffe Infirmary pulled out all the stops and gave the SBNS and our colleagues from the Brazilian Society of Neurosurgery a meeting to remember. The meeting got off to a 'wet' start on the Wednesday afternoon, as the heavens opened up just as so many of the delegates arrived in Oxford, but this did not dampen our spirits and the rain was soon forgotten once the Trainees Programme began and the guest speakers from Venezuela, Australia, Japan, Brazil and Oxford began their talks and captivated their audience.

The next day not only did the weather improve, but the Scientific Programme exceeded its usual high standards and guest speakers, Mr C B T Adams and Prof Paulo Mello were welcome enhancements

The Codman Prize for the best presentation was awarded to Mr S J Price, from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge for his abstract *"How good are we at positioning ventricular catheters? A prospective audit of ventricular catheter placement"*

Copies of all abstracts presented at the Oxford meeting are available from the SBNS website:

http://www.sbns.org.uk/members/society_reports/Oxford_Abstracts_April_2004.doc

Congratulations !



Mr S J Price



Mr S Tompson

Congratulations also go to Mr Simon Thompson who was awarded the Marjorie Newsome Fellowship for obtaining the highest score in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Neurosurgery. Prof. A Strong presented the award to him during the meeting.

The Trade Exhibition was also a great success this year. We had a record number of sponsors and exhibitors reported a healthy attendance at their stands.

The Casino night at the Randolph proved to be an extremely popular event; we expected 90 delegates and 140 actually attended. Fortunately the money was false as I for one lost thousands of Euros!

The good weather continued throughout the meeting and prior to the Gala dinner on Friday evening guests were able to enjoy champagne and canapés in the beautiful gardens of Rhodes House followed by a delicious meal, pleasant company and excellent entertainment – the 'Three Waiters' were no ordinary waiters!

A very big thank you goes out to Richard Kerr, his colleagues at the Radcliffe Infirmary and Julie Archer (Conference Organiser) for a very memorable and successful meeting.

SBNS Autumn Meeting 22-24 September 2004 - Manchester



Our colleagues from the Hope Hospital in Salford will be hosting the autumn meeting this year and have asked me to extend a warm Mancunian welcome to all SBNS Members.

The Scientific Meeting will be held in the architecturally stunning Lowry Centre on the waterside location of Salford Quays. *(There is free access to the Lowry Art Gallery, which is located within the Conference venue).*

The format of the meeting this year differs slightly from previous meetings; the Trainees Teaching Programme will begin on Wednesday, 22nd at 8.30 am – 10.30 am and the Workshop on Education & Training Issues (open to all members) will be at 10.45 – 12.00 noon. The Scientific Meeting will run from Wednesday lunchtime to Friday, 23rd lunchtime. The Welcome Reception will be held on

Wednesday evening as usual, but the Gala Dinner (black tie/evening dress) will now be on Thursday evening in the impressive 5 Star Lowry Hotel.

The General Meeting for Full members will take place on Thursday afternoon at 4.00 pm as usual. **The Agenda will be sent to Full members prior to the meeting and the appendices will be available for downloading from the SBNS website, under the documents section of the website.**

Transport to and from the Lowry Centre/hotels will be provided by both canal boat and coach.

The golf competition will take place on Friday afternoon in the grounds of Mottram Hall when the meeting ends. An accompanying persons programme has also been arranged for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday.

Abstract Prize and Travel Bursary

As you know, the best oral presentation from a Trainee will receive the Codman prize; £200 to spend on textbooks. Commencing 2005, the Codman winners from the Spring and Autumn Meetings will be eligible to receive the Medtronic Neurologic Technologies Travel Bursary for the best scientific presentation of the year. The bursary will cover the cost of return economy flights and accommodation to the US whilst they attend the AANS or CNS meetings.

The SBNS is very grateful to Codman and Medtronic for their generosity.

A copy of the Preliminary Programme and registration pack (including details on accommodation) can be downloaded from the SBNS Website: www.sbns.org.uk under 'Meetings Calendar'.

For further information on Salford Quays and the surrounding area contact the Salford Tourist Information Centre at The Quays: 0161 848 8601.

I look forward to meeting you at the SBNS stand in Manchester.

Suzanne Murray
SBNS, Administrator

Dates for your Diary

Pain Relief Foundation Annual Lecture
Professor V S Ramachandran, Centre for Brain & UCSD USA. To honour the life & work of Dr Denise Albe-Fressard

16 September 2004

Brenda Hall – Email: b.hall@painreliefoundation.org.uk

British Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery Group Meeting - Hilton Sheffield Hotel
21-22nd October 2004

Joan Fields - Email: joan.fields@sth.nhs.uk

9th International Pituitary Pathology Meeting in Brazil

October 1-6, 2004

M. Beatriz S. Lopes, M.D – Email: msl2e@virginia.edu

University of Minho, Braga, Portugal
Hands on Workshop – Sulcus, Gyrus and Ventricles, 6-9 October 2004,

Caudia Barreira - Email: sec-pg@ecsaude.uminho.pt

SBNS Consensus Conference on Neurovascular Disease - Royal College of Surgeons, London
7 October 2004

Please contact the SBNS Office for further details and to register your interest.

Suzanne Murray – Email: admin@sbns.freeseerve.co.uk

British Cervical Spine Society Meeting
5-6 November 2004

Moller Centre Churchill College Cambridge
Christine McGowan

Email: Christine.mcgowan@addenbrokes.nhs.uk

The 2nd International Symposium on Micro-neurosurgical Anatomy

30 September - 3 October 2004 in Porto Bello Hotel, Antalya, Turkey

<http://www.isma2004.org>

The Neuromodulation Society of Great Britain & Ireland.

4th Annual Meeting

12-13 November 2004, Liverpool

Please email Brenda Hall:

b.hall@painreliefoundation.org.uk

<http://www.painreliefoundation.org.uk>

13th World Congress of Neurosurgical Surgery - to be held in Marrakech,

19 - 24 June 2005

<http://www.marrakesh2005.org>

Neurotrauma 2005

14th Annual conference of the Neurotrauma Society of India will be held at Kolkata, India.

19-21 August 2005

G K Prusty - Email: drkg@prusty.com

Future SBNS Meetings

Spring 2005

Edinburgh 20- 22 April 2005

The Meeting will be held in the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot -Watt University, situated 6 miles from the city centre and just 10 minutes from the Airport. Further detail will be sent to members in due course.

Conference Organiser, Denise Bond - denisebond@blueyonder.co.uk

Autumn 2005

Clinical Neurosciences 2005

Plymouth, 7-9 September 2005 at the Torbay Riviera Centre

Joint Meeting with the Association of British Neurologists, the Dutch Neurological (TBC) & Neurosurgical Societies.

Programme includes a combined symposium for Nurses from all Neuroscience specialties.

Spring 2006, Royal Free, London

Autumn 2006, Preston

Spring 2007 Charing Cross

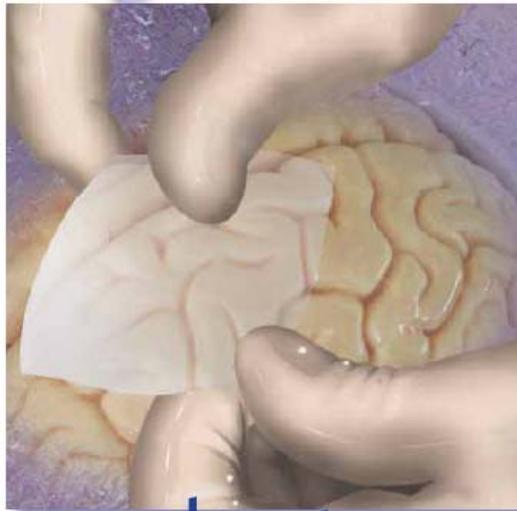
Autumn 2007, Nottingham (provisional)

Spring 2008, Liverpool

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.

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