



SBNS Summer Newsletter

August 2005

Message from the President, Mr James Steers

It is good to be able to begin this newsletter positively. The SBNS Meeting held in Edinburgh was very successful continuing the new format of meetings with the dinner on the Thursday evening. Neurosurgery has a strong tie with Edinburgh College, both Norman Dott and Myles Gibson being Vice Presidents and John Gillingham President, and the Society was the first of the Surgical Specialist Associations to meet in Edinburgh as part of its Quincentennial year.

Society members attending the WFNS meeting in Marrakech were able to enjoy the opening ceremony at which Professor Graham Teasdale was presented with the WFNS medal of Honour for his major contribution to Neurosurgery. The Society offers its warmest congratulations especially as it is the first occasion that the medal has been awarded to a British Neurosurgeon.

At the September meeting David Hardy will complete his term of office as Vice President. The Society has benefited hugely from his efforts on its behalf. David, the Society is extremely grateful to you and wishes you well in your retirement. In his place it is a pleasure to welcome Professor John Pickard as the incoming Vice President and also James Leggate and Carl Hardwidge as the newly elected members of Council.

By the time this newsletter reaches you the first Wednesday in August will have passed and Foundation Year 1 will be in place and Modernising Medical Careers will be launched and 2013 will see those starting this year gaining their CCT. Despite the enormous amount of work that has been put into developing the curriculum there still is a huge amount to do, particularly in the assessment process of entry into basic neurosciences and then the onward movement into the higher Neurosurgical curriculum. At the end of June this year there was a very successful meeting between the Specialist Advisory Committee in Neurosurgery led by Rick Nelson and the Programme Training Directors and on the last two Fridays in July the SAC met at the Edinburgh College to begin the process of developing Workplace Assessments, an

important component of competency based assessment. The reality is that the status quo cannot continue and that the process of delivering the new educational system involves us all as neurosurgeons not just the SAC.



Although the principal thrust of the new curriculum is through the Joint Committee for Higher Surgical Training, the SBNS is playing a major and increasing role in the development of the curriculum and other functions that might traditionally be seen to be the responsibility of the Surgical Royal Colleges. In addition to that there are the increasing pressures of the National Service Framework for long term conditions and the ongoing development of the Neurosurgical

Standards document. Coping with this degree of change has the potential to overwhelm and it would be easy to become lost in the morass of these changes. Nonetheless this gives the Society a great opportunity to work within these changes to develop a vocational training system that is robust and flexible for the future and a service that will cope with the rapid changes in technology, therapeutics and methods of service delivery.

To achieve this the Society has to be strong. The decision has already been made to take the Society into charitable status and that of a company limited by guarantee. To achieve this changes were required to the constitution. As part of this work it was decided to review the composition of the Council and Officers of the Society as it has becoming increasingly clear that the time commitment needed to be given to the Society by the President and Senior Officers and Council is probably not sustainable in the middle to long term. As the new consultant contract begins to bite more vigorously it is already clear that in some Trusts it is difficult for members of Council and Officers to attend the increasing number of meetings, sometimes at short notice. For example, the number of meetings associated with the National Service Framework will reach double figures before the end of this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accompanying this newsletter (full members only) is a draft of the new constitution and what is being proposed is probably the biggest change since the Society was founded in 1926. This constitution will be voted on in the General Business Meeting in Torquay and it is of great importance that this meeting is quorate and time will be given for debate. The principal changes are the introduction of two Honorary Secretaries, two Vice Presidents and the discontinuation of the Office of Editor of Proceedings, the duties of which will be taken over by one of the secretaries. This in time will facilitate the move to the in house organisation of the scientific meetings. The Council itself will consist of 10 elected members with the introduction of a Lay member as an ex-officio member.

The role of the President will remain very similar, although hopefully with a slightly lightened workload, and on demitting office it is proposed that he or she should take up the office of Chair of the Trustees of the Charity, the Trustees being the elected members of Council. The current Vice President's role will change. He or she will become the President Elect, the election taking place 6 months before taking over the Office of President to ensure a seamless handover of responsibility. To increase the capability of the Society to handle the increasing workload it is proposed that there will be two new posts of Vice President. These would not automatically proceed to the Presidency and would have specifically focused responsibilities such as the National Service Framework, Workforce Planning and/or education. The posts would be for a period of two years with an overlap to ensure continuity. The value of these posts would be firstly to recognise the contribution made by an individual on behalf of the Society with an official office and secondly to encourage younger members who wish to contribute to the administration of the Society, but still be in a position to return to their formal clinical workload. Council has accepted and approved the principal of the Vice Presidencies, but has yet to determine how they may be appointed.

I urge you to take an interest in the new Constitution. Moving towards charitable status is important for the financial future of the Society, hopefully enabling us to maintain the current level of subscription for sometime to come. It is essential that the Society be fit for purpose to cope with the pressures and changes of the years to come.

Mr A J W Steers
President

Results of Ballots



Following the recent ballots, I am pleased to announce Prof. John Pickard (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge) has been elected as Vice-President of the Society and will take over from Mr. David Hardy in September 2005 at the Torquay meeting.

We also have two newly elected members of Council, Mr. James Leggate (Manchester) and Mr. Carl Hardwidge (Haywards Heath). They replace Mr Alistair Jenkins and Mr. Andras Kemeny who have completed their four-year term of office. However, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Kemeny has been elected as the WFNS/EANS Representative and Mr. Jenkins has kindly agreed to remain on the Clinical Standards Committee.



Carl Hardwidge James Leggate Andras Kemeny

Welcome to new members

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting held on 21st April 2005, in Edinburgh.

Full

Mr P R Minhas – St. Georges
Mr N Patel – Bristol
Mr N Phillips – Leeds
Mr N Sudhakar – Plymouth

Associate

Mr G Wynne-Jones – Birmingham
Mr R Hunter – Leeds
Mr S Bucur – Leeds
Mr D Choi – The National Hospital
Mr M Forughi – Cardiff
Mr D Lawson – Charing Cross
Mr M Papadopoulos - St George's Hospital
Mr R Ramirez – Leeds
Mr C Uff – Royal Free
Ms A Harries – West Midlands
Mr A Mat – West Midlands

Senior

Mr C Adams

SBNS Website – www.sbns.org.uk

As many people may have noticed there have been a few problems with the SBNS website recently. As a result the website committee has been reconstituted and the website is being redesigned and will be supported by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The new site will combine the features of the old SBNS and BNTA sites, with the new electronic logbook of operations and CPD activities. Other new features will include discussion boards, conference support with on-line registration and abstract submission.

The new website should be completed by April 2006 and will be demonstrated at the SBNS spring meeting in London. The old website will be maintained and continue to function normally until then. If anyone has any information they would like us to include please contact Suzanne Murray or the Honorary Secretary.

Consensus Conference 7th October 2005

The Consensus Conference report is in its final stages of completion and will shortly be available on the SBNS Website for downloading.

Safe Neurosurgery Conference

The Safe Neurosurgery Conference, in its new format, held at the Royal College of Surgeons on 26th May 2005 was a great success and covered a variety of topical issues; the National Service Framework, Management of Head Injuries, the impact of 'Payment by Results', Neurosurgical Training and many more. A copy of the report and presentations can be downloaded from the SBNS Website.

http://www.sbns.org.uk/members/society_reports/SNC_2005_Report.doc

Next year we hope to expand the conference and will be extending the invitations to senior trainees.

National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions

This NSF was published in March 2005 and has a 10 year implementation plan. The Society, through David Hardy, has put in a huge amount of work in the development of this programme, which sets out 11 quality requirements (QR) to transform the way health and social services support people with long term neurological conditions to live as independently as possible. Quality Requirements 2 and 3 stress the need for prompt diagnosis, appropriate referral and treatment, while QR 4 the need for early and specialist rehabilitation. These factors, of prompt access to Neurosurgery and subsequent appropriate rehabilitation and care, are the causes of most of our difficulties in running an efficient Neurosurgical Service.

This gives us an opportunity to improve our service to patients. Barrie White is integrating the NSF with the Standards Document and is representing the Society at national stakeholder meetings.

This NSF is to be implemented locally without new funding, so the PCT's should drive this forward. There have already been national and local implementation meetings and you are all encouraged to engage with this and the many different agencies involved. Implementation will be monitored by the Healthcare Commission over 2 to 3 year intervals. The document may be obtained at www.dh.gov.uk/longtermnsf.

University of Iowa, Neurosurgery/Spine Fellowship

Applications are now being accepted for a one-year Spinal Fellowship beginning Autumn/Winter 2005. Further information and an application form can be downloaded from the SBNS Website. The closing date for applications is 15th September 2005

http://www.sbns.org.uk/members/society_reports/Fellowship_App_2005_PH2.pdf

Competition to design the new front cover of the British Journal of Neurosurgery

The British Journal of Neurosurgery would welcome suggestions for a new front cover for the Journal. **Prize £200.00!**

Submissions should be made to Professor Pickard, Editor of the British Journal of Neurosurgery by e-mail or sent on a disk to the address below. The design should be A4, colour format. Please enclose any permission for publication for any patient scans etc. Copyright of the winning design will be transferred to the Neurosurgical Foundation.

Deadline for submission: September 30th 2005

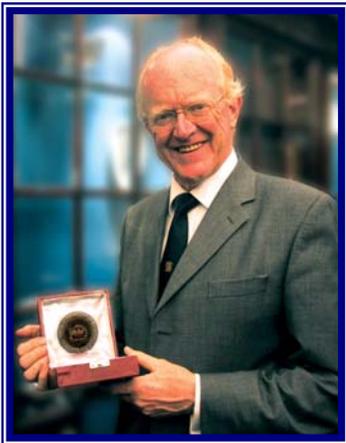
Professor JD Pickard
Editor, British Journal of Neurosurgery
Box 167, Addenbrooke's Hospital
Cambridge CB2 2QQ
bjneditor@medschl.cam.ac.uk

13th World Congress of Neurosurgical Surgery Marrakech, 19 - 24 June 2005

The Congress was held within the city of Marrakesh in a Congress Building. The meeting accepted 2200 platform presentations and posters from 1974 speakers from 83 member societies. There were 21 accepted platform presentations from the United Kingdom. The

presentations were of a high quality and included many speakers from the developing countries.

Prof. Graham Teasdale



Medals of Honour were presented to: Jan Haftek (Poland); John Jane (USA); Laurence Levy (Zimbabwe); Pedro Sampaio (Rio de Janeiro) and our former President, Prof. Graham Teasdale.

James D Palmer & Terence Hope
WFNS Representatives

SBNS Spring Meeting 20-22 April 2005 Edinburgh

The Spring Scientific meeting held last April in Edinburgh was a great success and we are very grateful to Denise Bond and our colleagues at the Great Western General for their time and effort in organising this meeting. It was greatly appreciated by both delegates and sponsors alike.

Laleh Morgan



The Heriot-Watt University proved to be a perfect venue and the quality of the papers and presentations was excellent. Congratulations to all the presenters and especially to Ms Laleh Morgan, winner of the Codman Prize for the best oral presentation 'Interleukin 6

polymorphisms and subarachnoid haemorrhage'. Laleh is based at the National Hospital in Queens Square and will go head to head with the winner of the best presentation at the Torquay meeting for the Medtronic Travel Bursary.

Hunterian Lectureship

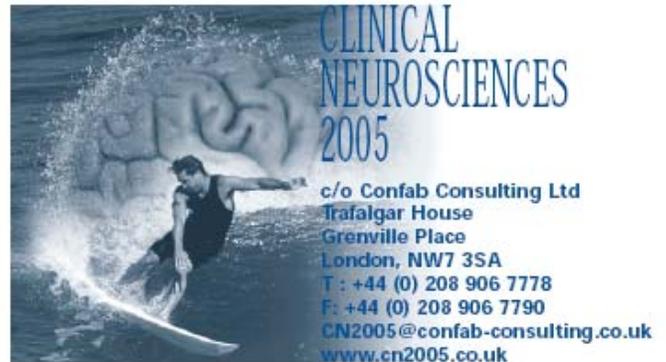
Mr Nik Patel, who was awarded the Hunterian Lectureship, presented his lecture: *Neurotrophic factor therapy for Parkinson's disease and its applications for other diseases*. Ms Anne Moore presented the award during the Conference.

Nik Patel & Anne Moore



The Social Programme was extra special as the welcome reception took place at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh which celebrates its Quincentenary this year and the gala dinner was held in the magnificent Edinburgh Castle. Guests were treated to a private tour of the Scottish Crown jewels and excellent views of Edinburgh city at night, followed by traditional Scottish fare.

Anglo-Dutch Neurosurgery & Neurology Meeting 7-9 September 2005



Our Colleagues from Derriford Hospital, Plymouth are hosting the SBNS Autumn Meeting together with the Dutch Neurosurgery and Neurology Societies and the Association of British Neurologists (ABN). There will be a Trainees Teaching session, Neuroscience Nurses Session, Joint Neurosurgery/Neurology sessions, parallel Neurosurgery and Neurology sessions and seminars with prominent guest speakers. For further information please log on to the conference website www.cn2005.co.uk where you will be able to register on line, book accommodation and download a copy of the preliminary programme.

The social programme includes a welcome reception at the Riviera International Conference Centre on Wednesday 7th and a gala dinner at the impressive Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth on Thursday 8th. Places are limited so please book early and don't forget your passports!

Please note that the SBNS Business meeting will be held on the Wednesday morning at 11 am and all full members are encouraged to attend. The Agenda and papers will be available for downloading from the SBNS Website from the 24th August 2005, under the Minutes section.

I look forward to meeting you in Torquay and hope you will visit me at the SBNS Stand.

Suzanne Murray
SBNS, Administrator



Copies of the group photograph can be obtained (free of charge) by contacting

Denise Bond
2 Maybank Villas
Edinburgh EH12 8BD

0131 476 3514

denisebond@blueyonder.co.uk

Future SBNS Scientific Meeting Dates

Spring 2006 – 5-7 April 2006, Royal Free Hospital, London
Autumn 2006 – 6-8 September 2006, Preston
Spring 2007 – 26-28 April 2007, Charing Cross, London
Autumn 2007 (Joint with EANS) Glasgow
Spring 2008 – Liverpool
Autumn 2008 – Nottingham

Dates for your Diary

Neurotrauma 2005

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

19-21 August 2005

Email drjk@prusty.com for further information

A Mini Symposium Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery in Sheffield (1985-2005)

23rd - 24th September 2005

Tel: +44 114 276 8947

Fax: +44 114 275 4930

Email: joan.fields@sth.nhs.uk

10th ILAE Specialist Registrar Teaching Weekend in Epilepsy

St Anne's College, Oxford 30th September 1st and 2nd October 2005

<http://www.adoration.co.uk/ilaeform.html>

British Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery Group Meeting

13-14 October 2005, The Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Tel: 01608 731800

Email: julie@archer-yates.co.uk

International Conference on "Complications in Neurosurgery"- ICCN

20th-23rd October '2005

Wild Flower Hall, Mashobra, Simla, India

Email: ajayajha@gmail.com

12th Workshop on Endoscopic Neurosurgery at the Holiday Inn Ghent in Belgium

6-7-8 and 9 november 2005

<http://www.neuroendoscopy.org/>

The 3rd Emirates Neuroscience Conference
12th - 15th November 2005

Tel: 0097142710000 ext 449 / 0097142711221

Email: jjqbal49@emirates.net.ae

14th - 18th November 2005

International Postgraduate Programme 2005
Life and Health Sciences

Hands on Workshop "cerebral sulci and Gyri: neuroanatomy" (2nd Edition)

Email: sec-pg@ecsaude.uminho.pt

British Cervical Spine Society Meeting
2005

Tall Trees Hotel, Yarm, Cleveland
(www.talltrees.co.uk)

November 18th and 19th 2005

Phone: 01642 854413 Fax: 01642 854118

Email: rogerstrachan@hotmail.com

6th - 8th March 2006 - Aviv, Israel

The Second Annual Update Symposium Series on
Clinical Neurology and Neurophysiology

Email: conventions@isas.co.il

<http://www.neurophysiology-symposium.com>

Neurosurgery Courses 2005



The Royal College of Surgeons of England

The Royal College of Surgeons is running a number of Neurosurgery Courses during 2005/6. 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 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.

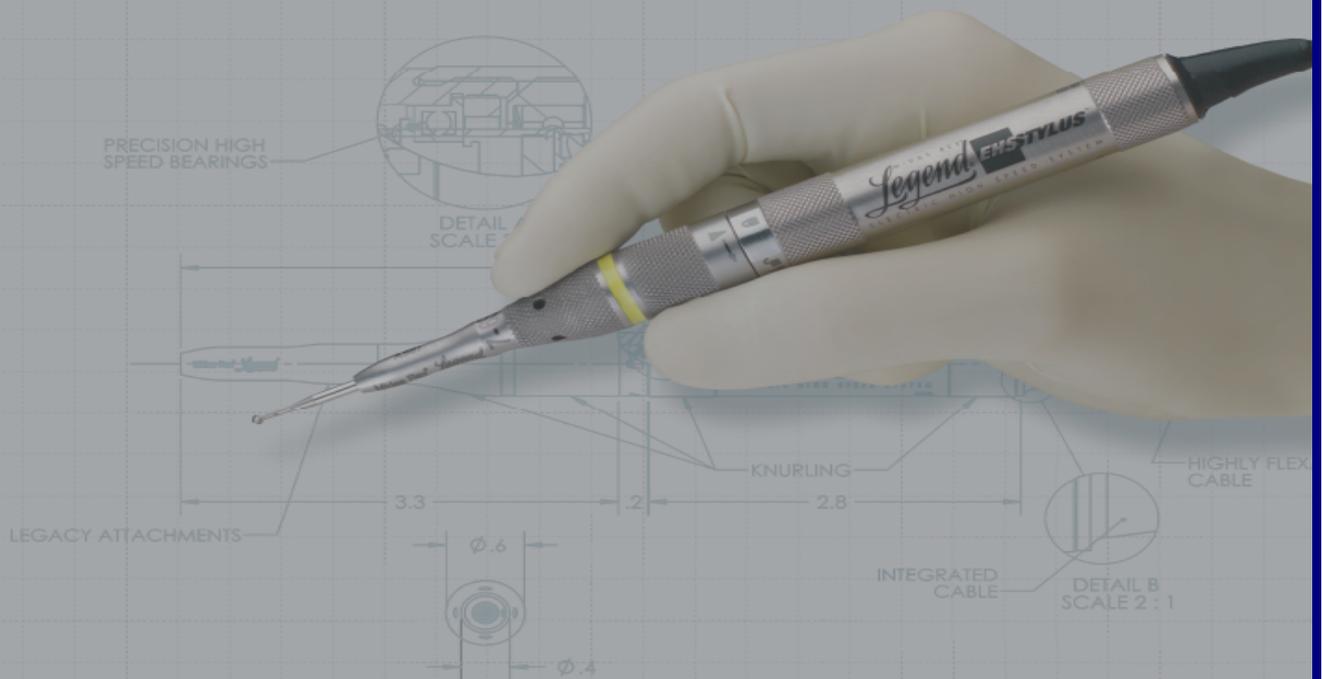


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*Suzanne Murray,
SBNS Administrator*

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