



## **Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2016**

Welcome to the 11th edition of the society's newsletter.

### **Message from the Chairman**

**Adam Pichel**  
Chair, VASGBI

After the huge success of Sheffield, I am pleased to announce that we already have the makings of a very good programme for this year's ASM in Exeter. Richard Telford, who has a long and well-established association with the society, has teamed up with Dr James Lloyd to deliver what I suspect will be a very good meeting. If I know Richard it will be educational and very entertaining!

I am pleased to report that we remain fully engaged with partner organisations in promoting best practice in the management of the vascular surgical patient. We have contributed to the Vascular Society's 2016 document 'Provision of Vascular Services' and have registered with NICE as a stakeholder for the abdominal aortic aneurysm guidelines that started in June 2015. We have updated the college's GPAS document for 2016 on the provision of vascular anaesthesia services and this should be published on the RCoA and VASGBI website soon. Have a look and use this comprehensive document to help you and your colleagues drive up standards

in your hospital where applicable. I have submitted the ACSA standards (vascular) for departments (mapped to the 2015 GPAS document) who wish to accredit in vascular anaesthesia. These standards are being piloted and after consultation with the pilot sites they should hopefully be rubber stamped in early 2016. We as a committee have agreed (in conjunction with invited national experts) to form a small working party to draft standards on perioperative monitoring in aortic aneurysm surgery. Once we have completed the scope and first draft we will send this out for consultation with the membership.

The National Vascular Registry continues to gather pace and you will be aware that the second national report was published in November 2015. We would still like to see more engagement from vascular anaesthetists. The Research / Audit committee are working with the NVR team to see if we can also produce a report that focuses on anaesthetic care in more detail. We think that the current anaesthetic data collection reasonably reflects the work of the vascular anaesthetist in the management of the patient undergoing AAA repair and we would urge you to register and send in your data. Some interesting results that relates to us are that 98% of patients underwent a formal anaesthetic review (of this 98%, 90% had an anaesthetic review by a consultant vascular anaesthetist) and 73.7% of patients had their fitness measured (CPET being used in 48.1% of cases). These findings sit favourably with the standards as set out by the AAA Quality Improvement Framework. Well done! Go to the website:

<https://www.vsqip.org.uk/reports/2015-nvr-annual-report/> for more details.

Again I must urge you to consider applying for one of our small project grants. Projects in the arena of quality improvement, audit or research are invited. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for a senior trainee to bolster their portfolio and for a department to get a QI project off to a good start with some financial backing. You will be expected to present your project and its outcome at the next ASM (even more of an incentive for that keen trainee). Our website is continually being updated and improved; don't forget to you can now follow us on Twitter (#VASGBI). You will be able to keep up with all the latest news relevant to the vascular anaesthesia community.

There are three posts on the committee becoming vacant later this year (September 2016). Information will be circulated detailing the application process – so please consider putting yourself forward. Our secretary for the last 3 years Dr Judy Gudgeon will step down after the meeting in Exeter. I would like to thank Judy for being such a fantastic secretary and for all the hard work that she has put in year on year. She has been a great sounding board, a friend and all too often a voice of reason. Tim Wood has been voted in and will take over from Judy in September and I am sure he will be a huge success. Judy will stay on as she has 2 more years to serve on the committee and this will be of great benefit to Tim as he starts to learn the ropes. If you are interested in vascular anaesthesia, want to work on projects to advance the perioperative care of the vascular patient and relish the opportunity to organise an ASM, then please consider putting your name forward for election.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as I step down from being Chairman after 3

years. I have thoroughly enjoyed the debates, the camaraderie and the opportunity to work with some very talented individuals that make up the committee. I have learned a great deal. Thank you to each and every one of you that I have worked with both past and present.

I could not sign off without a word on Jane Heppenstall who is extremely thorough in her duties and professional in her manner, it has been a great pleasure to work with Jane. I am particularly grateful to her for keeping us all on track at a time of considerable change in committee personnel. She is a hugely important part of VASGBI and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her enormous effort and willingness to offer help at every opportunity.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Simon Howell has been elected to take over from me in September. The society could not be in safer hands. Simon is an outstanding professional and will no doubt bring more academic rigor to proceedings! I wish him the very best in his new role. I believe that the VASGBI continues on track to be the voice of vascular anaesthesia in the UK and I am proud to have been a small part in its history and evolution. See you in Exeter.

**Adam Pichel**  
Chairman, VASGBI

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## Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting saw the society travel to Sheffield, in the heart of the Peak District. The Meeting was organised by Dr Karen Kerr, our treasurer and her very able support team. The Hallam University provided an excellent venue close to both the station and conference hotel.



The city was very welcoming, providing us with links for cheap rail travel from London and a very enjoyable drinks reception in the stunning Winter Gardens – one of the largest temperate glasshouses in the UK and conveniently located next to the hotel.

Jane Heppenstall and her team provided their usual superb full administrative and organisational support and the committee would like to thank her for her continuing hard work on behalf of the society.



This year 3 very different workshops kicked off the academic programme. The first entitled “stemming the flow” tackled the issue of major haemorrhage in a very graphic way. Dr Steve Rowe had enlisted the help of 2 amputees who were able to very realistically simulate the acute casualty situation (providing more stress to the delegates than they had probably anticipated) in the heart of the city. The second workshop was an introduction to transthoracic echo which was very well received and extremely topical with the introduction of FICE accreditation. The final workshop on critiquing a paper was extremely well received by those that attended it. Any suggestions for future workshops are always gratefully received. During the workshops, the posters were judged by Dr Elke Kothmann and Dr Ian Shaw, the standard was as usual high, with the winning poster presentation by Dr Dodwell and runner up Dr Braga.



The meeting proper commenced with a session entitled ‘Vascular Surgeries’ with talks by Dr Mark Regi, Prof Naylor and Tawqeer Rashid covering

day case EVAR, carotid endarterectomy and lower limb reperfusion surgery respectively. The enthusiasm of the speakers for their own areas of expertise could not help but capture the attention of the audience.



After lunch, there was a useful update on the management of cirrhosis, TAVI procedure for aortic stenosis and heart failure, which was recognised from the meeting feedback as good general CPD. The AGM followed, chaired by Dr Adam Pichel, during which several small constitutional amendments were voted on and supported by the members.

The final session of the day entitled 'Vascular Emergencies' was a really interesting insight into the running of the Mountain Rescue Team within the Peak District which left most people in awe of the group's dedication in times of adversity to providing an entirely voluntary service to the walking and mountaineering community of the area.

The first day was capped off with the reception at the Winter Gardens followed by the Course Dinner, which was held in the Novotel. During these events we were treated to entertainment by a magician whose speciality was making our valuables disappear and reappear in his pockets and on keyrings. Unfortunately, the standard of the food at the dinner this year was very poor, which the committee would like to reassure

members was taken up with the hotel and for which we received a small rebate, which will be channelled back into next year's meeting. We have no doubt this will not help the dwindling attendance at this year's event but the committee and organisers of next year's meeting in Exeter would encourage delegates to give support to this social aspect of the meeting.

Day 2 started with a session on pre optimisation and pre-assessment chaired by Dr Ian Shaw from Sheffield. Dr Snowdon's talk covered aspects of preoperative testing and outcomes, followed by Dr Carlisle's work on predicting individual patient survival, which was based on his calculator developed from national age-related mortality data. The session was concluded by an update on the impact of preoperative anaemia and the indications for its correction.

The free paper session was again well attended and received with joint first prizes for Dr Donahue and Dr Dutta . This year, instead of the usual debate, we were treated to a very interesting case discussion run in an MDT format, which led to some stimulating discussion from both the panel and audience alike.



The final session of the meeting provided us with updates in AKI, antiplatelet drugs and the prevention of post operative delirium and for those who were able to stay for the last session, some entertaining hints as to

how to acquire and introduce ROTEM, from Dr Dan Nevin, whose team sadly did not win the Rugby World Cup!

The committee would like to thank the local organisers, their team of volunteers (in their red t-shirts) and all the speakers who did a fantastic job and provided us with another highly successful meeting. We would like to assure delegates that we take the feedback very seriously and attempt to address the significant issues.

### **Research and Audit Committee Report**

Members of the VASGBI Audit and Research Subcommittee during 2015 were:

Dr Simon Howell (Leeds)  
Dr Adam Pichel (Manchester)  
Dr Ronelle Mouton (Bristol)  
Dr Judy Gudgeon (Frimley)  
Dr Paul Lancaster (Manchester)

The Committee is responsible for leading the work of the VASGBI in areas including awarding research and audit funding, liaising with the Vascular Society with regard to work on the National Vascular Registry and working with the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA).

The VASGBI is a Partner Society of the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) and is represented on the NIAA Research Council. During 2015 we supported the Research Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) run by the NIAA in partnership with the James Lind Alliance. The results of this work can be found at <http://www.niaa.org.uk/Results#pt>.

We worked with the British Journal of Anaesthesia and the Association of

Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists under the auspices of the NIAA to offer a joint grant supported by three funders for research into a topic in cardiovascular anaesthesia. There was stiff competition for the award with a number of high quality applications. An award of £39,552 was made to Dr Andrew Klein of Papworth Hospital and Professor Toby Richards of University College Hospital London for a project entitled "The UK CAVIAR Study (UK Cardiac and Vascular surgery after Intravenous Iron Assessment of Response study)". We anticipate advertising a research project grant through the NIAA in 2016. This award will be from the VASGBI alone.

The Society was represented by Dr Adam Pichel at the NIAA Funders' Forum held at the end of June 2015 to review funding strategies and examine opportunities for joint funding of research projects. The collaboration between the VASGBI and the Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists was noted as an example of successful joint working. The Society would be prepared to collaborate with other specialist societies in future to jointly fund projects, so long as these are relevant to vascular anaesthesia.

The Society launched a new departmental awards scheme aimed at supporting research and audit in vascular anaesthesia undertaken by trainees under the supervision of established consultants in the subspecialty. The first award under this scheme (of £5,000) was made to Dr Nick Schofield and colleagues at the Royal Free Hospital for a project entitled 'Monitoring of heparin anticoagulation in major vascular surgery: Correlation between

Hemochron ACT and Anti Xa activity'. Further awards will be made under this scheme in 2016 and these will be advertised on the Society website in the next few months.

The National Vascular Registry (NVR) collects data on index cases including AAA repair, carotid endarterectomy and lower limb revascularisation and includes details of the anaesthetist involved in the care of the patient. Members of the VASGBI Audit and Research Subcommittee attend meetings of the Vascular Society Audit and Quality Improvement Committee and work to ensure that anaesthetic data collected in the National Vascular Registry are relevant to current practice. The Registry is a powerful tool for both audit and research. Dr Ronelle Mouton is currently collaborating with Mr Robert Hinchcliffe on an analysis of the impact of the type of anaesthetic on outcome in EVAR. The Subcommittee would be delighted to receive suggestions from VASGBI members for projects using NVR data and will liaise with the Vascular Society to support and promote such projects. Members of the VASGBI are encouraged to ensure that they are registered with the NVR and can check the data recorded on the patients that they have anaesthetised. The link for NVR registration is:  
<https://nvr.northgate.thirdparty.nhs.uk>

Dr Paul Lancaster stood down from the Audit and Research Subcommittee in 2015. The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his work on behalf of the Society. There are currently two vacancies on the Audit and Research Subcommittee and we are keen to receive applications from members of the society to take up these places. The subcommittee is

open to all interested members of the Vascular Anaesthesia Society. The VASGBI wishes to extend the work of the Society in the field of quality improvement and is developing a survey to identify examples of good practice that can be shared with members. This work will be supported by the Research and Audit Subcommittee and we especially welcome applications to join the subcommittee from members who wish to participate in this work. We encourage colleagues who would be interested in serving on the Audit and Research Subcommittee to contact Dr Simon Howell at [s.howell@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.howell@leeds.ac.uk)

Simon Howell (Chair)  
On behalf of the VASGBI Research  
and Audit Committee

### **Education and Training Committee Report**

2015 saw the Annual Scientific Meeting held in the city of Sheffield, a city with a strong tradition in medical sciences and industry. As befitting this tradition, the abstracts presented at the 2015 meeting was once again of the very highest standards. There were 5 oral presentations in the Free Paper session and 16 posters presented and I would like to thank the authors for all their excellent abstracts. The raison d'être of the VASGBI is to further advance the care of patients undergoing vascular surgery and the abstract presentations at the ASM are a key part of stimulating discussion and debate on how we can strive to improve the standards of vascular anaesthesia and perioperative care. We had 2 joint winners for the Free Paper session; one on imaging to objectively identify frailty and the other on point of care anticoagulation monitoring. Both are not traditionally anaesthesia

related subjects but it demonstrates that vascular anaesthesia is not just about 'putting a patient to sleep'; it's about the highest standards of peri-operative patient care and a close working relationship with other specialties.

The electronic abstract submission system has proved successful and it has certainly made the review process much simpler and transparent. As I mentioned last year, Dr. David Nunn and the Education Subcommittee are continuously working to make the system as user friendly as possible. I hope to see a few changes in the abstract submission and review process before the next ASM to make it easier for authors to use. The Education Subcommittee would like to hear from the membership on how they think we can improve the submission process.

We will be looking into establishing a Vascular Anaesthesia Fellowship Network, an initiative started by Dr. Kirsty Wagstaff during her tenure as the Trainee Member on the VASGBI Committee. I would like to see the VASGBI being the central point for both trainees and Anaesthesia Departments to share their experiences and information on Vascular Anaesthesia Fellowships both in and out with the United Kingdom. To this end, I would appreciate any department that offers a Vascular Anaesthesia Fellowship to get in touch with the VASGBI to allow us to start the process of collating information.

It doesn't appear that long ago since we were in Sheffield but as the seasons pass, wetter for some than others, we head towards the 2016 ASM in Exeter and hence a reminder that the deadline for abstract submission for the 2016 ASM will be sometime in July.

Kind regards.

Dr Indran Raju

Chair Education Subcommittee

### **Treasurer's Report**

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. The annual scientific meeting and membership provide the finances to support the work of the committee and to fund research as set out within the societies constitution.

During 2015 we have released £15,000 to fund a departmental project and contribute to a NIAA portfolio group supported grant. We have plans to do a similar thing again in 2016 with slightly more money into slightly different pots.

Do note that you are receiving the newsletter as you are a fully paid up member of the society. Thanks for your annual £25. Others in your department may have been members many years ago but if they have not increased their standing order from £10 to £25 they will not receive the newsletter, nor will they have access to the membership pages of the website or receive a reduction on the ASM attendance fee. If you know of any such individuals, then do point out that they are likely to still be paying us £10 but not getting the benefits. We are trying to track these individuals down so as to make them aware they need to alter or stop the standing orders, but if you come across one can you ask them to get in touch with us.

Thanks for your support.

**Karen Kerr - Treasurer**

## **Website**

The website continues to be improved and updated by Dr David Nunn and we are increasingly trying to contact our members with important information using this tool ([www.vasgbi.com](http://www.vasgbi.com)). Members are encouraged to regularly visit the website and to take advantage of the online voting for the Committee elections.

## **ACCEA Committee**

The sieving committee met via teleconference during the summer following the announcement that the 2015 round was proceeding. Candidates submitted applications in preparation and these were duly considered, with four people being supported by VASGBI for bronze and silver awards. We are still awaiting the results.

## **Future Meetings**

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016) is to be held in Exeter.

## **Other News**

### **Elections**

At the end of the year, elections were conducted for a new trainee rep for the committee and we are delighted to announce that Dr Mohamed Eid has recently been successful and will join the committee in September. There are also 3 posts coming up for election to commence in September 2016. It is important that the committee continues to attract new members so please consider putting yourself forward for nomination. The application process will probably be well underway by the time you receive this. Outcomes will be announced on the website.

Best wishes for 2016 to all our members from the committee.

Judith Gudgeon – Secretary  
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