



## **Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2015**

Welcome to the 10th edition of the society's newsletter.

### **Message from the Chairman**

I am pleased to report that we remain very much engaged with partner organisations in promoting best practice in the management of the vascular surgical patient. In particular the National Vascular Registry has got off to a good start but we would like to see more engagement from vascular anaesthetists. We think that the 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. This year we will continue to further refine the dataset and start to work on the datasets for the other index procedures.

I am pleased to announce that the RCoA's GPAS update for 2015 on the provision of vascular anaesthesia services is now published and available on both our and the college's websites. Have a look and use this comprehensive document to help you and colleagues drive up standards in your hospital where applicable. We are currently working on the ACSA standards (mapped to the 2015 GPAS document) for departments who wish to accredit in vascular anaesthesia. These should be finalised and available later this year on the RCoA website.

I strongly 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; you can now follow VASGBI on Twitter. I am learning to tweet (very badly) so bear with us as we get started. You will be able to keep up with all the news on issues that affect the vascular anaesthesia community. Voting has started via the website for the three posts on the committee that become vacant later this year (September 2015); 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 in future ballots.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas to help us engage more effectively with you and to support you in your practice. This year I hope the VASGBI can be even more accessible to our membership and more engaged on national issues that affect the delivery of safe and effective clinical care to the vascular patient.

I wish you a Happy New Year and I hope to meet many of you when we visit Sheffield this coming September.

### **Adam Pichel**

Chair, VASGBI

Consultant in Anaesthesia

Central Manchester University

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Oxford Road

Manchester M13 9WL

## Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting



The 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting saw the society travel north to Glasgow just a week before the referendum. It was hosted by Dr Indran Raju at the Grand Central Hotel. The venue was warm(!) and provided excellent facilities for a highly enlightening educational programme. This year encouraged by the glitter balls in the meeting hall, we tried out a cabaret style forum for the meeting - which seemed to promote a marmite response from delegates.



The city was very welcoming treating us to a civic reception after the first days events, hosted by the Lord Provost of Glasgow. Many people discovered the city for the first time and most seemed to avail themselves of the excellent shopping at some point during the 2 days.



Jane Heppenstall and her team provided full administrative and organisational support, as ever and the committee would like to thank her for her continuing hard work for the society.

The first day commenced with the optional workshop programme. Unfortunately the rep from Heart Works, providing the simulator for the TOE workshop arrived late due to a flight cancellation at Heathrow the previous evening. The workshop content was a fantastic introduction to TOE but sadly the opportunities to practice the skills were reduced by this. When he did arrive he stayed over the lunch period to allow delegates to try the simulator if they wished too.

The other workshops were very well received and the organisers continue to try to develop these sessions and highlight opportunities for new topics.

The first day was divided into 3 sessions. A cardiac risk stratification session chaired by Dr Indran Raju introduced invited speakers from South Africa, Bristol and South Tees. This area of medicine is fast evolving and left us in no doubt there is more to come.

Session 2 covered Metabolic syndromes and diabetes, providing updates in diabetes management, the ever expanding number of diabetic drugs and an overview of the implementation of new perioperative diabetic guidelines. This session was followed by a brief VASGBI AGM chaired by Dr Pichel.



The final session of the day was an erudite although slightly depressing lecture on Deprivation and Health Inequalities entertainingly explained by Professor Phil Hanlon.



The first evening was capped off with the Course Dinner, which was held in the conference room now turned into a glamorous ballroom. Over the years attendance at this event has dropped and the committee would like to assure members that it is a very casual affair – and designed to let delegates socialise with colleagues and friends.



With a few bleary eyed delegates the second day started with an update on the results of the IMPROVE trial from members of the study group.

After some strong coffee, the morning continued with the registrars free papers, won by Dr James Durrand. An entertaining debate on vascular anaesthetic on call rotas followed, leading us into lunch and the meeting concluded with a CPD session covering emergency EVAR, peripheral arterial revascularisation, chronic neuropathic pain and perioperative management of pacemakers.

This year for the first time, the lectures were all recorded and delegates have been able to view the slides in conjunction with the oral presentations using their unique logins. This seems to have been successful and we would anticipate repeating this in the future.

The committee would like to thank the local organisers and all the speakers who did a fantastic job and provided us with a highly successful meeting

## **Research and Audit Committee Report**

The current members of the Audit and Research Committee are:

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, liaison with the Vascular Society with regard to work on the National Vascular Registry and working with the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia.

The National Vascular Registry went live in December 2013. As previously reported in this Newsletter the registry dataset collects data on index cases including AAA repair, carotid endarterectomy and lower limb revascularisation. 2014 saw the first full calendar year of data collection within Registry and the 2014 results for Trusts and individual surgeons will be published later this year. The dataset includes details of preoperative assessment and perioperative anaesthetic management. The VASGBI works closely with the NVR team to ensure that the data collected give a good representation of anaesthetic practice and make the registry a useful tool for anaesthetic research and audit. The registry includes details of the anaesthetist involved in the care of the patient and we worked closely with the Royal College of Anaesthetists to ensure that colleagues 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>

The VASGBI is a Partner Society of the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) and is represented on the NIAA Research Council. The

Society advertised a research project grant in the spring round of NIAA grant funding. We are pleased to congratulate Prof David Lambert of the University of Leicester for his success in being awarded this funding for a research project on the impact of opioids on angiogenesis.

The Society is a partner in the Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Research Priority Setting Partnership being run through the NIAA under the auspices of the James Lind Alliance. An online questionnaire for this Research Priority Setting Exercise is currently available at

<https://niaa.org.uk/PSPSurvey#pt>

The survey will be open until the end of March 2015 and we encourage members to participate.

The society has also established a collaboration with the Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists (ACTA) to jointly fund a grant to support cardiovascular research. This is supported by matched funding by the British Journal of Anaesthesia. Up to £40,000 is available to support research into areas that are of relevance to both the VASGBI and the ACTA.

2015 also sees the launch of VASGBI Departmental Grants. These grants are intended to support the professional development of trainees in vascular anaesthesia. The funding may be used to support departmental research or audit projects in vascular anaesthesia undertaken by one or more trainees under consultant supervision. These are advertised on the VASGBI website. The closing date for the current round of awards is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Applications should be made by a consultant who is a member of the VASGBI.

The Research Committee aims to support audit and research that supports us in delivering cutting edge anaesthetic care to our patients. The

committee is open to all interested members of the Vascular Anaesthesia

Society and encourage colleagues who would be interested in serving on the Research and Audit Committee 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**

2014 saw another successful Annual Scientific Meeting in the Commonwealth City of Glasgow, with over 20 abstracts being submitted for presentations. We had 4 Free Paper presentations and 16 posters, all of the very highest quality and utmost interest to the delegates. I would like to thank all the authors for the time, effort and dedication that went into producing the abstracts and presentations. It never ceases to amaze me how Trainees and Consultants come back every year to the ASM with new ideas and topics that are both clinically and academically relevant to vascular anaesthesia especially when there is an ever increasing demand by Trusts and Health boards for increased clinical time and a reduction in non-clinical time.

This year saw for the first time, the introduction of an online abstract submission system with the aim of making the process more transparent and easier for both abstract submission and review by the Education Subcommittee. It was a highly successful first attempt, however it remains a work in progress. To this end, we would welcome any feedback or guidance from the membership as to how we can continuously improve this system for future ASMs. I would also like to thank Dr. David Nunn for all the technical wizardry he has put into creating this system over the last year.

The Education Subcommittee is always looking for ways to fulfill and extend its role and we welcome any ideas and suggestions from the membership. One such idea put forward is the creation of a website based vascular anaesthesia CME library however a cursory glance using one of several web search engines seems to generate a host of up to date vascular anaesthesia CME articles which makes any such endeavour merely a repetition of work. Instead we propose to publish on our website a selection of ASM abstracts which are relevant to current practice. We hope our membership will find this useful.

One of the biggest challenges facing vascular anaesthesia is the training and education in vascular anaesthesia and I urge all members to read the VASGBI's consultation document on 'Education and Training in Vascular Anaesthesia' which is available on our website. Your views on this document are important to allow the VASGBI to progress this further. I cannot stress the importance of this enough so as to allow our Trainees to gain adequate vascular anaesthesia training.

As the wintery months pass and we once again race towards another ASM, don't forget the deadline for abstract submission for the 2015 ASM will be sometime in July and I hope to see as many or more high quality abstracts as in Glasgow being presented in Sheffield.

### **Dr Indran Raju**

Chair Education Subcommittee

### **Treasurer's Report - a few words from the vaults.**

The society remains financially healthy bolstered by another successful ASM. This has allowed us to fund a NIAA grant to the tune of almost £18,000 this financial year. It has also meant that we can support a number of smaller departmental grants to a maximum of £5,000 on each call, the present

intention is to have 2 calls a year until the money runs out! Information on this is to be found on the website. We are a Mutual Association there for the benefit of our members so for future meetings all attendees will be reminded that attendance fees will be reduced for those who are VASGBI members as the society will be paying tax on the attendance fees it receives from non-members. It is also worth mentioning that you will have to be a member to be in receipt of a departmental grant. On the topic of membership could I ask that you ask within your department if those who were once members and have since decided that membership is no longer required have cancelled their standing orders. All members were contacted and informed that the cost of annual membership was rising from £10 to £25, most altered their standing orders but there are a few who haven't. This money is still being collected, come the end of the financial year we will collate how much it is and donate it to LifeBox. Finally the financial bad news - we seemed to have made the savings we can on our annual expenditure as outgoings for the last financial year are up slightly on previous. The good news your treasurer is a Scot who will be taking another look at where we can trim the fat in the new year; the committee best watch their waistlines.

Wishing you all wealth, health and happiness.

Best wishes

**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 2014 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.

### **Future Meetings**

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015) is to be held in Sheffield.

Preliminary venues for 2016 and 2017 are Exeter and London respectively.

### **Other News**

#### **Elections**

2014/5 elections are well underway with voting starting from Feb 2015. Three Committee positions are due for re-election including that of trainee rep. Outcomes will be announced on the website.

Best Wishes for 2015 to all our members from the committee.

Judith Gudgeon – Secretary  
[judith.gudgeon@fph-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:judith.gudgeon@fph-tr.nhs.uk)