



## Vascular Anaesthesia Society Newsletter 2020

Welcome to the 15th edition of the society's newsletter.

### Message from the Chair

#### Ronelle Mouton

Chair, VASGBI

It is an honour to pen my first newsletter as Chair of the Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain and Ireland. I would like to start by thanking Simon Howell for his work as Chairman from 2016 – 2019 and his exceptional contribution to VASGBI over more than 20 years. Simon is well known within the Society and throughout the international vascular anaesthesia community and has helped the Society to develop new relations, in particular with our vascular surgery colleagues.



We will still be working together and Simon continues as a member of the Research & Audit subcommittee, so we will be asking for his insights often.

At the 2019 AGM, we said goodbye to the past Chairman, Adam Pichel, past treasurer, Karen Kerr and Indy Raju who was Chair of the Education and Training Committee. All of them have made significant contributions to the Society over many years. I wish you every success in your future endeavours. We welcome newly elected members Manik Chandra, Vanessa Fludder and Beth Perritt to the Committee. Dan Taylor took over from me as the Chair of the Research and Audit Committee. I am very grateful for the continuous support, hard work and goodwill from VASGBI Committee and subcommittee members. Please read the Research & Audit, Education and Treasurer's reports in this Newsletter for more detail of all the good work being done on behalf of the Society.



In 2019 we saw the introduction of a marvellous new VASGBI website <https://vasgb.com>. As a Society we are indebted to David Nunn, who, after solely running the VASGBI website for many years, led us through the change. We are very grateful for David's ongoing support with the new website.

Just a quick reminder that the VASGBI have changed the way in which we collect membership fees. The Society now uses Direct Debit and will be moving away from standing order as from September 2020. Any standing order payments made in September will be returned and your membership will be cancelled. However, if you still wish to be a member of the Society all you need to do is transfer your membership over to Direct Debit. In order to do this you must re-register via our new website

<https://vasgbi.com/members/join-vasgbi/>. You will be required to complete a short application form as well as setting up a Direct Debit plan. Please remember once you have done this and your application has been approved you will need to cancel any standing orders with your bank. If you have any questions relating to this then please contact Jane Heppenstall at [jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com).

We are very pleased to introduce the **VASGBI Link person Scheme**. The aim is to maintain links and enhance communication between VASGBI members throughout the UK and Ireland. The VASGBI Committee undertakes many important initiatives on behalf of the organisation and its members. To be effective these require the continuing participation and input from all members. This is a two-way process and not only allows for dissemination of important information to the members, but also allows more efficient distribution of surveys and to hear your views. The aim is for every centre, to have one Link person, who will be their VASGBI representative. Names will be

published in the "Link person directory" in the members section. If anyone is interested in becoming a Link person then please contact Jane at [jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com).

We look forward to the **VASGBI CPD Meeting in Frimley on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**. This year's meeting has very kindly been organised by Judy Gudgeon and promises to be a very interesting day of vascular CPD talks. For more details and to register visit our website

<https://vasgbi.com/events/vasgbi-cpd-meeting/>

I can't sign off without a heartfelt thank you to our brilliant Administration Manager, Jane Heppenstall. She is a hugely important part of VASGBI and as new Chair, I rely heavily on Jane to keep me on track and I am very grateful for her experience and willingness to always be of help.



I hope to meet many of you either in Frimley or at the **VASGBI ASM at the ACC in Liverpool on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2020**.

With best wishes

**Ronelle Mouton**  
Chair VASGBI  
[ronelle.mouton@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:ronelle.mouton@nbt.nhs.uk)

## **Report of the VASGBI Annual Scientific Meeting 2019**

This year the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual scientific meeting was held at “We the Curious” in Bristol. We were blessed with some glorious weather that allowed Bristol to show off its finest sights and venues.



At the start of the first day a variety of workshops took place. These ranged from ultrasound guided blocks for cervical plexus, lower and upper limb and their management, what you need to know about vascular imaging and how to deliver a MDT simulation session in a theatre environment. The society is hugely grateful to all the workshop facilitators for the massive amount of work put into making these sessions a success.



Dr Ronelle Mouton officially opened the meeting. The first session new perspectives on familiar issues

included the latest evidence on perioperative reperfusion injury from Prof Suleiman and a summary of the latest research on volatile verses TIVA for myocardial protection from Dr Kunst. This was followed by a very thought provoking talk about the potential good and harm that may be caused by Oxygen and the differences between our and Australasian guidelines from Dr O'Driscoll.

The second session was action packed with a summary of what's new in the press from Prof Hinchliffe who flagged up amongst other things “Best Practice Guideline Management and Transfer of Patients with a Diagnosis of Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm to a Specialist Vascular Centre” published by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. This was followed by a very entertaining lecture on depth of anaesthesia monitoring form Dr Dimpel that challenged our understanding and belief of the monitors we use! This was followed by fantastic updates on palliative care for vascular patients Dr Bernstein and the hugely important effects of our anaesthetics on the environment and what we can do about it from Dr Shinde. Finally we were reassured that we will hold onto our jobs for a while yet with a fascinating lecture on the current state of artificial intelligence for drug delivery from Prof Struys.

The final session of the day was a massive undertaking from the simulation team in Bristol and was led by Dr Curtis Whittle and moderated by Prof Baxendale. A pre-filmed simulation scenario depicting the management of a ruptured AAA transferred to a vascular center and performing a

rEVAR under local anaesthetic. This provided a fantastic opportunity for an interactive debrief and discussion with the audience highlighting the communication and human factors involved with such a case. A huge thanks to Dr Davey, Dr Collin, Ms Simmonds, Mr Beckitt, Dr Whittle and Dr Baxendale for all their work.

Following this there was a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues from around the country and enjoy the best that Bristol had to offer in the evening sunshine prior to the drinks reception and conference dinner.

The final day was opened with a very thought provoking and honest lecture on the NICE process and the still to be published "Guidelines for the Management of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms" from Dr Hammond looking at the health economics and Dr Pichel focusing on the implications for vascular anaesthetists.



The next session was opened with the fiercely fought free papers session and followed by a state of the art update on connective tissue disorders from Prof Loeys and the perioperative management of connective tissue disease Dr Curtis and closed with vasculitis: don't get caught out from Dr Gunawardena.

The closing session of the meeting was rapid-fire CPD updates. A very entertaining recap on perioperative cardiac arrest from Dr Thomas.



The latest update on pacemaker and ICD technology including wireless pacemakers Dr Diab. Opioids for the elderly from Dr Stannard and point-of-care testing for major haemorrhage Dr Hooper.



Simple guide to the placement of rectus sheath catheters and local evidence of there outcomes from Dr Narayanan.

Overall it was an excellent meeting with a range of fantastic speakers from all over the country. The Committee would like to thank Dr Ronelle Mouton and Dr Gemma Nickols for their organization of the meeting, all the speakers and the volunteers who did a fantastic job, providing us with another highly successful meeting. Not forgetting the ever-professional administrative and organisational work of Jane Heppenstall and her team. We

would like to thank all the delegates for the feedback; this is extremely useful and allows the Committee and local organisers to continually strive to achieve the highest standards at our meetings.

In the member's area of the web site there is a set of talking slides that provide an excellent refresher or CPD opportunity for members.

<https://vasgbt.talkingslideshd.com/>

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

The current members of the Research & Audit Committee are:

Dr Elisa Dedola (Southampton)  
Dr Simon Howell (Leeds)  
Dr Ronelle Mouton (Bristol)  
Dr Katie Ayyash (York)  
Dr Alag Raajkumar(Worcestershire)  
Dr Dan Taylor (London, Chair)

The research and audit committee continue to be active on many fronts. We are grateful for the considerable ongoing contributions from our current chair and her predecessor Simon Howell.

Major current projects are:

#### **1. NAP7**

The 7<sup>th</sup> National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (NAP7) will examine perioperative cardiac arrest. Drivers for the choice of topic include the common fear of patients that they 'might not wake up after their anaesthetic', our current lack of knowledge on the true incidence of perioperative cardiac arrest, and the fact that the vast majority of perioperative cardiac arrests are not included in

the National Cardiac Arrest Audit (NCAA) of in-hospital cardiac arrest.

NAP7 will use a similar structure to previous NAPs: a *baseline survey* of anaesthetists' views on perioperative cardiac arrest; an *activity survey* to measure denominator values; and a registry to enable identification and review of individual cases. Confidentiality, anonymity, and a fair and structured review of individual cases by the panel for the purposes of learning will remain the key tenets.

NAP7 launches on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and will collect data for one year. The VASGBI are working with stakeholders to agree definitions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and how and which data will be collected. As with every NAP, the project requires the mass co-operation and involvement of anaesthetists throughout the UK. The success of previous NAPs is a direct consequence of that generous engagement.

<https://www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/NAP7-Home>

#### **2. VASGBI's engagement with the NVR**

We are pleased with the amended Anaesthesia NVR data fields- in the future this would enable us to conduct anaesthesia-led audits and produce reports with more information on aspects of practice relevant to vascular anaesthesia. We continue to encourage our members to actively engage with the NVR and are pleased to offer the NVR a stand at the VASGBI Conference in Liverpool on the 7-8<sup>th</sup> September.

We continue to produce a summary of the results for our members to

improve information sharing and encourage engagement.

### **3. Research Grants**

This year we have collaborated with the Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists & Critical Care (ACTACC) and the BJA to create a larger £75,000 grant to support a project relevant to the fields of vascular and cardiothoracic surgery. This grant is NIAA approved and open to submissions now and until 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

NIAA is now also supporting our smaller trainee research development grants. We hope this will further enhance this very successful programme. In 2019 we supported projects looking at blood pressure management after CEA and point of care coagulation testing. These are open again now for submissions.

Both can be viewed on our newly reconfigured website  
<https://vasgbi.com>.

### **4. Royal College of Anaesthetists Audit recipe book**

VASGBI has contributed to the writing of audit plans specific to vascular anaesthesia. These cover national standards for the assessment of patients prior to AAA surgery and the care of patients for lower limb amputation. We hope this will aid centres in producing local data relevant to all members of the vascular service.

We are always looking for new members to support the work of the research and audit committee.

Academic credentials are not a necessity just some time and enthusiasm. Please contact the chair if you are interested in joining the committee or contributing to any of the projects above.

#### **Dan Taylor (Chair)**

On behalf of the VASGBI Research & Audit Committee

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

Current members of the Education and training subcommittee are:

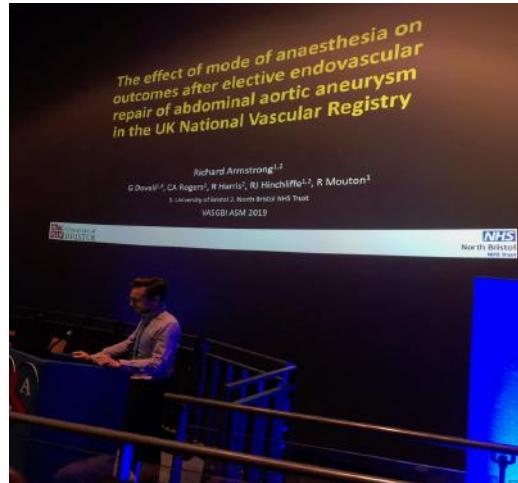
Dr Paul Warman (Leeds, Chair)  
Vanessa Fludder (Brighton)  
Dr Alex Bell (trainee representative)  
Dr Joanne White (Oxford)  
Dr Kate Nicholls (Bristol).

Expressions of interest from VASGBI members wishing to join the E&T sub committee are always welcome.

We had a good selection of high quality abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2019 ASM in Bristol, a large majority of which were accepted. My thanks for those that chose this meeting to share their work and also for their patience and understanding whilst we had a few "teething" issues to iron out with the submission process via the new website. These were all swiftly resolved and should not be a problem next time round. My thanks to all the scorers/judges for their time and effort and for making the scoring process as robust as possible. All the presented abstracts are available to view on the new website (<https://vasgbi.com/events/2019/>) and I would recommend viewing /

reviewing them as I found there to be plenty of examples of good QI or audit projects to carry out at your local department / hospital.

My congratulations to Richard Armstrong from Southmead Hospital, Bristol, with his winning oral presentation on “The effect of mode of anaesthesia on outcomes after elective endovascular repair of AAA in the UK NVR”.



Second place went to Lucy Elliot, from the University of Bristol, with her intriguing study of “Mode of anaesthesia in emergency surgery: clinical and patient perspectives”. This year we also used the slido system to get the audience opinion on the best presentation - reassuringly this was similar to the official judges scoring and also highlighted how closely we all scored the abstracts.

Samantha Chan, Leicester, won first prize in the poster competition with “Improving the peri-operative pain management of patients undergoing lower limb amputation using a multidisciplinary team approach and local guidelines”. Alastair Thomas (Bedford) was awarded 2nd place with his poster titled “Management of post-operative anaemia in elective

patients at a regional vascular centre. Are international consensus guidelines being met?”



I very much look forward to reading abstracts for the Liverpool ASM, submission for which is likely to open, via the website, sometime in May 2020.

To help develop the educational side of the new Website I would like to ask for any protocols or guidelines that are used in your local institution in vascular anaesthesia / surgery. I will then create a page on the members area to store them. This will allow us to share best practice and give us all a baseline, or starting point to develop our own local policies without having to “reinvent the wheel”. It would be great if you could send me any guidelines that you currently use to get this up and running ([paul.warman1@nhs.net](mailto:paul.warman1@nhs.net) or [jane.heppenstall@vasgb.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgb.com)).

We are all eagerly awaiting the publication of the new Royal College of Anaesthetist training curriculum due to be published imminently. We have only been invited as an organisation to be involved in a very modest way so I can't leak any information ahead of publication! My impression of the process is that it will be dominated by generic skills with much less emphasis on most sub-specialty training modules. We will obviously need to see the published details but it may be an opportunity for

VASGBI to develop more detailed guidelines for our members involved with training on specifics of Vascular Anaesthesia training. We hope to have a slot at the 2020 ASM in Liverpool for a college representative to discuss these matters in more depth.

**Dr Paul Warman**  
Chair Education Subcommittee

## Treasurer's Report

Once again I recognise that our busy lives may preclude review of each and every Newsletter. I have therefore again chosen to include some information that some may feel has been written before.

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. VASGBI holds total assets of approximately £118k. This is £10k less than last year but this was expected given the expenditure of grants paid out which comes in at £35k. The annual scientific meeting (ASM) and membership subscription provide the finances to support the work of the Committee and to fund research as set out within the Society's constitution.

The total cost of holding the ASM has been roughly £40k.

The presence of savings allows the Society to support national research through the NIAA portfolio and also department grants as described in the Research and Audit Committee Report.

The funds are also used to support Society administration costs and participation in matters related

directly to the Society; this remains relatively constant at £12k per year.

You will recall that we endeavour to bring society membership into a direct debit process, rather than standing order. You will be aware that standing orders can only be changed by the originator and remain in place in perpetuity, until the account to which the standing order is placed is closed. We have made significant progress with the assistance of Jane Heppanstall in the direct debit process with the use of Go Cardless. Therefore, within the next month the bank account receiving standing orders will be closed, to ensure that no further standing orders can be collected.

We believe with the experienced input of the Society's Research and Audit Committee that we have set the NIAA and Trainee grant values at an attractive and effective level, and considerate of available funds.

I would value member's feedback as to any aspect of Society's funds and Treasurer role.

Thanks for your continued support.

**Gary Matthews**  
Treasurer VASGBI  
[Gary.matthews2@nhs.net](mailto:Gary.matthews2@nhs.net)

## Website

The website has had a professional review and update under the guidance of Dr David Nunn to whom the committee are extremely grateful for all his hard work. Members are encouraged to regularly visit the website and to take advantage of the online voting for the Committee elections. There

are plans as mentioned in the education and training section to develop a guidelines and protocols section showing good existing guidelines to help those in the process of developing guidelines and protocols.

## ACCEA Committee

The 2020 round is now open please see website for details.

## Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Scientific Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020) will be held at the ACC in Liverpool.



## Elections

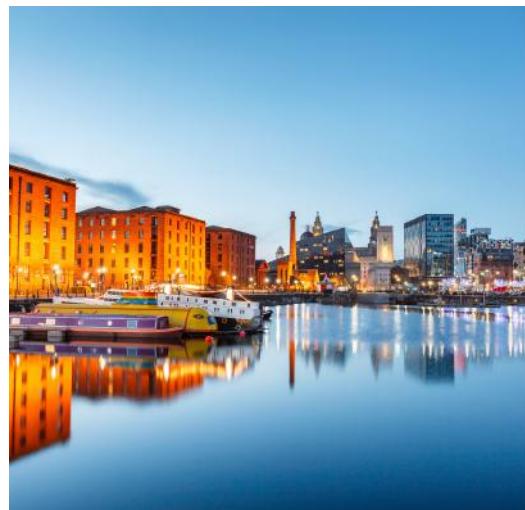
We are seeking nominations for 1 post, to join the committee in September 2020. The details of how to apply are on the website with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> March. It is important that the Committee continues to attract new members, so please consider putting yourself forward for nomination. The application process will probably be well underway by the time you receive this. Outcomes will be announced on the website.

Best wishes for 2020 to all our members from the Committee.

**Tim Wood**

Secretary VASGBI

[tim.wood1@nhs.net](mailto:tim.wood1@nhs.net)



This year there will not be a conference dinner. This is due to the difficulty in achieving a high quality venue and meal at a competitive price for a large group. Attached is a list of recommended restaurants and places to visit in Liverpool close to the venue.