



## *Vascular Anaesthesia Society Of Great Britain and Ireland*

Chair: Dr Ronelle Mouton  
Honorary Secretary: Dr Paul Warman  
Treasurer: Dr Gary Matthews  
<http://www.vasgbi.com>  
@vasgbi

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Dear Member

In the absence of this year's Annual Scientific Meeting, we have been unable to hold our usual Annual General Meeting. However, as an interim measure, until we are able to reconvene (hopefully) in Liverpool in September 2021 to hold a more formal AGM, we would like to offer you this brief report on the status of the Society. We would be delighted if any member would like to raise any questions or comments about the report or the running of the society and we will then be able to discuss them during our committee meeting on Friday 27th November. Should you have any comments or queries, please contact Paul Warman ([paul.warman1@nhs.net](mailto:paul.warman1@nhs.net)) or Jane Heppenstall ([jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com)) before this date.

### **Membership**

The Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain & Ireland's membership now stands at 473 members. This figure has dropped a little from previous years but is in a state of flux related to the change from collecting subscriptions via standing order to direct debit. We propose to continue the annual subscription at £25 collected by Direct Debt at the beginning of September.

### **Committee**

There were no new additions to the committee this year, although Dr Tim Wood was re-elected unopposed following his time as Honorary Secretary. Dr Paul Warman was elected by the committee to serve as Honorary Secretary for a term of 3 years. There will be one replacement position and a further two committee members due to stand for re-elections in 2021. Dr Alex Bell has also completed his 3 years as trainee representative to the Committee and his position will also be due for election in 2021. Please consider standing for the committee to support the ongoing work of your society. For further information please contact Paul Warman.

### **Educational meetings**

As with many societies we have had significant curtailment of our education programme due to the coronavirus pandemic with the cancellation of our CPD meeting in March. Given the ongoing uncertainties we have decided to run this as a virtual meeting on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at a cost of £10 to our members and £40 to non-members. It is possible this may have to run at a small financial loss.

It was clearly a huge disappointment to have to cancel the Annual Scientific Meeting due to be held in Liverpool in September 2020. It has been proving quite a challenge to negotiate with large commercial conference venues in respect of cancellation and rebooking but Jane Heppenstall has once again done a huge amount of work for us to secure a refund. We are now working to confirm our programme and booking for 2021, which we hope to host in Liverpool on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021, full details will be posted on our website in the coming months. We are conscious that there may need to be at least some engagement on a virtual basis. We are at the early stages of planning the 2022 ASM in Belfast (initially our venue for 2021).

### **Research and Audit**

VASGBI continues to support research in vascular anaesthesia. Unfortunately, the first round of NIAA grants were cancelled in the wake of COVID19, but we have advertised the popular VASGBI trainee project grants in the second round in September 2020 and received 4 applications, which are currently under review. Further grants will be awarded in 2021 and they will be advertised on the VASGBI and NIAA website. VASGBI is represented on the NIAA Research Council and Grants Committee and contributed to the NIAA report from the specialist societies. We are looking forward

to continuing our collaboration with the NIAA. Together we can work to improve experience and outcomes for our patients in this challenging field of anaesthetic work.

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.

Over the last year, 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 hospitals in producing local data relevant to all members of the vascular service. We also continue to be directly involved with the GIRFT project for Vascular Surgery and co-authored the Quality Improvement Framework for Peripheral Arterial Disease (along with the Vascular Society).

### **Other Stakeholders**

VASGBI co-authored the patient information leaflet “Your Anaesthetic for Vascular Surgery” in conjunction with the Royal College of Anaesthetists (<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/14-VascularSurgery2020web.pdf>). Perioperative care and MDT working are already a very important part of providing anaesthesia for vascular patients. Therefore, we were delighted to be invited as a stakeholder partner to the RCoA Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC). VASGBI is looking forward to this collaboration. (<https://www.cpoc.org.uk>). The 7th National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (NAP7) will examine perioperative cardiac arrest. VASGBI is pleased to be a stakeholder and is represented on the steering group of NAP7.

### **VASGBI Linkperson Scheme**

We are very pleased to introduce the VASGBI Linkperson 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 of 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 Linkperson, who will be their VASGBI representative. Names will be published in the “Linkperson directory” in the members section. If anyone is interested in becoming a Linkperson then please contact Jane at [jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com).

### **Financial report**

Finances remain healthy for this mutual association. VASGBI holds total assets of approximately £120,000. This is about £10,000 less than last year but this was expected given the expenditure of grants paid out which comes in at £35,000.

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 usually been in the order of £40,000.

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. Expenditure remains relatively constant at approximately £12,000 per year. This includes banking costs, Society administration costs and participation in matters related directly to the Society and also salary, tax and pension for our business administrator.

We have refund liabilities circa £6,000 for our Frimley CPD meeting, and have resolved contract liabilities with Liverpool for the postponed 2020 AGM in a cost-neutral manner.

Any member's feedback as to any aspect of Society's funds and Treasurer role to Dr Gary Matthews.

Yours sincerely  
VASGBI Committee