



## VASGBI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### **Membership**

At the time of writing, the Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain & Ireland's membership stands at 520 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.

Just a quick reminder that the VASGBI have changed the way in which we collect membership fees. The Society now use Direct Debit and moved away from standing order in September 2020. Any standing order payments made in September will be returned and as a result some memberships will be cancelled. To be a member of VASGBI and transfer over to direct debit, we want to remind members who were using standing order that they have to re-register via our website <https://vasgbi.com/members/join-vasgbi/> and set up a direct debit.

### **ACCEA**

Following the announcement of the 2021 round, candidates submitted applications, and these were fully considered by a committee led by Honorary Secretary, Dr Paul Warman. The Society have supported all four applications received in the 2021 ACCEA awards which are made up of 3 bronze and 1 silver; we are still awaiting the results. VASGBI wish to encourage all our members to consider applying for future ACCEA awards and it is our aim to clearly represent all of our membership.

### **Committee**

This year we are saying goodbye to Dr Judy Gudgeon, who is a past Honorary Secretary and has made a significant contribution to VASGBI over the years. She led several of VASGBI's collaborations with the RCoA and also organised the very successful "Frimley" CPD meeting that was delivered on the virtual platform in January 2021. Dr Alex Bell has completed his 3-year term as trainee representative. A big thank you to both Judy and Alex for all their work for the Society and we wish you every success in your future endeavours. Elections were conducted earlier this year and we are delighted to welcome Dr Rajiv Malhotra, as new Committee member and Dr Grant Harris as trainee representative.

The current Committee consists of 11 members:

Dr Ronelle Mouton (Chair); Dr Paul Warman (Hon secretary); Dr Gary Matthews (Hon Treasurer); Dr Dan Taylor (Chair of Research & Audit Committee); Dr Vanessa Fludder (Chair of Education and Training Committee); Dr Manik Chandra (Link Person scheme); Dr Elizabeth Perrit ; Dr Grant Harris (Trainee representative; Social media); Dr Rajiv Malhotra; Dr Maria Safar and Dr Tim Wood.

In 2022 there are at least three Committee positions up for re-election and we'll also elect the second trainee representative. It is important that the Committee continues to attract new members, so please consider putting yourself forward for nomination. All matters related to elections will be emailed to members and announced on the website.

The work of the Committee is supported by our Administration and Events Manager, Jane Heppenstall, who has been with VASGBI since the Society was founded. She is a hugely important part of VASGBI and we rely heavily on Jane to keep us on track and are very grateful for her experience and willingness to always be of help.

### **Constitutional Changes**

We are proposing three changes:

- 1. As VASGBI moved to a paper-free Society, we have changed to an electronic ballot for elections
- 2. All Committee roles are for a term of three years, but as the Trainee role is usually filled by senior trainees in their last two years of training, we propose changing this position to a term to 2 years and electing two trainee members
- 3. The term for the Chair and Honorary Secretary is three years and we would like to make this extendable for a further year. This will be via agreement of the full Committee.

### **Educational Meetings**

As with many Societies we have had some curtailment of our education programme due to the coronavirus pandemic. The VASGBI Committee decided to deliver the CPD meeting that was cancelled in March 2020 as a virtual event on the 13th of January 2021, which turned out to be at the height of another wave of the pandemic in the UK. Despite this the CPD meeting was attended by over 250 delegates and received excellent feedback. We are grateful to Dr Judy Gudgeon and her team from Frimley for organising such a brilliant and successful CPD Meeting for VASGBI.

We had to postpone the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) that was due to be held in Liverpool in 2020 to the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Due to the continuing uncertainties, we consulted our membership in March and you voted in favour of delivering the 2021 ASM as a virtual meeting. Thank you to everyone who voted and helped us to make the right decision. Jane Heppenstall has once again done a huge amount of work behind the scenes to negotiate cancellations, postponements and refunds with conference venues.

We are pleased to announce that next year's ASM will be in Belfast on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, and we look forward to seeing many of you there in person. VASGBI is looking forward to working with Dr Caroline Curry and her team on the scientific programme for 2022 and we are, as always, relying on feedback from delegates to inform the topics and chosen lectures.

### **Education and Training Committee**

Members of the sub-committee: Dr Vanessa Fludder (Chair); Dr Paul Warman; Dr Kate Nickel; Dr Joanna White; Dr Grant Harris (trainee representative)

In March 2021, Dr Vanessa Fludder took over as chair from Dr Paul Warman, who led the update of the Education and Training pages on the VASGBI website with the addition of a Curriculum Reading List, Final FRCA questions and Clinical Guidelines. We hope that all members and especially trainees, will find these resources helpful. Our next goal is to update the advanced training and fellowships area of the website to provide up to date information for trainees and trainers about fellowships offered at vascular hubs throughout the UK. Please get in touch if your department offers a vascular anaesthesia fellowship which is not currently advertised on the VASGBI website: [vanessa.fludder@nhs.net](mailto:vanessa.fludder@nhs.net).

The months leading up to the ASM are usually busy for the Education Committee, as the abstracts are reviewed and shortlisted for oral and poster presentations. The chair of the Education & Training Committee appoints a reviewers' panel with members scoring each abstract independently on an electronic scoring system. Fewer abstracts were received for the 2021 ASM, this may be due to the on-line format of the conference; reduced QIP and research activity in 2020 and 2021 secondary to covid restrictions or changes in work patterns and workload. We look forward to an increased level of activity and submissions in 2022.

### **Research and Audit Committee**

Members of the sub-committee: Dr Dan Taylor (Chair); Dr Elisa Dedola; Dr Alag Raajkumar; Dr Katie Ayyash; Dr Simon Howell; Dr Adam Pichel; Dr Ronelle Mouton

#### *Grants*

VASGBI continues to support research in vascular anaesthesia. A joint VASGBI/ACTACC/BJA Research Grant to the value of £75,000 has been advertised and submissions close on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The VASGBI Trainee Project grants continue to be a great success and two grants were awarded from a very competitive round in 2021. Congratulations to the successful applicants: Dr Akshay Shah (Oxford) Platelet function in patients undergoing major, non-cardiac vascular surgery: a prospective cohort study (£4950); Dr Cara Hughes (Glasgow): Multicentre validation ion heart rate variability as a measure of peri-operative risk in vascular surgical patients - a pilot study (VERVE-V) (£5000)

Further VASGBI Trainee Project grants will be awarded in 2022 and they will again be advertised on the VASGBI and NIAA websites. VASGBI is represented on the NIAA Research Council and Grants Committee. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with the NIAA and work together to improve the experience and outcomes for patients undergoing vascular surgery.

#### *Surveys*

VASGBI would occasionally support the conduct of important surveys up to a limit of two per year. If you consider running a survey through VASGBI, please follow the survey guidelines published on the website - <https://vasgbi.com/research-audit/vasgbi-survey-guidelines/>

### **VASGBI collaborations**

*The National Vascular Registry (NVR)*

We continue to work closely with the NVR and amended the data fields to make them more suitable for vascular anaesthesia-related audit and research. The Research & Audit Committee also continue to publish an annual NVR report for vascular anaesthetists, which we hope members find useful. We wish to encourage you all to actively engage with the NVR. <https://vasgbi.com/research-audit/nvr-summary-for-anaesthetists/>

#### *The Vascular Society*

The Research & Audit Committee represents VASGBI at the Vascular Society's Audit & Quality Improvement Committee meetings and VASGBI is involved as a stakeholder in various projects including the *GIRFT* project for Vascular Surgery and *Provision of Vascular Services* (2021).

#### *NAP 7*

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.

#### *CPOC*

Royal College of Anaesthetists Centre for Perioperative Care

#### **VASGBI Linkperson Scheme**

Dr Manik Chandra is the lead for scheme that was introduced in 2019 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. We envisage this to be a two-way process that not only allows for dissemination of important information to the members, but also allows more efficient distribution of surveys and to hear your views. It will also provide a network of support for your local projects such as guidelines and vascular service development. The aim is for every centre, to have one Linkperson, who will be their VASGBI representative. Names are published in the "Linkperson directory" in the members' section. We currently have 58 centres with a Linkperson assigned. Please check the directory to see if your Trust is represented and if anyone is interested in becoming a Linkperson, please contact Jane at [jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com](mailto:jane.heppenstall@vasgbi.com).

#### **Financial report**

Once more it is positive to announce that finances remain healthy for this mutual association. VASGBI current assets remain approximately £120,000 with liabilities of £10,000 for grants yet to be claimed and paid. There will be costs incurred in the VASGBI virtual meeting, 2021 Liverpool, and delegate fees received. We are in a novel and uncertain phase regarding finances and fee structures; we are fortunate to have a financial reserve that mitigates this uncertainty.

For comparison in the past decade, our lowest recorded assets were £63,000 (2010) and highest recorded assets £167,000 (2015). In the pandemic years our assets have remained relatively static.

Thank you to all members who have transferred to the direct debit membership payments. We hope that over the next two years, and once full non-virtual meetings are restored that our membership will all be returned and indeed grown, and all using the direct debit system.

### **VASGBI website**

We encourage you all to visit the great VASGBI website <https://vasgbi.com> It provides a wealth of information on everything related to vascular anaesthesia and the activities of the Society. We are very pleased with the added educational and training resources and the guidelines that are available to members. We also plan to add a section for Sponsors/exhibitors.

### **Patients**

Patients are at the centre of the existence of VASGBI and we are proud to have 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>)

Please bring this to the attention of your patients.

Thank you to all members for your continuous support, participation and feedback. Thank you also for your patience during these unusual years.

We look forward to hopefully seeing many of you in Belfast in 2022.

Yours sincerely  
VASGBI Committee 2021