

Honorary Secretary's Report

Mr Mike Wyatt

Dear Members

Your Society continues to grow since its recognition as a Specialist Society separate from General Surgery in 2012. This year has seen great change in the way in which we conduct our business and I am most grateful to Caroline and Elaine for all of their hard work in running the office. We have for the first time engaged with an external company to run the ASM and I am indebted to John Matthews and his team for accepting this task. The ASM programme was carefully assembled by Jonathan Beard, our President, assisted by Council, and I am sure you will have a tremendous week in Glasgow.

The structure of your Council has also changed this year. The Society is very aware that communication with members is imperative as we move forwards and to this end I am delighted that we have been able to appoint Mike Jenkins to the new post of Director of Communications. Mike has streamlined the VS Newsletter to inform you all of the essentials of the workings of the Society on a 3 monthly basis. I am delighted that the initial feedback to date has been excellent.

A second new post has been the creation of a Chair of the 'ASM Organising Committee'. Following competitive interview, we are delighted that Professor Matt Thompson was appointed and he will work closely with the Presidents to deliver a modern ASM to members, with particular emphasis on continuity of content to enable attraction of industry sponsors on long term contracts.

You will be aware that the Circulation Foundation has also been restructured under the careful guidance of its Chairman, Mr Ian Franklin. I would like to formally thank Ian for all of his hard work in developing the Charity into an modern effective viable grant giving concern.

The business and role of Council has also changed dramatically since specialty status. Your Presidents and Secretaries now attend meetings of the FSSA, Royal Colleges, Surgical Forum and meet on a regular basis with the Health Minister, Dr Dan Poulter. We are, therefore, able to directly influence policy and politics at a high level. One of our Council members, Professor Matt Thompson also chairs the Vascular Clinical Reference Group and, working closely with the Society, has been instrumental in developing commissioning policy and guidance to assist with the reorganization of Vascular Services the UK.

The Vascular Society
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE

T: 0207 869 6936
E: office@vascularsociety.org.uk
www.vascularsociety.org.uk

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The Vascular Society has continued to publish keynote documents throughout the year. These include a Workforce Planning Document, led by Mr Denis Harkin and a Provision of Vascular Services 2014 document led by Kevin Varty. Both are available on the website <http://www.vascularsociety.org.uk> and we hope that they will assist you in the development of both your local and regional vascular services.

We are also delighted to have been able to appoint the new Vascular Regional Professional Advisors following competitive application. These individuals sit of the Professional Affairs Boards of the RCSE and these posts largely replace the Vascular Advisory Council. The RSPAs will be instrumental in assisting the Society and the vascular SAC in the development of regional vascular services across the UK.

Council has taken a leadership role in the RSCE approval process for new Consultant posts in the UK. Working in conjunction with the vascular SAC, vascular RSPAs and the RCSE, we have been able to ensure that all new and replacement jobs map to the requirements of POVS 2012 in the delivery of effective and safe care to patients with vascular disease in the UK.

Finally, this is my last ASM as your Honorary Secretary. It has been a privilege to serve and over the last 4 years I have worked with many talented individuals in the office, on Council and on the Executive. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their individual support and enthusiasm as the Society has continued to develop. Mr Kevin Varty takes over as Honorary Secretary after the Glasgow ASM and I wish him and the new President, Mr Paul Blair, every success.

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