



## President's News

Steve Wigmore

Welcome to this late summer edition of the BTS newsletter. I hope you have all had a great summer holiday and are revitalised and raring to go.

While transplant reports for the past year showed growth in activity for most organ types, lung transplantation experienced a reduction in activity. BTS and NHSBT are planning a joint Lung Utilisation Summit in London to which members of all of the UK thoracic transplant units are encouraged to send delegates. The purpose is to explore the barriers and enablers of lung utilisation for transplantation.

BTS will be represented at ESOT in Copenhagen and we will be advertising the Living Donor Forum and Winter Ethics Symposium and BTS Congress at that event. Our immediate past President Professor Lorna Marson is currently Co-Chair of the Council of European National Transplantation Societies (CENTS) and she and I will be representing BTS in that forum also at ESOT. The HOT 2 trial using heme arginate in kidney transplantation has launched and centres interested in participating are asked to contact either [jean.Antonelli@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jean.Antonelli@ed.ac.uk) or [lorna.marson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.marson@ed.ac.uk)

## Vice President's News

It is lovely to be back within the Executive, wearing a different hat and already absorbed in planning next year's Congress, which will be at The Waterfront International Conference Centre in Belfast between 4th-6th March 2020.

We have noted your feedback in planning the format of this year's 'stand-alone' BTS Congress, based on the theme of 'Collaboration', which will be reflected throughout. Day 1 will feature the three educational symposia, which have become one of the hallmarks of alternate year Congresses, each focusing on different aspects of collaborative working across the spectrum of research, clinical practice and organisations and systems of care. BTS Council and Committee members are leading on planning the sessions and we look forward to putting together a programme that lives up to its title in both content and appeal across the transplantation community.

### Save the Date!

Registration & call for abstract submissions will open week beginning **10th September**.

Travel Options: <https://visitbelfast.com/plan/getting-to-belfast-travel-options/>

Plan your Conference: <https://meetbelfast.com/plan-your-conference/access/>

Getting Around Belfast: <https://meetbelfast.com/getting-around-belfast>





## Secretary's News

Now that summer holidays are over there are plenty of new developments to keep you all busy this autumn!

Peter Andrews has edited the draft UK Guidelines on Pancreas and Islet Transplantation, which are now available on the website for consultation.

The Human Tissue Authority has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Code of Practice for organ donation. The review of the guidance comes in response to the upcoming law change around organ donation, which will come into effect in England from spring 2020.

The consultation, which will run until Thursday 26 September at 5pm, provides an opportunity for all those working in the field of organ and tissue donation and transplantation to inform the development of the revised Code. Further details are available on the BTS website.

In addition to the ESOT meeting in September, this autumn will see a veritable smorgasbord of opportunities to get together. These are included on the website and will be updated as further details become available.

One to highlight - The Clinical Trials Committee will be hosting a meeting jointly with the Transplant Clinical Study Group on October 2nd at Imperial College, London. Current studies in development and those at the incubator stage will be discussed and the agenda is open to receive additional items - please contact [michelle.willicombe@nhs.net](mailto:michelle.willicombe@nhs.net) or [sian.griffin2@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:sian.griffin2@wales.nhs.uk).

Look forward to seeing you all soon!



## Treasurer's News

I think you will all agree that the joint congress with ODT in Harrogate was both educational and highly enjoyable, but from the treasurer's perspective it was also financially very successful and has placed our society on a much sounder financial footing for the coming year.

But we need to build on this, so over the summer months I will be working hard to engage past and present corporate partners to ensure their ongoing support, and also looking for any new commercial opportunities for future partnership. Your support with this would be greatly welcomed!

Meanwhile we are busily planning Congress 2020 in Belfast, which we hope will be even bigger and better, truly embracing a "Titanic" theme!



## Living Donor Forum & Winter Ethics Symposium 2019

28th November, 2019  
Park Inn by Radisson, York

Wearing my other hat, as co-chair of the Living Donor Forum I can't resist giving it a plug.

We will once again join forces with the Winter Ethics Symposium for a one day meeting, which this year will be on the theme of Incentivising Living Donation, with particular focus on groups that are currently under-represented. The programme will include contributions from clinicians and clinical scientists, as well as featuring small group case-based discussion and a lively debate.

We hope you will join us and look forward to seeing you on November 28th in York!

[Register now for the Living Donor Forum & Winter Ethics Symposium 2019](#)

## Upcoming Events & News



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Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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## ESOT Grants 2020

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# René Wen Suen Chang

8th August 1944 - 26th April 2019

On Friday 5th July, I had the privilege to attend the memorial service for René Chang at Christ's Chapel in Dulwich Village, South London, on behalf of the BTS. Occasions such as this remind us of the very special connections that we make throughout our lives within the organ donation and transplantation community - with colleagues who also become friends.

In testament to René's legacy, family, friends and colleagues filled the Chapel to remember him and pay their respects; the service reflected the love of his family and esteem of his colleagues. In her eulogy, Mei Nortley, René's daughter, spoke with warmth and humour about her slightly unconventional but educational childhood, a father who cared deeply for his children and his wife, Helen, and a man with extraordinary intellect and integrity who brought tremendous energy and vision to everything he did in life.

As past colleagues, Marlies Ostermann and Jiri Fronek, who had travelled from Prague specifically for the occasion, reflected on René's professional life, particularly his years at St. George's Hospital, following his appointment as Consultant Transplant Surgeon in 1994. Marlies also noted his pioneering work in Riyadh prior to coming to the UK where René established an intensive care programme and introduced electronic trajectory monitoring to improve detection of deteriorating patients - something we now we take for granted but, at that time, triggered a revolution in patient care in the intensive care environment.

In collective 'memories of working with René Chang' in the St. Georges' era, Marlies portrayed someone who was immensely generous, both in spirit and with his time, a visionary who challenged the status quo and personally committed to delivering his ideas, both intellectually and practically. He was especially interested in people and cared about his colleagues, inspiring both his juniors and peers to develop their own talents- 'without René I would not be where I am now' was a view shared by a few. He was highly respected and seen as something of a father figure; a safe haven for the team even if outwardly he might appear to be exercised from time to time! A professional with a personal touch.

Despite working in the South East region and coming into contact with René through the course of my work for a number of years, I was unaware that he had pioneered many achievements within the world of transplantation in the UK, include establishing a non-heart beating (donation after circulatory death) programme, developing a renal transplant surgery training programme, introducing the use of Tacrolimus, exploration of the role of machine perfusion to preserve transplant kidney function and appointment of a dedicated a living donor coordinator at St. Georges' Hospital. Marlies completed her tribute by saying that 'the totality and legacy of René's contributions is enormous. Today is our chance to say "Thank you" for so many things René did'.

I concur. Lest we forget.

Further reflections on René's life from the St. George's Kidney Patients Association can be found here

<http://www.sgkpa.org.uk/news/the-memorial-service-for-rene-chang>

Collated by Lisa Burnapp from material provided by family, friends and colleagues.