

★ President's News ★ Steve Wigmore



This has been a busy few months with the ever popular Living Donor Forum and the Winter Ethics meeting in York including the Hoffenberg lecture presentation by Julian Koplin from the University of Melbourne.

The end of October also saw the first national gathering of the lung transplantation community at a lung summit organised jointly by NHSBT and BTS, which was held in London. We think that this is the first ever meeting to bring together representatives from all adult and paediatric lung transplant centres along with representatives from ODT and PPI representatives.

The purpose of the summit was to explore barriers to lung transplantation and ways of improving access and capacity in this field. Many thanks to John Forsythe, Clare Williment, Lauren Caddick and all of the people who helped facilitate the meeting. We were delighted that the Scottish Lung Transplantation Charity Warren's Wish offered to financially support the development of a BTS guideline on lung transplantation. This may be my last opportunity, in terms of newsletters, to thank Rachel Hilton Honorary Treasurer of the BTS for her past 4 years of service to the Society. When Rachel took over the new ABPI regulations had resulted in a significant diminution of the Society's income and the outgoings meant that our financial position was not sustainable and in the worst case scenario a real threat to the existence of the BTS.

Through a combination of good fiscal control, a relentless drive to avoid wastage and an active programme to recruit new industry partners our financial position has become more secure. Much of the credit for this must go to Rachel who sadly will step down from the executive at the next Congress in March. Rachel has also contributed in many other ways to the BTS Executive through her expertise in transplant nephrology, virology and her many connections in the UK and beyond. We look forward to announcing her successor at the next congress and a personal thank you from me to all who have put themselves forward for election to positions within the BTS Council and executive.

★ Season's greetings from all at the BTS and wishing you every personal and professional success for 2020.



www.bts.org.uk

Congress 2020

4th-6th March, ICC Belfast



visit
Belfast



★ Vice President's News

Congress planning has been in full flow since our last update and the Scientific Programme is almost complete. Thanks to input from BTS Council and Committee members, the content throughout reflects our theme of 'Collaboration- it's good to talk'.

There are some great new ideas, such as the 'Dragon's Den' for research trainees on Wednesday morning, as well as familiar favourites and, this year, the educational symposia. The organising committee has focused on a multi-disciplinary, all organ approach to the programme. As well as the prestigious Medawar and Calne-Williams prizes, an award for the best abstract and presentation from an Allied Health Professional will be introduced for the first time at Congress in 2020. The quality of abstracts submitted this year was very high, which made our pre-Christmas abstract meeting really enjoyable. Many thanks to authors who submitted their work, to colleagues who marked abstracts and to Council members who helped to make the final decisions about placement in the programme. Congratulations to all successful authors- we look forward to your presentations. On a final note, it would be remiss not to mention the BTS 'party of the year'- the congress Gala Dinner. The theme will be '1920s' so plenty of scope to put on your glad rags and bag the prize for best costume on the night.

In the meantime, a very happy Christmas and New Year from the VEEP and we look forward to a great meeting in Belfast!

Don't forget the earlybird deadline for discounted registration expires on **3rd February 2020**. Remind colleagues that BTS members benefit from reduced fees.

[**Click here to join the BTS**](#)

[**Click here to register for congress 2020**](#)



The Secretary's Corner

Transplantation would be impossible without collaboration. In addition to exploring clinical collaborative working, this year's Congress will also have a focus on current and future research initiatives.

As a community, we have increasingly moved from single to multi-centre studies. The successful 3C study recruited from every adult transplant unit in the UK, demonstrating the feasibility and strength of a UK-wide approach. Over 2000 transplant recipients were randomised in the OuTSMART trial. All units are involved in the PITHIA study, and initiation visits are in progress for HOT-2 and TAR:GET 1.

The logistics of clinical trials are complex and time consuming, and further magnified when multiple centres are involved. In recognition of this, and to facilitate future endeavours, the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Network is being established. Several Council members have been involved in the Network set up, with particular thanks to Michelle Willicombe and the Clinical Trials Committee.

The Congress is a timely opportunity to bring the Network into focus – see you all in Belfast!

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda!



Treasurer News

I am delighted to report that we ended the 2018/19 financial year in a much happier position than we started it, and this was largely due to two very enjoyable meetings that also turned out to be very profitable – our joint Annual Congress with ODT and the combined Living Donor Forum and Winter Ethics Symposium.

So we move onwards and upwards, hoping for an equally successful 2020 Congress in Belfast, which is shaping up to be a brilliant meeting. Don't forget to register soon to get the early bird rates! Also don't forget to renew your membership so that you don't miss out on the massively discounted registration fees!

I am delighted to report that Astellas have agreed to remain Gold Corporate Partners for 2020. We are working very hard with them on their plans for the industry symposium at Congress, which I think will be terrific! Even more excitingly we have a new Gold Corporate Partner in Hansa Biopharma. We look forward to welcoming them to Congress in 2020. Sandoz remain Silver Partners, where they are now joined by Chiesi. Please be welcoming and engaged with our Corporate Partners if you see them at BTS events, or elsewhere, as we really do rely on their support.

Although we have made a small increase in Congress registration fees for 2020, we have left the Membership fees unchanged, and I believe we remain very good value in comparison with other professional societies.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry and prosperous Christmas and I look forward to seeing you at Congress!



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*



The Voice of Transplantation in the UK

