

President's News

Steve Wigmore



COVID19 has probably presented one of the greatest challenges to organ donation and transplantation during our lives.

We are very grateful for all of the fantastic work that you are doing across the United Kingdom in trying to keep patients safe, deliver services and manage the public health issues that this pandemic has created. We are aware that many of our members have taken on new temporary roles particularly working to support intensive care units.

As your society, we have tried to keep you up to speed with the latest data and advice on COVID and have created a webpage with a number of resources which we hope you find useful.

<https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/>

Gareth Jones and Lisa Burnapp have been checking and updating this information on a weekly basis and so we can reassure you that it is current.

We are grateful to Nizam Mamode who coordinated the first of two webinars looking at COVID and transplantation. The first of these took place yesterday and was superb and provoked a number of important questions. Members can access this webinar through a link on the BTS website.

The second webinar next Thursday 30th will focus on donation issues and restarting a programme in the context of COVID. We are grateful to Chiesi UK who have provided logistic and organisational support in an unrestricted way to deliver both webinars.

The Executive committee has begun to plan the next Congress scheduled for Manchester with our colleagues in NHSBT. We feel that it is imperative that there is the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges that COVID has thrown up in Organ Donation and Transplantation but we will ensure that other aspects of our specialties receive adequate exposure too. The theme for the meeting will be "Resilience" and we will keep you posted with developments in this area.

With warmest wishes from all of the executive team

Steve Wigmore, Lisa Burnapp, Siân Griffin and Nick Torpey