



President's News

Lisa Burnapp

It is a pleasure to welcome you to my first President's Newsletter as we move into what I hope will be a calmer period after the turbulence of last year.

For those who joined us at the BTS/NHSBT Congress at the end of February, a huge thank you for your support and positive feedback- with the commitment and inspiration of Candi and her team at the BTS Secretariat, we enjoyed a virtual event that exceeded our expectations and gave everyone, across the donation and transplantation communities, a welcome opportunity to come together and share in a 'COVID secure' but not 'COVID dominated' experience for the first time in many months.

At Congress, we said goodbye to both Steve Wigmore and Sian Griffin as they stepped down from their Executive positions as President and General Secretary- in their respective roles, Steve and Sian leave large shoes to fill and, on behalf of all their BTS colleagues, I thank them for their leadership, hard work and, above all, their friendship over the years.

At the same time, I am delighted to introduce the 'BTS team of 2021'- colleagues elected to the Executive, Council, Committees and Chapters who, in their various roles, support me and the work of the Society and make BTS what it is. For ease of reference, I have appended an organogram to this Newsletter so that you can see at a glance who does what, how they are involved and how to contact us. More from my executive colleagues and their parts of the BTS world to follow and, in later Newsletters, we will update you about on-going work within the Council, Committees and Chapters.



As we anticipate a new normal in the wake of the pandemic and the launch of the next UK strategy for organ donation and transplantation, transplant professionals remain at the forefront of design, planning and service delivery. It is even more important that BTS is the 'voice of transplantation' it purports to be.

My aim is to build on the success of past Presidents to ensure that BTS is the 'go-to' Society for transplant professionals, across all organs and professional groups. We have witnessed first-hand in the past year the 'better together' principle and this is true, not just in COVID times, but in all times.

On a final note from me, you will hear more about our plans for our Congress 2022 from our new Vice-President but, suffice to say that we have more than one reason to celebrate in Belfast. As well as our first face to face Congress in 2 years, the BTS also celebrates its 50th Anniversary and that calls for a party!

Looking forward to the year ahead and keeping in touch. Let us know if there is anything that you would like us to do within the BTS that may benefit you or your colleagues and we will be happy to consider it.

Lisa Burnapp



If you would like to get in touch with Council please e-mail secretariat@bts.org.uk

Executive

Lisa Burnapp
President

Krish Menon
Vice President

Nicholas Torpey
Treasurer

Colin Wilson
General Secretary
generalsecretary@bts.org.uk

Council

Gareth Jones
Councillor

Bimbi Fernando
Councillor

Shahid Farid
Organ Retrieval

Adnan Sharif
Transplant Nephrology

Olivia Shaw
Histocompatibility &
Immunogenetics

Gavin Pettigrew
Transplant Science

Katie Morley
Transplant Nursing and
Co-ordination

Jennifer Baxter
Donor Coordination

Varuna Aluvihare
Hepatology

Frank Dor
Transplant Surgery
Kidney

Stephen Large
Transplant Surgery
Heart

Jasvir Parmar
Transplant Surgery
Lung

Anya Adair
Transplant surgery
Liver

Committees

Education Committee

David Van Dellen
Chair

Neal Banga

Raaj Praseedom

Aditya Kanwa

Nicos Kessarlis

Ethics Committee

Refik Gökmen
Chair

Kiran Sran

Matthew Wellberry Smith

Antonia Cronin

Stephen Bond

Clinical Trials & Research Committee

Michelle Willicombe
Chair

Reza Motallebzadeh

Sunil Kumar Daga

Caroline Wroe

Rachel Johnson

Standards & Guidelines Committee

Elham Asgari
Chair

Chris Callaghan
Vice-chair

Tom Nieto
President
Herrick Society

Frank Dor
Chair
Surgeons Chapter

John Forsythe
NHSBT Representative

James Douglas
Archivist



Vice President's News

We have had a rather arduous and tumultuous year with the pandemic as already stated by our President, but nevertheless had a very successful virtual Congress that brought us all together. I have taken over as the Vice-President of the Society following the Congress, that I feel is a matter of huge honour and prestige.

The Executive Committee have made a decision that our next Congress will be a 'Face to face' meeting as we all know how we would dearly love to see each other and apart from the content have an opportunity to socialise and down a beer or 2, with our friends!

There will be a virtual element to the Congress that will allow us to connect with our colleagues from far and wide and this a positive offshoot of the pandemic. We have also re-introduced the Post-graduate course for trainees and are hoping this will allow our younger colleagues to benefit more from the meeting.

The sessions as always have a good mix of basic science and clinical work, keynote lectures looking into the future of transplantation and a special session on sustainability and going green.

We are keen to continue to involve our international colleagues in our meeting, as we have in the past with the Dutch Society. This year, given the uncertainty about international travel, we have invited the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation to join us virtually for our Congress to exchange new ideas and celebrate the event. If this works well, it will open up future opportunities to collaborate with other Societies, both face to face, as we have done previously, and with the use of technology.

Finally, as our President has highlighted, we will also be celebrating 50 years of our Society, more news on that very soon.

Krish Menon





The Secretary's Corner

Hello! Greetings from the Secretary's Corner.

I am privileged to take over the reins as General Secretary for the BTS at this – the strangest of times. For those of you who don't know me I am a transplant surgeon based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and have been a member of the BTS since 2001.

I originally joined as a PhD research student and quickly came to love the society for that extra-ordinary blend of science, friendship and support that comes with our unique professional community.

Over the years I have been part of several committees and council in various different guises- training, organ retrieval, ethics, Chapter of Surgeons to name a few.

I very much look forward to serving as Secretary as we face the novel challenges of 2021 and beyond.

Please contact me if there are any issues you need help with or need highlighting generalsecretary@bts.org.uk

Colin Wilson



Treasurer's Chest

Whilst the last year has been turbulent and traumatic for us all, it has also been financially calm!

The enduring commitment of the transplant community to BTS is reflected in a growing membership, the renewed support of our Gold and Silver sponsors, and in the great success of BTS Live earlier this year. As a result the society is in a stronger financial position than a year ago, with stable end of year accounts for the last two years.

Like my executive colleagues I am looking forward, with some optimism, to a more normal year. The main focus will be the **50th Anniversary Congress in Belfast** – when we will return to meeting together in person. We have already made some financial undertakings to secure an outstanding congress for everyone, so please set the date aside and plan a visit to Belfast. Remember that the society is able to offer 10 bursaries of up to £500 to ordinary or reduced members wishing to attend meetings or courses – application details on the website.

Finally a big thank you to all those who support BTS – especially our sponsors !

Nick Torpey

In other news...

BTS Website www.bts.org.uk

We continue to update the website with latest news, upcoming events and COVID-19 updates as anything new comes through to us. Please contact secretariat@bts.org.uk to request a post, update or further content that would be useful to you

Save the Date

RA BTS RSM Webinar

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Kidney Patients

17th June 2021, 16-17:30

More details will be emailed to the membership as they become available

Launch of the organ transplantation patient information website April 2021

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/organ-transplantation

Just a reminder about the launch of the new patient information website for organ transplantation, a collaboration between NHS Blood & Transplant and the British Transplantation Society led by Chris Callaghan and colleagues. Thank you to all BTS members who contributed.

The website has been designed to inform and support patients considering kidney, lung, liver, heart, or pancreas transplantation, and detailed information on these organ types is included. We hope that this website will help reduce the duplication of effort within individual transplant centres to provide patient information resources.

Please give us your feedback (there is a 'Give Feedback' at the bottom left of every page), so that the site can be modified. Further information will be added for transplantation for children, islet and small bowel transplantation.

SaBTO Announcement - April 2021



I am pleased to announce that 28th April saw the successful deployment of the Quick Reference Guide to Donor Transmissible Disease (QRTG) digital web tool.

The project has been led by the DORA (Donor Organ Risk Assessment) Working Group that is jointly accountable to The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) – a four UK country advisory group, and NHSBT. DORA has been developing this tool to assist clinician decision-making regarding organs that may be perceived to confer a higher risk for recipients after transplantation. The tool takes the form of an aide memoire which summarises existing guidance from SaBTO and elsewhere regarding the use of organs from donors with infection, malignancy, autoimmune conditions, and other donor attributes.

It is envisaged that the QRTG digital web tool will contribute to a reduction in the decline of donor organs for transplantation. It can be accessed via the ODT website odt.nhs.uk or [here](#).

Comments from Dr Rachel Hilton (nephrologist and transplant physician) and SaBTO member:

The Quick Reference Guide to Donor Transmissible Disease collates and summarises a wealth of existing guidance on the use of organs from donors with co-morbidities that may confer risk to the recipient. By providing guidance within a single, easy to use online tool we hope to facilitate appropriate matching of organs to recipients and enable increased organ acceptance and transplantation, for the ultimate benefit of patients and donor families.

The delivery of this digital quick reference guide aligns strongly with four of keys areas of action detailed within the current ODT strategy. It is an excellent example of organisations working together to deliver a complex project that will undoubtedly support colleagues working within the field of transplantation.

We hope this informs any discussions in the difficult decisions that often arise for patients and clinicians in viewing a particular organ offer. We hope to announce other aids in this area shortly

John Forsythe Medical Director (OTDT)

Human Tissue Authority

Important regulatory changes regarding the import or export of human tissues and cells between Great Britain (GB) and the European Economic Area (EEA)- July 2021

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) is the regulator of human tissue, cells and organs in the United Kingdom. Their regulatory oversight extends to the use of human tissues and cells for human application (patient treatment). Regulatory changes came into effect following the Brexit Transition. These changes affect establishments in GB that import (receive) or export (send) human tissues and cells from or to a country in the EEA for human application. This means you **may require a HTA licence** if you wish to continue these activities from 1 July 2021.

The regulatory changes may affect establishments that previously did not require a HTA licence. Examples of human application include skin grafts used to replace damaged skin tissue, bone products used for orthopaedic treatment, amnion tissue products used as barriers in wound healing, corneal grafts used in ocular surgery, dentists and dental surgeons who use human bone, pericardium and dermal tissue products in dentistry (these examples are not exhaustive). The changes also apply to the import and export of tissues and cells that form the starting material for Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs).

If your establishment requires an import or export licence as a result of the Brexit Transition, you are not required to pay a licence fee for these activities in 2021/22. We will be announcing 2022/23 licence fees in December 2021. If you think your establishment might be affected by these changes, please contact the HTA directly for advice: enquiries@hta.gov.uk, or visit the [HTA website](#) for further information.

The next edition...

More news from BTS Council and Committees after our Summer Council meeting.

In the meantime, **Chapter of Nurses Co-Chairs Kate Morley and Jen Baxter** will soon be seeking views from the nursing membership about how the Chapter of Nurses and BTS can best support nurses within the Society. They are also planning a new look and feel to their Newsletter - if you want to be credited with the new name for the Chapter's Newsletter and have your say about what matters to you, complete the questionnaire survey and join the challenge.

Watch this space!

