



President's News

Lisa Burnapp

Welcome to the summer edition of the President's Newsletter. In this issue we promised a spotlight on Council Committees and Chapters and have included some of the highlights from their Chairs following our June meeting.

Since our last Newsletter the 'UK Strategy for Organ Donation and Transplantation 2030: Meeting the Need' has been published [here](#) with an accompanying webinar series, hosted by NHSBT and BTS, to inform clinical colleagues about the vision for the next 10 years. Webinars can be viewed [here](#) and there will be further opportunities to hear about the on-going work in the joint BTS/UK Kidney Association (UKKA) on 5th October 2021 during UK Kidney Week and in the Educational Symposium at BTS Congress 2022.

The aim of the strategy is to see an increase in transplantation activity to match the donation rates that have resulted from previous strategies. With this in mind, the recently convened Organ Utilisation Group, appointed by the Secretary of State and Chaired by Prof. Stephen Powis, will focus on the future provision and sustainability of transplantation services in England but with a UK-wide perspective. Work will move at pace, with a view to publishing a report next spring. Krish Menon, representing BTS, and I are both members of the working group but there will be wide stakeholder engagement through a variety of workstreams, workshops and an online call for evidence. If you are asked for feedback, comment or input, please provide it – your knowledge and expertise will be critical to shaping the outcomes and final recommendations from the group.



BTS is also proud to endorse the Commonwealth Tribute to Life (CTtL) initiative. The aim is to achieve a Memorandum of Understanding between all Commonwealth Countries to share knowledge and expertise and increase ethical organ and tissue donation and transplantation, regardless of transplant infrastructure, for the benefit of all Commonwealth citizens. The MoU will be launched at the Commonwealth Games in 2022. Read more about it [here](#). It is a timely coincidence that the Indian Society of Transplantation will join our Congress next year, where there will be an opportunity to showcase this important initiative.

Our 50th Anniversary plans are well underway to ensure that we celebrate our half-century in style and we will continue to update you in future Newsletters. Interim, if any of you have memorabilia-photographic or otherwise- related to BTS people or events, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Amy Ehlas at secretariat@bts.org.uk

I hope that you have all managed to have a break this summer and that the year ahead will be more settled for everyone. As always, please contact us directly or via the secretariat if there is anything that we can do to support you or if you have ideas that you would like us to take forward as a Society.

Lisa Burnapp



Vice President's News

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the British summer out of isolation with friends and family getting much needed relaxation! I would like to update you that the preparations for the Belfast Congress in 2022 are going very well and all of the new council members have engaged, got stuck in and taken on their session lead roles in real earnest.

We have some exciting new areas to explore within the Congress theme of 'Back to the future' such as 'going green' and 'sustainability'. The meeting is scheduled to run from the 2nd of March, starting with the re-introduced 'Post Graduate Masterclass', to the afternoon of 4th March, concluding with looking into the future of 'Artificial Intelligence'. Lisa, our President, as the Chair of the anniversary celebrations committee has been working very hard to get the exciting 50th Anniversary celebrations finalised that will be revealed on the day!



We have also had our first executive meeting with our international invitees for the Congress from the Indian Society of Organ Transplant (ISOT) and the Liver Transplant Society of India (LTSI) and are looking forward to the collaboration to see how they could be involved in the Congress. As the last of the summer wine is consumed we look forward to getting the Congress programme finalised by the autumn! Have fun and stay safe!

Registration and call for abstracts will open in mid-September.

Krish Menon



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL CONGRESS 2022
2-4 MARCH, ICC BELFAST



The Secretary's Corner

Greetings from Secretary's Corner.

Everywhere we look there is evidence our environment is changing. From biblical floods in Europe to record temperatures, days of sunshine and rain fall in the UK. We know we need to change the way we live and many of us are making green choices at home and in our private lives. But how many are changing their professional practice to reduce the massive NHS carbon footprint??

For the first time the BTS congress will include a "Going Green" session in Belfast 2022. Between now and then I would encourage everyone to actively think and reflect at a personal and institutional level on what we can do to improve the planet – without compromising patient care. The session on Thursday the 3rd March will have a workshop feel and fully intends to stimulate multiple initiatives to improve sustainability across transplantation. If you have any bright ideas you are keen to share please let me or Matt Wellberry Smith (matthew.wellberry-smith@nhs.net) know so we can either highlight them or invite you to share them during the session. The best ideas and innovations we will share through the website, newsletters and social media before and after congress.

We can all make a difference, let's make Belfast 2022 the start of something green!"

Colin Wilson



Treasurer's Chest

The Society's financial year is coming to a close, and I am pleased to say that for the third year in a row our balance sheet remains stable.

In fact, thanks to the very successful BTS / NHSBT Live Annual Congress in March, we may have regained a little financial ground. A huge Thank You to all those who attended the meeting, and to our Gold and Silver corporate sponsors for their generous support.

You will see our Sponsors banners on the BTS website. But did you know that much more information can be found once you have logged into the members area? The '[Partners 2021](#)' link can be found on the 'About the BTS' page, and includes links to websites and details of upcoming sponsored events.

Those who have followed the Treasurer's reports over the years will know that the Annual Congress is our largest budget item. The next most significant expenditure is the cost of running the Society, which we do with our Association Management partners Moore Kingston Smith (MKSAM).



There is no question that the membership, events, secretariat, accounting and communications functions that are essential to maintaining the Society have become more complex. So, for the first time in several years we propose to make a small increase in members' annual subscriptions – increasing by £5 for reduced and ordinary members, and by £10 for consultant members.

Finally, the events of the last 18 months have not allowed time for many of us to look much beyond busy wards, clinics and rotas. But, there will be new trainees, coordinators, nursing staff and many others who are perhaps missing out on our wonderful Society. With our next annual congress in Belfast looming, now is the time to encourage as many new members as possible!

Nick Torpey



Updates from Council and Committees

Transplant Library

Following the survey to members on the Transplant Library, we have been working with the Centre of Evidence for Transplantation (CET) in Oxford to improve access to and awareness of the services they offer for BTS Members. Please see a brief update from Liset Pengel at CET below. Access to Transplant Library resources remains open to support BTS members during the COVID-19 pandemic, [here](#)

The Transplant Library: what is it and what could it do for you?

The Transplant Library was developed by the Peter Morris Centre for Evidence in Transplantation (CET), a research group at the University of Oxford. The Transplant Library provides access to high quality evidence on any aspect of solid organ transplantation:

- References of randomised controlled trials (RCTs), systematic reviews and meta-analyses and clinical practice guidelines
- Expert commentaries and methodological quality ratings of RCTs
- COVID-19 evidence in organ transplantation

Access

1. BTS members can access the Transplant Library directly from [here](#). You can login by using your username (BTS registered email address) and password. You can reset your password if you do not remember [here](#).
2. After you login to the BTS website, you can directly access the Transplant Library from the BTS website [here](#).

Regular Updates

Registered BTS members will receive regular update emails to stay up to date with the latest evidence:

- **Personal Evidence Alert:** Bi-weekly update with new studies based on your personal preferences
- **Transplant Evidence Alert:** Monthly overview of 10 RCTs including a critical summary regarding the methodology and impact of a trial
- **COVID-19 Alert:** Monthly overview of 10 recent studies in COVID-19 and organ transplantation

Standards and Guidelines Committee

Chair: Ellie Asgari & Vice-chair: Chris Callaghan

A number of BTS guidelines are due for an update and we have formed working groups including patient representatives to work on these. We are delighted and thankful that many experienced BTS members replied to our expression of interest to help with the updates. Our focus in the first instance is on these guidelines:

- Transplantation from deceased donors after circulatory death, led by Mr Stephen O'Neill and Mr David Nasralla
- Management of the failing kidney transplant, led by Dr Sian Griffin
- Prevention and management of CMV disease after solid organ transplantation, led by Dr Jan Dudley

The liver guidelines are next in line and Mr Krish Menon will be forming a working group for updating these. Watch out for the request for expression of interest on the BTS website soon.

Finally, Dr Jas Parmar is organising the preparation of a new guideline for lung transplantation which we are sure would be a very good resource for the lung transplant community.



Education Committee

Chair: David van Dellen

Under David's leadership, the Committee has improved liaison with the Chapter of Transplant Surgeons and the Herrick Society and is in the process of co-opting nephrology, hepatology and allied healthcare professional support to diversify its membership and activities.

Priorities for this year include supporting the focus on transplantation within the new surgical curriculum and the trainee-focused educational 'Post-Graduate Masterclass' at Congress 2022 with a case-based, multi-disciplinary approach, focusing on a range of topics relevant to transplantation practice.

Ethics Committee

Chair: Refik Gokmen

Refik and his Committee have produced a fantastic programme for the Winter Ethics Symposium on Thursday 25th November: 'Public good in the pandemic'. The symposium provides an opportunity to examine decisions taken during the pandemic from an ethical standpoint, exploring the complexities of protection from harm vs maintaining equity of access. The day culminates with The Hoffenberg Lecture delivered by Professor Stephen Powis, Medical Director for NHS England – Consultant nephrologist by background and past Treasurer of the BTS.

Having secured the Wellcome Foundation in London to host the event, BTS Members will have a chance to meet face to face for the first time since March 2020 or to attend virtually. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in person. Registration will open week beginning 6th September, to view the draft programme click [here](#)



Winter Ethics Symposium & The Hoffenberg Lecture 2021

Thursday 25th November 2021. 11:00-18:00



In other news from the Ethics Committee, Antonia Cronin will be leading a mini-symposium session during UK Kidney Week on 5th October on 'Inequitable access to transplantation: adults with impaired decision-making' (see upcoming events)

Clinical Trials and Research Committee

Chair: Michelle Willicombe

It is unsurprising that Michelle and her Committee have largely been occupied with COVID-19 related research in recent times, particularly with respect to vaccine efficacy in transplant recipients, which continues to keep us updated and informs our guidance for clinicians and patients. Michelle was also instrumental, together with other members of Council, in organising a joint webinar with the Royal Society of Medicine and (then) Renal Association on 'COVID-19 vaccination in kidney patients' on 17th June 2021.

Michelle is also on the Executive Committee for the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network (UKORDTN) – an invaluable link with BTS to ensure that activities between the Clinical Trials and Research Committee are aligned.

The Chapter of Transplant Surgeons

Chair: Frank Dor

As well as closer working with the Education Committee, the Chapter has developed new Terms of Reference and extended its executive team to ensure that it is representative of the surgical membership of the Society. They hope to plan a dedicated session within Congress 2022 focusing on well-being and work life balance in transplantation surgery and CoTS will be invited to input into any future initiatives related to workforce planning and sustainability. Together with Krish Menon and Colin Wilson from the Executive, CoTS will contribute to strengthening the links between BTS and the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI).



The Chapter of Nurses

Chairs: Jen Baxter and Katie Morley

As heralded in the Spring newsletter, Jen and Katie are surveying the nursing and allied healthcare professional membership of the BTS to find out what they want from BTS and the Chapter.



Their vision is set out in the 4 key words above. Having surveyed the membership, their priorities include reviewing the Chapter's terms of reference and committee membership, revamping the newsletter relevant to their audience and improving communications across all organ groups and specialist areas. Key aims include encouraging more nurses and allied healthcare professionals to become members of BTS and to increase their contribution to Congress by submitting and presenting abstracts.

Upcoming BTS Events

BTS sessions at UK Kidney Week

Tuesday 5th October [here](#)

- ▶ Mini lunchtime symposium: 'Inequitable access to transplantation: adults with impaired decision-making'
- ▶ Session 9: Joint BTS/UK Kidney Association: 'Developing transplantation for the future: meeting the need'

Herrick Society Education Event

28th-29th October Newcastle Surgical Training Centre

In collaboration with the BTS Chapter of Surgeons the theme will be 'The Donor'. The event is open to all members of the Herrick Society (UK transplant surgery trainees).