



President's News

Lisa Burnapp

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter! I had anticipated that this edition would be full of news post our 50th Anniversary Congress but we will have to wait a little longer for that, with much to celebrate when we finally meet again in September.

Despite the lack of a Spring Congress, business as usual continues to move at pace for Council and Committees and our monthly Executive agenda remains full. Thank you to those who attended the virtual AGM via zoom in March- whilst it had obvious limitations, we had the opportunity to debate some important issues such as patient engagement and involvement with BTS and membership categories and privileges. Your input and thought-provoking discussion were welcomed and helpful in shaping our future strategies.

It is traditional to have some 'changing of the guard' within Council and Committees after the AGM. In the Secretary's Corner, Colin highlights members who are stepping up and down from various positions and I wish to add my thanks to those who are leaving us, all of whom have contributed over and above during their terms of office to support the Executive through one of the most difficult periods in our history. Also, welcome to 'BTS team 2022' – I look forward to working with you all in the coming year. For ease of reference, we have included an updated 'Council and Committees at a glance' in this Newsletter. Thanks to the commitment of my Executive colleagues and members of Council and Committees, I can report that BTS continues to be well represented within partner organisations, such as NHSBT and NICE, other professional societies, nationally and internationally, and that we are closely involved in UK-wide initiatives such as the Organ Utilisation Group and Renal Services Transformation Project. All of these are critically important to ensure that transplant professionals have input into the direction of travel for organ donation and transplantation and continue to develop supportive and collaborative networks for the future.



Our next Council meeting is on 1st July 2022, which will be face to face in London. We look forward to welcoming new Committee Chairs and Councillors with dedicated time for discussion about their planned activities, alongside Executive business and Congress planning for 2023. We will update you with progress in the Summer Newsletter.

Whilst there is much to celebrate this year as we begin to emerge from the pandemic, there has also been some notable sadness in recent months. The untimely deaths of Dr. Jennifer McCaughan, Dr. Sevda Hassan and Prof. Paolo Muiasan, within months of one another, have left a unique space in the heart of our community. They are remembered at the end of this Newsletter by their friends and colleagues - lest we forget.

On a final note, please let us know if there is anything that you would like us to consider doing within the BTS that would benefit you or your colleagues. We are always pleased to hear from you.

Lisa Burnapp

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



Vice President's News

Hope you are all geared up for a summer to relax and enjoy before we meet in September for the Annual Congress in Belfast!

Our invitees from the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and Liver Transplant Society of India look forward to joining us for the Congress. We have already simultaneously started to organise the joint Congress for Spring 2023 with NHSBT and we look forward to working with Council and our colleagues from NHSBT, including the newly appointed Medical Director Professor Derek Manas.

In addition to the national Congress activity we are pleased to partner with the Great Britain Chapter of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (GBIHPBA) and the Special Interest Group-Transplant

Oncology (SIG-TO) and host a National Meeting on 17.6.22 at the Fetal Medicine Centre, King's College Hospital to roll out the new oncological indications for liver transplantation.

This is going to be a landmark event in keeping with the global drive to offer liver transplants for patients with cholangiocarcinoma, neuroendocrine tumours and colorectal liver metastases. We encourage you all to join the event.

[Click here to register](#)

Enjoy the summer and see you all in Belfast!

Krish Menon





The Secretary's Corner

Colin Wilson



Greetings from the Secretary's corner.

It's been all change on Council with people moving, stepping down and being appointed.

For those of you who didn't manage to make the AGM back in March we welcomed the following to Council: Refik Gokmen, previous Chair of the Ethics Committee, has been reappointed to council as Councillor with Portfolio to be confirmed- currently we envisage he will be taking a role focused upon Equality and Diversity. Maria Kaiser, University of Oxford, was elected as Councillor for Transplant Science. Cat Boffa, Transplant Surgeon in Portsmouth, was elected as a member and subsequently took over as Chair of the Education Committee. Sapna Shah, Consultant Nephrologist, Kings College has joined the Clinical Trials and Research Committee and Arti Anand, Consultant Clinical Scientist at Imperial College was confirmed as the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics representative on Council.

The Ethics committee has confirmed Matt Welberry Smith as their new Chair and Rachel Johnson has taken up the Chair of the Clinical Trials and Research Committee. The new Chairs will join Council in this capacity.

Thank you to Gareth Jones, Olivia Shaw, Gavin Pettigrew and Michelle Willicombe who stepped down from Council.

The other key news around the election is the voting turn out- which was noticeably lower than in previous years. Since then, we have been looking into this and there are a number of potential issues we have recognised. The emails come direct from the polling company Civica Election Services (CES) and may have been lost in some people's junk email boxes. The key issue though is around payment of subscriptions- really important that you set up, if you haven't already, a direct debit to ensure that each year your membership is confirmed in time for the elections in December. Any delay in payment probably means that you will miss the chance to be a registered member for the vote. To assist you with setting up a Direct Debit, the Secretariat will be sending out an e-mail with a unique link for you to follow which will complete this process for you. Please make sure all of your Membership details are up to date for the next set of elections.

Council and Committees at a glance



Executive

Lisa Burnapp
President

Krish Menon
Vice President

Nicholas Torpey
Treasurer

Colin Wilson
General Secretary
generalsecretary@bts.org.uk

Council

Refik Gökmen
Councillor

Bimbi Fernando
Councillor

Shahid Farid
Organ Retrieval

Adnan Sharif
Transplant Nephrology

Arthi Anand
Histocompatibility &
Immunogenetics

Maria Kaiser
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

Catherine Boffa
Chair

Neal Banga

Raaj Praseedom

Aditya Kanwa

Nicos Kessarlis

Ethics Committee

Matthew Wellberry Smith
Chair

Kiran Sran

Antonia Cronin

Stephen Bond

to be co-opted

Clinical Trials & Research Committee

Rachel Johnson
Chair

Reza Motallebzadeh

Sunil Kumar Daga

Caroline Wroe

Sapna Shah

Standards & Guidelines Committee

Elham Asgari
Chair

Chris Callaghan
Vice-chair

Tom Nieto
Herrick Society

Frank Dor
Chair
Surgeons Chapter

Derek Manas
NHSBT Representative

James Douglas
Archivist



The Treasure Chest

Nick Torpey



There is no doubt that 2020 and 2021 have been difficult, challenging and unpredictable years.

However, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances have remained stable throughout. In fact, the financial position at the end of our financial year (October 2021) was the healthiest since 2017. As ever we are truly grateful to our Corporate Partners. Astellas, Hansa and Sandoz have remained as Gold Sponsors for 2022, and Chiesi as a Silver Sponsor. We are delighted to welcome Takeda as a new Silver Sponsor.

The BTS Annual Congress is the most important financial event of the year, and the 50th Anniversary meeting in Belfast (September 2022) and the joint BTS / NHSBT meeting in Edinburgh (March 2023) are just 6 months apart. I really hope all our members take the opportunity to attend these meetings and make them the great events we are used to - certainly our sponsors and many exhibitors have embraced the opportunity for meetings in person!

Finally, to echo Colin's point regarding membership fees. Paying the (very reasonable!) fees by direct debit is by far the safest way to make sure you do not miss out on membership benefits, and to ensure you are eligible to vote in our elections. It also means much less work for our wonderful secretariat.





In other news...

Remember to comment on the BTS 'Prevention and Management of CMV following Solid Organ Transplantation' guideline which has been updated by the dedicated working group led by Dr Jan Dudley. Membership email with draft guideline and feedback form attached sent on 8th April 2022. Comments to BTS secretariat secretariat@bts.org.uk in the form provided by 22nd May 2022 please.

Application Deadline- Advisory Committee on Clinical Impact Awards (ACCIA) 2022
Remember to submit your application for consideration of BTS support to secretariat@bts.org.uk by 24th May 2022

Watch this space – we will be resurveying the membership again soon about your use of the 'Transplant Library' to understand its value to members. When you receive the survey, please take a few minutes to respond to let us know what you think.



Bespoke 50th Anniversary Branding
available for use on all BTS communications
and presentations on behalf of the
Society throughout 2022.

Upcoming BTS events - 2022

Thursday 23rd June

As part of the ongoing BTS webinar series, we are pleased to present an "Abstracts and Poster Writing" webinar aimed at any member preparing their poster for Belfast 2022 or already thinking on their abstract submission for Edinburgh 2023.

The webinar will be held online at 15:30 BST on Thursday 23rd June.

The webinar is free of charge for BTS members ONLY.

[Click here to register.](#)



Early bird deadline
Midnight 1st August.

[Click here to register.](#)



Hoffenberg Memorial Lecture 2022

Xenotransplantation: State of the science, practice and ethics

Online event

Thursday 17th November – 1700 GMT

Presented by Professor Robert Montgomery and Professor Arthur Caplan

[Registration to open 13th June](#)

In Memoriam

Dr Jennifer McCaughan

PhD, MRCP, MRCPATH H&I

15 Dec. 1982 – 07 Dec. 2021



Remembered by Dr. Aisling Courtney

Jennifer started specialist training in nephrology in Belfast in 2010, with a reputation of brilliance both as an undergraduate in Edinburgh University, and as a junior doctor. It was quickly apparent that the complexity of transplant medicine, immunobiology, and the transformational nature of this for patients was the perfect fit for Jennifer's life's work.

One of most memorable characteristics of Jennifer was her extraordinary intellect. She sometimes joked that she took longer to train than anyone else, but remarkably in eight years she incorporated not only all her clinical training and a PhD, but also a MRCPATH in Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics. This was a phenomenal achievement, to complete training as a specialist scientist in three years. Unsurprisingly this dual training path has not been achieved by anyone else in the UK.

It enabled Jennifer in 2018 to take up a joint position as a Transplant nephrologist and Head of the H&I Laboratory in Belfast. This uniquely brought the patient voice to a laboratory specialty, with huge benefit to both. Despite her relative inexperience she served as representative both on adult and paediatric KAG, and was considered by the H&I community as perhaps their brightest rising star.

However what brought Jennifer most pleasure, above all else in work, was her interactions with patients. Her commitment to them was renowned. She frequently commented on the privilege it was to serve patients, care for patients, see lives transformed. And she was an outstanding clinician, with the enviable yet unusual gift of having a bedside manner that matched her truly excellent clinical acumen. She had the ability to know the right thing to do, the confidence to pursue it, and the courage to put it into action – even when the stakes were at their highest. In return Jennifer was loved by all whose lives she touched.

Remarkably Jennifer was only a consultant for 21 months before her diagnosis of sarcoma, although she continued to work when able up to a few weeks before her death. In her lifetime she achieved much despite its brevity – over 30 peer review publications, guidelines developed, national practice changes. The loss felt by the whole transplant and H&I communities is testament to an outstanding impact in a very short career.

The memory that will linger longest however is not Jennifer the scientist, or the clinician, but the person. She was warm, passionate, pragmatic, enthusiastic, humble. Her faith in a loving God shaped all her life and values, and never wavered. A life so rare and beautiful will not be forgotten, her legacy will live on in the lives of current and future transplant patients.

We are the poorer for her absence but, are grateful that for her time here she was ours.



Dr. Sevda Hassan

1983-2022

Collated by Mr. Frank Dor

It is with unimaginable sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague Dr. Sevda Hassan.

Sevda graduated from Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry (London, UK) in 2008 and completed her training in Renal Medicine across several North London hospitals, including the Royal London Hospital and the West London Renal and Transplant Centre (Hammersmith Hospital). She undertook a successful period of research at Imperial College, looking at the HLA antibody response to blood transfusion post-transplant. Her research led to several landmark publications and, importantly, changed clinic practice. She has been an active member of the BTS and presented her work at several BTS congresses. She was also active on the international stage within the European Society of Organ Transplantation; she joined ESOT's Young Professionals in Transplantation group as a very active member, so much so that she went on to become its Chair. She took up her post as a substantive consultant at Barts Health NHS Trust in London in March 2021, with a specific focus in renal transplantation and ongoing research development.

Even more than her brilliant mind and promising academic career, however, Sevda was loved for her abundant enthusiasm, extreme loyalty, and endless quest for excellence and equity in the care she provided. She was strong, passionate and kind-hearted, with the most infectious laugh. She saw potential in everything and everyone, and constantly sought to improve the world around her. She inspired us all to be better and will leave a huge void in the British and wider European Transplant community.

She leaves behind her parents, sister and brother.

Her family have created a page in her memory: <https://sevdahassan.muchloved.com/>



Prof. Paolo Muiesan

1961-2022

Source: Extracts from ESOT/ELITA 'In memorium', introduction by Mr. Krish Menon

It is with great sadness that we write to inform you that our previous colleague, Professor Paolo Muiesan passed away.

Paolo was an integral part of the King's Liver Unit and the Liver Transplant programme. As a colleague, he will ever be remembered for his work ethos and devotion to Liver Transplantation. He pioneered and was instrumental in the successful implementation of the first Donation after Circulatory Death Programme in the United Kingdom. He subsequently made a career progression move to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham where he continued his pioneering work in deceased donor and living donor transplantation.

The note from ESOT below encompasses his career and personality. He will be remembered and missed by his colleagues in the transplant community:

'Paolo made an enormous contribution to ESOT over many decades. He joined the ELITA Council in 2007 and became secretary in 2008, a post that he held until 2012. In recognition of his contribution to ELITA, he was elected Chair in 2012. During the next four years, he steered the European liver community and represented its interests in the ESOT Council where his voice was always listened to and his advice was always sought.

Paolo spent a significant part of his career in the UK, working for many years at King's College Hospital, where he pioneered liver transplantation with donors after circulatory death and established the first such programme in the UK. He moved to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, where he expanded the living donor programme and the hepato-biliary service and had a key contribution in developing the new perfusion technologies. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded a Personal Chair by the University of Birmingham. In 2018 Paolo returned to Italy to be closer to his family, working initially in Florence, where he led the HPB service, and subsequently as Professor and Head of the Transplant service at the Policlinico Universitario in Milan. The whole Italian transplant community looked at his return as a sign of wholly deserved talent recognition.

A strong and passionate advocate for liver transplantation, Paolo was an innovator, pushing the boundaries, embracing new developments and always searching for the next study. He was the brainpower behind the DCD transplant congress and leaves behind an immense contribution to the field, with over 300 publications and innumerable participations to global meetings.

Icon of style, handsome, emphatic, international top class professional, Paolo Muiesan achieved everything in his brilliant academic career. He stood out, however, mostly for his well-tuned balance between professional talent and humanity. His natural attitude to interpersonal relationships, fairness, positivity and wise approach to life were well recognized by the entire transplant community.

His humanity translated into a remarkable commitment to education and knowledge sharing, attracting tens of young transplant surgeons and clinicians, many of them referring to him as an absolute Master of transplantation. Paolo played a prominent role in countless courses and educational activities and acted as the link between ESOT and UEMS, where he helped shape the transplant exam boards structure.

His premature departure is a huge loss to the transplant community and to his many friends who will miss his company, his humour and his charisma.

Our thoughts are with Paolo's family and the entire ESOT community sends the most sincere condolences to his sons Andrea and Matteo, his mother and all his beloved.

Rest in Peace Paolo!

On Behalf of ESOT and ELITA



50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Voice of Transplantation for Fifty Years