



## President's News

Krish Menon

Hope you all have started to enjoy your much needed summer break!

After a very successful BTS Annual Congress in the lovely setting of Harrogate that was a tremendous success with Richard Baker and team putting together a great program we have already started the plans for the joint Congress with NHSBT in sunny Brighton!

The Harrogate meeting had a huge attendance and we also saw the growth of new affiliates within BTS – British Transplant Physician Trainees (BTPT) and British Association of Renal Transplant Anaesthetists (BARTA). As a team we have been joined by new elected Executive Council in Chris Callaghan as General Secretary and Rommel Ramanan as Treasurer after we said goodbye and owe our indebted gratitude to Colin Wilson and Nick Torpey who did a fab job in their respective roles!

We recognise the importance of social media and our commitment to sustainability and have appointed new council members to take on these roles in real earnest. We hope to continue to add to the good elements in making the Congress more sustainable and use social media to keep the Society and members abreast of our activities.

Also, get yourself in shape, as we are also planning a 'Cyclothon' from London to Brighton and the measure of success will be seeing us in one piece at the Congress to keep up the efforts by Jas and colleagues from Cambridge to Harrogate! The plan is to incrementally do more each time to show our focus and drive to make our planet greener. We have engaged with our corporate partners as well to drive the sustainability agenda.

We aspired to collate evidence to assess how as 'transplant units' we can start to move towards a 'net zero carbon transplant' not just from a surgical perspective but in all aspects of transplantation and this is work we will do in conjunction with NHSBT. However, this is an area that we need to do more

work and are hoping to present this at Congress. We will have the National Monothematic Meeting on the 7th of November on 'Aging and Transplantation' to discuss donor and recipient issues that affect transplant clinicians and we will be sending out a flyer soon but please put the date in your diary. On the following day, the 8th of November, we will have an 'International Living Donor Liver Transplant Symposium' badged by BTS, with invited faculty to discuss and drive forward with NHSBT the living donor liver transplant agenda in the UK.

On another note, our hospital jobs have become more challenging so please do look after yourselves and each other and do not forget to enjoy the summer wine!

I would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on what we could achieve together so please do get in touch.

Krish Menon

**NHS**  
Blood and Transplant

**Yes I donate**  
ORGAN DONATION

**BTS**  
British Transplantation Society

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
The Voice of Transplantation for Fifty Years

**Joint Congress 2025**

**Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th March**  
**The Brighton Centre, Brighton**

**brightoncentre**

**brightoncentre.co.uk**



## Vice President's News

Richard Baker

### Greetings from a sunny Leeds!



I hope that those of you who were fortunate enough to come to Harrogate enjoyed the conference and the Yorkshire Hospitality.

Feedback from the conference was generally positive and these sessions were particularly well received:

- Debate on organ retrieval centres
- Medawar Medal
- Session on diversity
- Presentation on Human trafficking
- NHSBT OTDT statistics

I would like to thank all the presenters for contributing to the conference. It really is a pleasure to organise because the transplant community are so willing to give their time which makes my job much easier!

Preparations are now well underway for the Annual Congress in Brighton which is due to take place between Wednesday 12th March and Friday 14th March 2025 at the Brighton Centre in Brighton. We completed a site visit last month and the location is perfect for our needs, set on the seafront and only minutes from the bustling Brighton "Lanes". We will be holding the congress jointly with NHSBT OTDT and so there will good representation from the donation community. Substantial representation from professionals along the entire length of the transplant pathway is reflected in the conference theme which will be, "Nurturing Interdependency". I hope that this theme reflects the fact that we are all equal partners in the transplant process.

In addition, we are hoping to organise a bicycle ride from London to Brighton on Monday 10th March and pre-conference symposia on the afternoon of Tuesday 11th March. More details will follow, but in the meantime let me wish you a wonderful summer and I hope you manage to take some precious time away from work.

Richard Baker



## The Secretary's Corner

Hello! Greetings from the Secretary's Corner

It has been a privilege to take over the role of BTS General Secretary from Colin Wilson earlier this year, and there's been a steep learning curve since then! My day (night?) job is as a kidney and pancreas transplant surgeon at Guy's Hospital in London, and I also operate on children at the Evelina London Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

I've learnt rapidly that the main roles of the Gen Sec are to co-ordinate and help plan BTS Executive and Council meetings, and to support the Secretariat with Council elections and membership of BTS committees. Nearer the time of the BTS Congress I'll also be involved in supporting the processes behind the awards and medals that are given out to the many outstanding BTS members we're fortunate to have in this organisation.

It's been a pleasure to see what goes on 'behind the scenes' at the BTS, and to work with my esteemed Exec colleagues, the hard-working Secretariat, and the many Council and Committee members who keep the wheels turning. I look forward to meeting more BTS members, gaining a better understanding of their priorities for how the BTS can grow and improve, and learning more about the great work that colleagues are doing to develop transplantation in the UK.

Please contact me if there are any issues you need help with or need highlighting  
[generalsecretary@bts.org.uk](mailto:generalsecretary@bts.org.uk)

Chris Callaghan





## Treasurer's Chest

It's been equal parts scary and fun to take on the BTS Treasurer's responsibility...

Scary because I have big shoes to fill following on from a very successful tenure by Nick Torpey and fun because he leaves the society's finances in a healthy state. The fantastic and patient BTS secretariat / accountant are quite used to putting up with lots of nobby questions from the new treasurer and are an invaluable help for me to settle into the role.

Working with other three other expert colleagues who are hugely committed to the society and its' members continues to be a humbling and enjoyable experience. It is never a dull moment with the exec team having to meet both regularly and ad-hoc (not counting the innumerable email comms) to deal with a variety of issues requiring decisions that come our way. Planning for future BTS events and the annual congress has been a steep learning curve and will be girding my loins for the inevitable invoice approvals that will start coming through soon.

I look forward to working with the BTS council and wider membership to meet the needs of the professionals for whom transplantation is a much-loved vocation, and for the patients we serve. If you have any ideas (preferably ideas to generate income and not increase costs!), feedback or just want to know more about BTS related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me via [secretariat@bts.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@bts.org.uk)

Rommel Ravanan



## Human Tissue Act 2004 (Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2024

Many of you will be aware of this change to the Human Tissue Act 2004 that was introduced on 1st April. This change in legislation currently applies to England, Northern Ireland and Wales and parallel legislation is being developed in Scotland.

Please see overleaf a letter from the Human Tissue Authority (HTA)

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London  
E20 1JQ

**Tel:** 020 7269 1900

**Web:** [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.hta.gov.uk)

**Email:** [enquiries@hta.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hta.gov.uk)

20 March 2024

Dear Colleague

### **Human Tissue Act 2004 (Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2024**

As you may be aware, the Human Tissue Act 2004 (Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2024<sup>1</sup> (the Regulations) were laid before Parliament on 1 March 2024 and will come into force on 1 April 2024. A link to the Regulations can be found in the email.

The Regulations are being introduced by the Government and will place a statutory duty on all relevant clinicians in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to report the following information to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA):

- (a) if they suspect that an organ transplant-related offence under the Human Tissue Act 2004 or Modern Slavery Act 2015 may have been committed, or
- (b) if they are made aware that a patient has received an organ transplant outside the UK.

The Regulations define relevant clinicians as:

- (a) a specialist nurse involved in living donor care
- (b) a specialist nurse involved in recipient care
- (c) a transplant surgeon
- (d) a physician involved in living donor care, and
- (e) a physician involved in recipient care

Our role at the Human Tissue Authority is to consider all information reported by clinicians under the Regulations. When we have reason to believe an offence may have been committed, we will refer the case to the relevant police force.

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<sup>1</sup> Legislation.gov.uk (2024) The Human Tissue Act 2004 (Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2024: [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/262/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/262/contents/made)

It is important to note that while the Regulations require relevant clinicians to report this information, we already receive voluntary reports about suspected offences under the Human Tissue Act and share this information with the police, as necessary.

From 1 April, clinicians will need to report to the HTA via our website. A guidance document to support clinicians will be published. This will include detail on who is required to report, what information should be reported and how to submit a report.

We would be grateful if you could share this letter widely amongst your professional networks to raise awareness of the Regulations and statutory reporting requirements.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please contact us at [enquiries@hta.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hta.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Dr Colin Sullivan**  
Chief Executive

In developing this new legislation, the HTA, Department of Health and Social Care, NHS Blood and Transplant and other agencies collaborated to ensure that appropriate safeguards for patients, clinicians, and public are in place whilst giving support to clinicians who are faced with difficult decisions about when to report matters of concern.

Important points to note:

- The legislation does not apply retrospectively- it only applies after 1st April 2024
- The Duty to Report applies to all cases where a patient receives an organ transplant outside the UK and to any case (within or outside the UK) where there is concern that an offence may have been caused under the Human Tissue Act 2004 or Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Reporting is direct to the HTA via their on-line portal and can be done by any member of the multi-disciplinary team involved in care of transplant recipients and/or living donors
- Concerns about sharing confidential patient information are addressed within the legislation and do not conflict with professional frameworks (e.g. GMC)

- Clinical teams are encouraged to engage with your Trust information governance and/or safeguarding teams to provide additional support
- If a case is escalated by the HTA, they are unable to provide feedback to avoid compromising any on-going investigation

Additional advice and guidance from the HTA on all these aspects can be found on their website at the following links and they can be contacted directly if you have any queries or concerns:

## General info

[Supply of Information about Transplants Regulations 2024 | Events | Human Tissue Authority \(hta.gov.uk\)](https://www.hta.gov.uk)

## The Regulations

[The Human Tissue Act 2004 \(Supply of Information about Transplants\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

## Guidance document for clinicians

[The Human Tissue Act 2004 \(Supply of Information about Transplants\) Regulations 2024.pdf \(hta.gov.uk\)](https://www.hta.gov.uk)

NHSBT is working with the HTA to provide updated information for patients and provide support for the wider transplant community as needed. Lisa Burnapp

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## Where are our Nation's Donors?

The BTS Executive has been asked by Team Margot, a charity supporting ethnic diversity in blood and organ donors, to support the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ethnicity, Transplantation and Transfusion. In December 2023 the APPG published a report '[Where are our Nation's Donors?](#)', and wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister. The report sheds light on the significant challenges faced by patients from mixed heritage and ethnic minority communities in accessing life-saving treatments in the UK.



The BTS Executive supports this work, and more information can be found here:

<https://www.teammargot.com/appg/>



# Announcing the launch of a digital version of the Microbiological Safety Guidelines

## Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO)

The link to the website is: [SaBTO microbiological safety guidelines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-microbiological-safety-of-human-organs-tissues-and-cells-used-in-transplantation)

To note, the content is the same as the previous PDF version, only the format has changed. The PDF version is also available via the link above).

If you find any areas which require clarification or could be improved, please let us know at the SaBTO email [mbSaBTO@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:mbSaBTO@dhsc.gov.uk)



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024,

For the attention of the British Transplantation Society,

I am pleased to inform you that the microbiological safety guidelines are now available in a digital format which can be viewed on a smart phone, tablet or laptop computer. Please pass this to transplant clinicians and scientists.

They are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-microbiological-safety-of-human-organs-tissues-and-cells-used-in-transplantation>.

I am grateful to the DHSC digital team for making this format available.

I hope that this will be useful for all clinicians, scientists and other stakeholders to ensure that organs cells and tissues are used appropriately.

If you find any areas which require clarification or could be improved, please let us know at the SaBTO email ([mbSaBTO@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:mbSaBTO@dhsc.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Neuberger".

James Neuberger  
SaBTO Chair



## Life In Transplantation

Kiran Sran, consultant transplant surgeon,  
Guy's Hospital

This is a new addition to the Newsletter that seeks to highlight the work that individual BTS members do, and to provide an opportunity for us to learn more about the backgrounds of our colleagues and what drew them to a career in transplantation. Many thanks to Kiran Sran, who has kindly agreed to get the ball rolling! Please feel free to volunteer or to nominate a colleague (with permission) for this section by contacting the Secretariat at [secretariat@bts.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@bts.org.uk).

I was raised in Singapore by physician parents, and grew up in a medical environment; hospital accommodation in my early years, social gatherings with similar families, and homework in A&E until my mother's shift was over. It was therefore natural for me to go into medicine, but passion was only ignited as a house surgeon.

My surgical training was excellent, though uncertain to start with. This was because of changes in the UK training structure at the time which were demoralising, but ultimately a blessing in disguise. This was how I reluctantly first came to Guy's Hospital, undifferentiated in my career path (though secretly keen on colorectal surgery!), and completely naïve to transplantation. I left the 6-month post with a love for the specialty, inspired by the patients and members of the team. There was just something different about transplant surgery that I found exciting and heartwarming. During this time, I attended my first BTS Congress and was rather intimidated, yet felt so welcome in this community of healthcare professionals.

I spent a few more years dabbling in the various general surgical specialties, and it was when I reached a fork in the road that a conversation with a friend sealed the deal. "You won't see this" they said, "but when you talk about transplantation, your eyes light up."

I had these reflections on my training path and career choice in early 2020, when I began my consultant life in transplantation. I had spent the first few months trying hard to fill the (large!) shoes of my predecessor and a key mentor, Geoff Koffman. Then almost overnight, things changed dramatically in the world, and it is a pleasure to now be settling back into life as we knew it.

My family and friends often ask about my work as a transplant surgeon. They find the schedule unnervingly inconsistent, the unpredictable nature of the work challenging, and the intensity almost unbearable... "you've chosen a tough gig" they say. Yet they are intrigued, and much like me: fascinated by the intricacies of transplantation. Most importantly though, they share my admiration for our community and the network we as transplant professionals have developed in the UK.

Kiran Sran

## In Memoriam

We are saddened to hear the news this week that Paul McMaster has died. Paul was a pioneering surgeon who worked for 35 years at the University of Cambridge and later at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. He was instrumental in setting up the Liver Transplantation programme there and was also chair of the Liver Advisory Group for many years. He retired from NHS life in 2000 to undertake medical care in the developing world, training in women's fistula surgery repair in Uganda and Rwanda. In 2005 he began working for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and carried out surgical projects in Somalia, Congo, and Burundi before moving to MSF's Amsterdam headquarters to become surgical director. He returned to the United Kingdom in 2012 to become president of MSF UK, and he continued to work on surgical projects abroad.



We send our sincere condolences to his former colleagues, friends and family.

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## Upcoming Events

### BTS H&I Webinar – H&I Support for Solid Organ Transplantation

17:00, 12th June,

Online <https://bts.org.uk/bts-webinar-hi-support-for-solid-organ-transplantation/>

### BTS Council Meeting

21st June 2024

The Principal Hotel – York

### BTS Monothematic Meeting – Ageing and Transplantation

7th November,

London

### BTS NHSBT Joint Congress 2025

Save the Date – Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 March,

The Brighton Centre, Brighton