

WELCOME
Professor Jonathan Beard

Welcome to the SECC in Glasgow and the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland. This spectacular purpose-built conference facility on the banks of the regenerated River Clyde has recently played host to the hugely successful XX Commonwealth Games, at which the home countries enjoyed their best-ever haul of gold medals. I hope that you will feel equally rewarded by the end of the meeting!

This year we have continued with the new format introduced last year, plus some changes based on your feedback. The emphasis is on inter-professional collaboration and to kick off we have two symposia with conjunction with the Venous Forum and Vascular Access Society. Wednesday has a major focus on 'Cinderella' topics which we will need to take more notice of in the future, i.e. exercise therapy and rehabilitation. We welcome the continued involvement of the SVN and SVT and this year also welcome physiotherapist and podiatrists to our meeting.

The emphasis on Thursday will be on the Provision of Services at hub and spoke hospitals, plus workforce, training and certification issues, leading into the Annual General Meeting. These are vital debates ahead of the publication of the revised 'Provision of Vascular Services' Document next year. In response to requests from trainees, we have added a quick-fire paper session on Friday morning, in addition to the existing clinical and scientific prize paper sessions. The academic theme continues with joint sessions including the British Heart Foundation and the Circulation Foundation. As always we welcome constructive feedback, which will be required for the award of your CPD Certificate.

We continue our move towards a paperless meeting. You will receive a pocket-sized 'Programme at a Glance'. Everything else is available either on the app for Android and Apple tablets/smart-phones or downloadable in a searchable pdf format for PCs. I would like to thank Neeraj Bhasin, Consultant Vascular Surgeon in Huddersfield, and Hashem Barakat, Affiliate Member from Hull who will be running our twitter and text feeds during the meeting. I would also like to thank our new secretariat: Elaine Hall and Caroline Kumedzina, plus the staff from our conference organiser Fitwise, for all their hard work in contributing to the success of this meeting.

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Old Fruitmarket on Thursday 27th November, with a Ceilidh band followed by a disco until midnight. If you haven't bought tickets yet then do so quickly as this promises to be a fantastic evening. A Civic Reception will be held at the Glasgow Science Centre just over the footbridge on Wednesday 26th November immediately following the close of the Scientific Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jonathan Beard
President, Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland

