

Quarter 2 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Following the last Council meeting in June there are a number of important developments to share with all members.

Firstly, preparations for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Glasgow in November are almost complete. The programme will include something to appeal to all members whatever their particular interest – please look out for a more detailed programme update from your President. Abstract submission is now open (with an expanded session this year to include a greater number based on the high quality of last year's submissions) so please encourage your teams to submit before the deadline of noon **Tuesday 12th August 2014**.

For next year's Meeting a formal Organising Committee is to be set up; an advert for a Chair has already been circulated by email and is also available on the website <http://bit.ly/1vFAdKv>. Shortlisted eligible candidates will be then be invited to attend and deliver a short 5 minute presentation at the next Council Meeting on Friday 12 September 2014, and upon appointment, meet during the Glasgow conference to start the forward planning for 2015.

*Please take note that the **2015** meeting will be held in Bournemouth between the 11th and 13th of November 2015 (the week before the Veith meeting) to avoid a clash. There is an increasing move towards 'paperless' meetings and it would be advantageous for all members to bring a smartphone or tablet in order to benefit from the meeting app.*

There will also be changes to the selection process for both Council and President with a more transparent system - including access to the number of votes cast via the Society's website. Please look out for Calls for Nominations for both Council and President, which will be advertised over the summer. Nominations for President from now on are welcome from any member and will not be restricted to those on Council.

It is a year since individual surgical outcomes for carotid and aortic surgery were published in the press. A lot has been learnt since then, but despite lobbying by your Council that unit data is more representative, there is still a requirement to publish surgeon-specific outcomes for now. The Society is working closely with the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) at the Royal College of Surgeons of England to ensure that the publication of outcomes in vascular surgery is performed in a manner that acknowledges the sensitivities of individual surgeons and patients alike. It is a requirement of HQIP that the information on the outcomes for AAA repair and CEA are put into the public domain. Furthermore, HQIP has made it clear that surgeon consent does not need to be sought prior to the release of information this year.

The Society has stated from the start of the process that unit-level outcome information is more meaningful for patients. We will therefore publish all surgeon level outcomes (as risk adjusted mortality) alongside the unit-level information so they can be interpreted appropriately. In addition and in line with other specialties, individuals will be identified as whether they are paid up members of the Vascular Society or not. We will be publishing the information on a tailor-made website so that it will be much harder for the media to misrepresent the data and we will again stress the importance of not treating the data as a 'league table' of peri-operative mortality. To meet the publication deadline set by HQIP, the NVR will be communicating with all vascular surgeons on the following dates:

14th July: Activity and outcome figures sent to consultants for validation

1st August: Deadline for making amendments to initial figures

18th August: Final figures sent to consultants for information and potential outliers notified

30th September: Figures published on website in line with other Specialist Societies.

The Research committee has welcomed two new members (Paul Hayes and Janice Tsui) and has appointed a new manager, Caroline Kumedzina. A further President's Early Career Award (PECA) and a joint Royal College of Surgeons of England/Circulation Foundation Surgeon Scientist (SSA) will be awarded in 2014. Reports from previous PECA holders will be given at the ASM in Glasgow and there will be a joint session with the British Heart Foundation when Professor Jeremy Pearson will give a talk on 'Successes and failures of academic vascular surgery'.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the Workforce report <http://bit.ly/1mrdtOF> and we are grateful to all those who contributed and to Denis Harkin for compiling the document. The current POVS document has been invaluable as a standard to use when assessing job descriptions for new posts and this will be updated in 2015/16. A new document will also be produced to address the vascular element of care provided to diabetic patients in spoke hospitals.

Please look out for further communications over the next few weeks which will include a Circulation Foundation Newsletter, adverts for posts *as above*, and important communications regarding deadlines in relation to outcomes reporting.

Michael Jenkins, Director of Communications