

President's update 25th June 2020

We are now nearing the end of the third month of the CV19 crisis, and the lockdown is slowly being lifted. The initial peak has passed, and there has been a sustained reduction in the number of new CV19 cases and related deaths. Bed occupancy rates in ITUs are returning to, or have reached more normal levels, and the momentum to open up more services continues to grow.

1. 'Guidance on the resumption of vascular surgery' (chaired by Mike Horrocks)

GIRFT, the Vascular Clinical Reference Group and representatives from the VS, the BSIR, the SVT, the SVN and VASGBI have worked hard to put together the enclosed "*Guidance on resumption of vascular surgery- National Joint Vascular Implementation Board*". Many of the key components from the Vascular Society's 1st May proposal¹ (such as the importance of training, research and rapid completion of the NVR) have been integrated into the final document. The CV19 situation remains fluid and since the local prevalence varies, so the local response should reflect this

2. Annual Scientific Meeting

The VS Executive Committee have recently been deliberating over holding either a virtual or an actual meeting in Brighton in November 2020. At the last virtual Exec Meeting, a final decision was passed unanimously that we should opt for a virtual meeting. This decision was based upon lack of certainty over the likely CV19 situation in November and the risk of additional costs that might be incurred by delaying the decision. This is in some ways frustrating, but a clear and early decision was required. I hope the virtual meeting option will be an exciting opportunity to develop novel approaches to the ASM.²

3. Letter from the Presidents of the RCS and RCR

In a recent message I wrote: *'These are challenging times and once again I am so impressed by the way the entire vascular community has risen to this challenging. I am proud of the energy, enthusiasm and good will and the collaborative approach which has been used.'*

It was particularly gratifying to receive a letter on 11th June which was jointly addressed to Dr Ian McCafferty (President of the BSIR) and myself from the Derek Alderson and Jeanette Dickson (Presidents of the RCS and the RCR, respectively). The letter noted the challenges of

CV19, and in particular thanked both the VS and the BSIR for the collaborative joint working between the two societies.

'.....Colleges rarely write to thank professional groups for their efforts, and while there is always the opportunity for improvement, we wish to place on record our gratitude to those professionals who have contributed to an improved situation at a particularly difficult time.....'

I would like to thank the membership of both societies for their efforts. Clearly there remain units where there are issues, but the steady improvement noted by the Presidents of the RCS and RCR does reflect a very positive direction of travel.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. H. Ince', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

President of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Reference

1. [https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/userfiles/pages/files/Newsletters/2020/VS%20V6%20Resumption%20of%20elective%20vascular%20surgery .pdf](https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/userfiles/pages/files/Newsletters/2020/VS%20V6%20Resumption%20of%20elective%20vascular%20surgery.pdf)
2. https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/professionals/news/127/the_vascular_societies_annual_scientific_meeting