

Vascular Society – President’s Christmas Message

Friday 18th December 2020

Dear All,

Welcome to my first President’s message.

First and foremost, I hope we can all remain well and have some family time (albeit likely to be restricted) over the Christmas period. Most of us will obviously have on call duties, but it will be important to take some down-time whenever possible.

Aside from some of the dreadful consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic, it is interesting to reflect on the strangest of years as 2020 comes to a close. Whilst most of us have continued to work non-stop (sometimes with new and challenging duties), it has been refreshing to benefit from the added time as some of the non-clinical aspects of our daily lives have taken a backseat to prioritise patient care. Our profession has certainly earned a restored respect and I believe we have benefitted from a sense of purpose and the social advantages that come with being able to work, especially during the first wave lockdown period. It goes without saying that we can count ourselves to be very fortunate to have a salary at the end of the month and the job security we enjoy when many around us are in both a perilous financial and mental state.

The vaccination good news story was, of course, most welcome. However, the mood, in London at least, seems less jubilant this week. Hospital admission are on the rise and it is very clear that Covid is far from over. Hopefully, we can see the beginning of the end though and although I believe the impact will continue to be felt for months to come, it should be an improving picture. This has given us the confidence to plan a normal annual meeting for November 2021 in Manchester. Despite the success of the virtual meeting this year, we missed out on the social interaction and sense of occasion of a conventional conference and I very much want to restore that next year. For those unable to join the ASM as it went out live, registration is still open giving access to all the talks, abstracts and session discussions for the next 6 months.

So Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for a healthy and happier 2021.



Michael Jenkins
President of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Winter view - Gate of Honour, Mill Hill School - Nicholas Jenkins



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