

The Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
1st December 2021, Exchange Auditorium, Manchester Central

Trustees:

Mr Michael Jenkins, President of the VSGBI and AGM Meeting Chair
Ms Rachel Bell, Circulation Foundation Committee Chair
Mr Jon Boyle (JB), President Elect
Professor Ian Chetter (IC), Research Committee Chair
Mr Andrew Garnham (AG), Treasurer
Mr Keith Jones (KJ), Education Committee Chair
Mr Arun Pherwani (APh) Audit Quality and Information Committee Chair
Ms Sophie Renton (SR), Honorary Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2020

Minutes from the 2020 AGM were approved and agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. President's Report

MJ stated that the Vascular Society had already experienced a difficult year under Chris Imray's Presidency, then when taking on his own Presidency we were hit by a second and the third wave of Covid.

The upside to this has been that the Executive team have worked much closer together with many additional meetings during the evenings, resulting in good work being delivered.

In addition to this some organisations have worked closer with VS such as NHSEI, FSSA, CRG etc.

NHSEI were delighted with data provided via the NVR, this has made it reasonably easy to make a case for those patients that need to be prioritised for vascular and arterial surgery.

As the Covid wave waned, VS were able to get on with the real business of the Society such as launching the new curriculum, forging really good relationships with BSIR, producing ongoing Covid reports within the NVR, launching the journal and producing POVS 2021.

VS also agonised over the decision of having a face-to-face ASM which thankfully has gone ahead as planned.

MJ thanked VS Council and the Executive team for the amount of work they had carried during the year. Chairs will elaborate on their successes during today's presentations.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

SR advised that Marcus Brooks had been shadowing her for some time, and today she was pleased to announce that he was officially taking over the role as Honorary Secretary.

SR was confident that he would be successful, he has already produced 'POVS 2021' which is a brilliant document. SR congratulated him for his work.

SR encouraged everyone to take a copy of POVS back to their Trusts. The working group have tried very hard to show what vascular services should look like. This has been a truly collaborative effort from our allied societies SVN, SVT, BSET, VS, BACPAR and BSIR.

SR announced the newly appointed Council members:

1. Matt Bown
2. Ian Hunter
3. Anselm Egum

SR congratulated all three new members, welcoming them to Council.

VS had also put it to the electorate to decide who represented VS at the RCS Council. SR congratulated Professor Rob Sayers as the newly elected representative of RCS Council.

SR explained that VS are trying really hard to improve their equality and diversity, as a result we are engaging with our non-consultant career grade doctors to try to develop a database of these trainees. We need to look at this parallel with the workforce to ensure that our non-consultant career grade doctors receive help and training to become part of our consultant body.

To represent this cohort, VS have recently appointed two non-consultant career grade doctors. SR congratulated Tatiana Martin (TM) and Ibrahim Enemosah (IE).

One of the initiatives TM and IE will be working on is how VS engage with our non-consultant career grade doctors. Tatiana Martin and Ibrahim Enemosah will be in contact with you all soon to help build this database.

There are numerous changes to the Executive team as follows:

Marcus Brook – Honorary Secretary

Alistair McCleary - Treasurer

Douglas Orr – Chair of the ASM committee

Patrick Coughlin – Shadow Chair of the Education Committee

Ciaran McDonnell – Chair of the Workforce committee

Chair of the Research Committee – to be elected in February 2022

We have a very strong team moving forward and SR wished them all well.

SR stated that she could not finish the Secretary's report without thanking Gail Ryan and the EBS team for all their hard work on delivering the ASM.

In addition to this, SR added a big thank you to Louise Collins who has been her 'righthand man'. Louise Collins does a huge amount of work in the background supporting the VS and SR in her role. SR was certain her thanks are also agreed by the Executive.

In Memoriam

SR introduced this part of her presentation as always sad, where colleagues are recognised who we have lost. Key figures have died this year and during 2020. Our colleagues are truly missed.

1. **John F Thompson MBChB, MS, FRCS(Ed) FRCS(Eng)**
Consultant Vascular Surgeon, The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, UK
2. **Prof Nigel Standfield 1951-2021**
Professor of Vascular Surgery Imperial College
Head of the London Postgraduate School of Surgery 2007-2017
3. **Allen Edwards**
University Hospital Birmingham
4. **John Hood**
The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Sadly, we have also lost two other colleagues from the Belfast region, **Michael O'Reilly** (died 14.11.21) and **Rodney Curry** (Died 16.03.2020). Unfortunately, we do not have an obituary for these two colleagues, however anyone wishing to send a photo and some words will be published.

5. **Dr Krishnan Subramanian**
Vascular Consultant Anaesthetist at Royal Derby Hospital

These are all of the lost colleagues that SR is aware of, anyone wishing to report anymore can do so, VS are looking at having an obituary on the VS website to remember colleagues which MB has been tasked with.

SR asked everyone to take a short period of time to reflect in honour of our colleagues who have died this year.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Mr Andrew Garnham

AG advised with sadness that he would be delivering his last Treasurer's report. His successor Alistair McCleary would be taking on the role of Treasurer, and VS membership were in very good hands.

AG provided a summary of VS financial position:

- The society's accounts are in good order - assets are nearly at £1.2 million.
- There will be no increase in subscriptions this year.
- There will be a reduced income in next year's accounts as a result of the virtual event.
- Investments are improving and performing well.
- Many are regular donors to the Circulation Foundation, however there are few that provide gift aid. AG flagged that Gift aid forms could be collected from the CF stand opposite the registration desk.

Members may think that we have a lot of money in the bank, as a result VS has an ambitious spending plan funding a number of fellowships:

- The research team have been given £ 10,000 Lind Alliance which is ongoing.
- £ 45,000 allocated to the special interest groups (SIGS).
- We continue to sponsor the 2 year QIP at £ 35,000.
- £ 60,000 2 year QIP fellow agreed.
- £ 30,000 Joint 2 year Education Fellow RCS Ed Year 2.
- £ 76,500 3 years SSL funding 3 posts.
- £ 60,000 Journal start-up costs over a 3 year period.
- £ 30,000 towards a joint aortic fellowship.
- £ 5,000 for Allied Healthcare Processions grants_AHPs.
- £ 70,000 for a joint fellowship with RCPS Glasgow Frailty Fellow, this should come into fruition during the next financial year.
- We have set some £ 40,000 aside for a fellowship with BSIR/RCR/VS Audit fellow to improve out data collection there.
- £ 30,000 website redesign.

That's a total spending budget of £ 140,000

+ £ 361,500

Leaving fiscal headroom of £ 50,000

AG hoped that VS members would sign off this year's books, closing his presentation by wishing AM well in his new role next year.

7. Audit & Quality Improvement Committee Report

Aph thanked the audience for the opportunity to present some of the Audit & Quality Improvement Committee achievements. Aph was pleased to announce that the NVR team were awarded last year the HQIP Audit Award for 'Heroes of the Year'.

The NVR Annual Report 2021 has been launched which includes the challenge of reporting Covid outcomes. We have continued to report Covid outcomes data during the second and third wave of the pandemic. The case ascertainment data is with HES data, once this becomes available the Annual Report will be a further updated.

The recommendations of the report were discussed with the Executive team of the Vascular Society.

Very happy that we have been able to work with HQIP to be able to remove Individual surgeon level outcomes, (NVR) reporting is now done purely at Trust level.

Sixty per cent of the AAA Devices that you enter onto the NVR on a daily basis are now being captured within the NVR. The next steps will be to secure funding, from industry and IT providers, to make this device data set become mandatory.

The PAD QIP has been a success story throughout the pandemic which has allowed to reduce times for both surgical and endovascular to revascularisation in CLTI. Aph thanked everyone involved.

The PAD QIFF first Research Fellow, Penny Birmpilli (PBirmpilli@rcseng.ac.uk) has been extended to 3 years to work towards her Phd. A second Research Fellow, Ellie Atkins, has started.

Seven years' outcomes from AAA repairs was published in July in the European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, with Jon Boyle as the main author (ICVR Report, Vol 62, Issue 1, P16-24). The work and analysis was undertaken at the Cornell University. APh was very pleased to advise that with our collaborations with Vascunet, the next 10 years' worth of data will be VS responsibility in analysing and reporting going forward.

ICVR is very interested in our data on Covid outcomes and our covid presentations have had a lot of success.

NVR is up for tender next year, and there are other challenges such as NCQIP.

We have been approached by the CQC to use NVR data to assess surgical procedures.

APh will be representing VS at the BSIR conference, along with the generous offer of the joint (RCS/VS/BSIR) fellowship funding.

APh stated that the NVR team deserve thanks for all their hard work. He thanked the Executive team and particularly thanked MJ, JB and CI for organising the Hebridean bike ride.

8. ASM Committee Chair

SR advised the LF was unable to present at the AGM and had nothing to report back.

9. Education Committee Report

KJ delivered a presentation. (Refer to appendix 1.)

KJ confirmed that Paddy Coughlin (PC) would be shadowing him during the next year and would take over the role at the November AGM. KJ passed his condolences and regards to Nigel Standfield and his family. KJ advised that VS have their first educational research fellow in post Fiona Kerray, this is a joint CF and RCS Ed fellowship.

The committee have continued to deliver ASPIRE DIGITAL and KJ thanked PC and AG for delivering this virtual on-line educational material, working on Monday evenings.

ASPIRE 7 and 8 have also been delivered on line (virtual learning platform).

ASPIRE 3 was ran as a face-to-face course in Bristol Sept 2021. KJ expressed his thanks in particular Tim Beckett who had restarted the face-to-face programme

A sponsorship place has been secured on the RCS Ed. Leadership Programme.

The Education Committee are delighted to welcome the two new representatives who will provide SAS Representation (TM and IE).

Other educational activity

- VS / RCS education podcasts
- 2021 Vascular Surgery Curriculum which has gone live
- *'So you want to be a Vascular Surgeon'* was delivered as face-to-face event
- ASPIRE 4 and 6, with catch up funding delivered later this month, then during the summer
- ASPIRE 3-8 will all run as face-to-face events
- We will continue to support the MCR development and the catch up programme for training *'Remember No Training Today means No Surgeons Tomorrow'*.
- We hope to support the Vascular Access, Amputation, Ultrasound Courses and *'So you want to be a Vascular Surgeon'*.

VS will not be running ASPIRE 1-2 as the ISCT programme is no longer running

KJ encouraged members to provide feedback on what to deliver with ASPIRE Digital, as VS wish to continue running ASPIRE DIGITAL during 2022.

As part of our ongoing strategy, we want to continue to enhance the training experience, including addressing the bully and harassment survey results.

KJ closed the meeting by stating he would like to help us become better trainers.

10. Research Committee Report – Professor Ian Chetter

IC provided an overview of the work done during the JLA project. (Refer to appendix 1)

IC advised that there has been a huge amount of work delivered during 2021, the Research Priority Setting Project in collaboration with JLA is now complete.

The Journal of the Vascular Societies of Great Britain and Ireland (JVSGBI) has been launched.

There has been a lot of activity with the SSL's and SIGs, VERN, Research fellows and we will launch ASPIRE academic during 2022. We've ended up with top ten research priorities with 9 SIGs to help drive research during the next decade. The NIHR announced during August 2021 that they would fund research such as the James Lind Alliance.

The research fellows have done some phenomenal work.

IC thanked EBS for all their support with the journal and hopes that membership will engage with it.

11. Circulation Foundation Committee – Ms Rachel Bell

RB delivered a presentation. (Refer to appendix 1.)

CF have been very busy this year, albeit slightly hampered by Covid as some events were cancelled as a result. We have tried really hard with our social media presence and made significant improvements. Social media messages include appropriate material that patients can benefit such as information from the Stroke Association.

RB encouraged members to follow CF social media via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to help

improve their social media presence further.

We have produced some new merchandise which is displayed on the CF stand including the sale of Christmas cards. RB thanked Nina All-Saadi who designed the CF Christmas card.

Patient leaflets have been produced which we hope to distribute to all vascular units by utilising our ambassadors. The patient leaflets provide information about the society, how to donate and forms part of our strategy to increase the CF brand.

Gill Holman is a patient that came up with the idea of the **Body Walk** which was to walk collectively 60,000 miles, which is the equivalent of all of the circulation system.

One hundred and forty eight people got involved this year including a number of Trusts competing against each other. The Leicester unit walked and cycled the most during Vascular Awareness month. The Leicester unit will receive an award at the Gala Dinner.

The Hebridean Cycle Challenge was a huge success which generated around £13k.

CF received a £100k legacy payment, and unfortunately have no relatives to thank. We hope to put this money to good use by supporting all of these research fellows.

We have some events during 2022 such as the Great Northern Run, London Marathon and Ride London.

RB closed her presentation by thanking all members for their contributions it would not be possible unless it was for you, and of course EBS. The CF committee are looking for some new members, enthusiastic individuals to help support the CF Committee if you are interested speak to RB.

12. President Elect

RB delivered a presentation slide. (Refer to appendix 1.)

JB advised that he would like to reiterate what APH has already stated to members. JB had approached HQIP following concerns around reduced numbers in index cases, particularly around carotid and aneurysms. There were concerns that potentially mortality rates of patients who had suffered from symptoms of Covid were not being captured. As a result, HQIP allowed Covid related data to be published in the public domain. .

In addition to this HQIP approved removing surgeon level outcomes, we hope that in the future that this will continue

13. Any Other Business

There were no matters arising.

Appendix 1: **To be attached as a link**

Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday 23rd November 2021
The Hilton Brighton Metropole