

## Honorary Secretary Newsletter September 2022

---

### Society updates

#### Elections 2022

[Superficial venous arterialisation for CLTI \(NICE IPG736\)](#)

[NHS England acute aortic dissection toolkit](#)

[\*Aortic dissection: The Patient Guide\*](#)

[JVSGBI publication alerts](#)

[Parental leave – subscription suspension option](#)

[Safer spinal surgery](#)

[UK vascular surgeon burnout and resilience study](#)

#### Body Walk 2022

#### ASM 2022

[\*Introduction to Vascular Ultrasound Course\*](#)

---

### Society updates

The Society's Officers and Committees have been busy this year. In my role as **Honorary Secretary** this was the first year of a new ACCEA process for England and Wales (NCIAs). The Society provided a citation and ranking for eleven Society members. The change to NCIAs was to encourage submissions from a wider proportion of the Consultant workforce than the previous award system. This will likely take time, in 2022 all the supported applicants were male, and a disproportionate number had academic as well as clinical roles.

Embracing the diversity of the vascular workforce is a key aim for the Society's leadership over the next year. We would like every vascular consultant in the UK and Ireland to share the Society's values, see themselves as belonging in the Vascular Society, at home attending the Society ASM, and able to engage with the Society's work. The development of a **new Society website** in 2023 and a changing the way in which the Society **elects its President** are both seen as opportunities to make the Society more open and representative.

This year the **Executive Committee** has largely shifted focus away from the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent service recovery, other than to ensure that prioritisation of vascular surgical cases remains appropriate (see [FSSA website](#)). Much committee time has been spent discussing a response to the 2021 Rouleaux Club trainee survey which reported bullying and undermining behaviour in our specialty.

The **Education Committee** has secured Health Education England (HEE) Covid-19 recovery ASPIRE funding for 2022/23 and is looking to secure funding from HEE for ASPIRE going forward. ASPIRE Digital has restarted, and there is work in progress to develop both open and endovascular aortic simulation pods for VS training use.

The **Audit and Quality Improvement Committee** have drafted the 2022 NVR annual report and will also be reporting on **medical devices** and **aortic dissection**. As in 2021, the NVR report will only include unit level outcome data. The committee have also been busy leading on three separate initiatives: Vascular surgery **NCIPs**; the NVR **re-procurement** process; and the NHS England Specialised Services **PAD-QIP CQUIN**.

This work would not be possible without the work of the PAD-QIP Fellows, Penny Birmpili and Eleanor Atkins, Rob Williams (BSIR), and the NVR team led by Prof. David Cromwell, at the RCS Eng. Clinical Effectiveness Unit.

The **Workforce Committee** continues to respond to concerns raised by the 2021 Rouleaux Club with the development of a document detailing a strategy and action plan for the Society to use when allegations of unprofessional behaviour are made. Central to this response is a cultural change. Elected members of council have completed the Edinburgh College of Surgeons module '*Tackling Bullying and Undermining in Surgery and Dentistry*'.

The Workforce Committee continues to highlight concerns regarding workforce planning for the speciality through the Vascular SAC, Vascular CRG and RCS Eng. (via Prof. Rob Sayers).

The **Research Committee** through the special interest groups (SIGs) is moving forward with an impressive range of research projects. There is a new research Fellowship with joint RCS Glasgow and Circulation Foundation Funding. The **JVSGBI** is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> Edition with a 5<sup>th</sup> Edition scheduled for online publication in November (see below).

The **Annual Scientific Meeting Committee** have worked closely with our affiliated organisations to develop excellent programmes for all the Societies at the November ASM. More than 200 abstracts were submitted and have been marked. There is information on registration and accommodation at the end of this newsletter.

The **Professional Standards Committee** has in the past been occupied with invited reviews through the RCS Invited Review Mechanism (IRM). It is felt that this approach is outdated and more needs to be done to support members and promote professional behaviour. The terms of reference of the committee have therefore been re-written and the committee will in future comprise the Chair, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Workforce Committee Chair, and another elected Council member. This new committee will take a more proactive role in setting professional standards in addition to delivering invited reviews.

The **Circulation Foundation** has again launched the Body walk this September. There are many other opportunities for fundraising as outlined in a **new leaflet**. The committee also hope that those of you attending the ASM will come away having purchased **CF hoodies** and **Christmas cards** for yourself, friends and family. There is no better way to celebrate the CF's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its foundation by Mr Tony Chant as the British Vascular Foundation!



Marcus Brooks  
Honorary Secretary

## Elections

The Society is delighted to inform members that **Professor Chris Imray** has been appointed as next chair of the Professional Standards Committee and **Professor Denis Harkin** has been appointed as next chair of the Audit and Quality Improvement Committee. Chris and Denis will work alongside Arun Pherwani and Ian Loftus respectively for 12 months prior to formally taking up these Chair positions at the close of the 2023 Society ASM.

The term of the Society RCS England representative, **Professor Rob Sayers**, has been extended from three to four years to align with other surgical professional societies.

### Society Council Elections 2022

The call for nominations of ordinary members to join Council, for a three-year term, is open until 5pm on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. There are three places on Council up for election by the membership. Members are encouraged to consider standing to sit on elected council and one of the Society Committees. Full details of the process are on the [website](#).

## Superficial venous arterialisation for CLTI

Interventional procedures guidance [[IPG736](#)] Published: 24 August 2022

In people with no other option for revascularisation, NICE recommends that this procedure can be used in people with no other treatment options for arterial reconstruction with special arrangements for clinical governance, consent, and audit or research.

## NHS England Acute Aortic Dissection Toolkit

Vascular networks in England should by now have been contacted by their regional NHS teams to ask how they deliver services for people presenting with acute aortic dissection. A self-assessment worksheet and information on delivering a high-quality dissection service have been published and are available from the [VS website](#).

We would urge all members to understand how aortic dissection is managed locally and to ensure that people presenting with acute aortic dissection to their arterial centre and network hospitals receive high-quality and equitable treatment.

Where there are difficulties implementing toolkit recommendations the Society would like to know so that we can work with local healthcare organisations, specialised commissioners, and other professional bodies (i.e., SCTS) to help find solutions.



## ***Aortic dissection: The Patient Guide***

The Vascular Society has partnered with Aortic Dissection Awareness UK & Ireland in an exciting new book launch.

'*Aortic Dissection: The Patient Guide*' can be ordered as **hardcopies** from ADUK (kindly supported by Terumo aortic) or a PDF **downloaded**.

## **JVSGBI publication alerts**



Issue 4 of the Journal was published online in August. You should in future be receiving email alerts when new JVSGBI articles are published.

If you use Twitter, please follow [@VSjournalGBI](https://twitter.com/VSjournalGBI) for alerts and updates.

## **Parental leave – subscription suspension option**

In May the Council approved a new policy for the suspension of membership fees during a period of paternity leave. This new policy brings the Society in line with other professional bodies. Members should note that to benefit from a fees suspension the Society needs to know in advance of the leave being taken by emailing [admin@vascularsociety.org.uk](mailto:admin@vascularsociety.org.uk).

## **Safer spinal surgery**

Provision of Vascular Services (POVS) 2021 included in chapter 28 '*Assisting other Specialties*', advice on vascular surgical involvement in spinal surgery. After this jointly endorsed (BASS/SBNS/BSS/VS) society guidelines guidance and standards for spinal surgery have been produced. You download this guidance using this [link](#).

## **Burnout and resilience in United Kingdom vascular surgeons**

The Workforce committee findings from last year's members survey have been **published**. Responses from 133 vascular surgeons practicing in the UK were analysed; 93% worked full time; 75% were contracted above 10 PAs and 88% worked more than 40 hours per week. **Overall, 38.4% of responders had high burnout on the Copenhagen Burnout Inventory.** Resilience amongst responders was also high. Univariate regression analysis found no significant risk factor associated with high burnout or resilience.

This level of occupational burnout is a concern for the profession as burnout has been associated with medical errors and shortened careers. Please seek help if you are affected.



## TheBodyWalk 2022

September is Vascular Awareness Month, and the Circulation Foundation is again running **#TheBodyWalk** as a national campaign to heighten awareness of vascular disease and to raise money for vascular research.

We urge you to get involved in helping the CF to raise funds to support patients to live their best lives whilst having to cope with serious circulatory problems. There will again be a **team prize** for the most miles covered and new for this year a prize for the most money raised!

If you have any questions, please email us [info@circulationfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@circulationfoundation.org.uk)



## Vascular Society ASM 2022

The banner for the Vascular Societies' Annual Scientific Meeting 2022. It features logos for the Vascular Society, BACPAR, Society of Vascular Nurses (SVN), and the 10th Anniversary of the Society for Vascular Technology. The text reads: "The Vascular Societies' Annual Scientific Meeting 2022", "In conjunction with the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the British Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in limb Absence Rehabilitation, the Society of Vascular Nurses and the Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland.", and "23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 | Hilton Brighton Metropole".

The provisional ASM programme and a list of nearby accommodation are available to view on the **ASM website**. Registration is open with an early bird deadline of **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, so members are advised to register now to attend the meeting.

### *Introduction to Vascular Ultrasound Course*

There will be an introduction to vascular ultrasound course at the Hilton Brighton Metropole on the Tuesday prior to the ASM hosted jointly by the VS and SVT.

Places on this practical course are limited and the early bird price is available until **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October** so again, register soon if you would like to attend this course.