

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear All

Your Council met last week and discussed a range of exciting developments and made final preparations for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Manchester in December. Abstracts are selected, speakers confirmed, and venues are booked so it really now looks as if it will be a proper face-to-face meeting with a programme as jam-packed as I can ever remember.

However, I want to start on a less exciting topic – bullying in the workplace. Rouleaux has just completed a follow up survey of its members and the findings make uncomfortable reading. These will be presented at the ASM, but the headline summary is that the picture has deteriorated from the last survey in 2017. The survey data itself is not granular enough to unpick the experiences of ‘bullying/harassment/undermining’. Additionally, resolving these issues is challenging as the survey is anonymous and the findings do not align with the GMC survey where identification of hospitals is possible. The Workforce committee will be working on this, but my main message is that we all need to consider our behaviour and assess the consequences. We need to be more aware of how we behave and, if necessary, pick up on our colleagues if we feel their manner or behaviour is not appropriate.

This gives me a good opportunity to introduce the Workforce committee, established under the guidance of our immediate past President, Professor Chris Imray and soon to be chaired by Ciaran McDonnell – *the workforce committee of the Vascular Society was established in 2020 to address potential workforce issues that affect the Society and its members. Its remit includes workforce recruitment, retention and planning as well as ensuring inclusivity and wellbeing amongst our members both in the activities of the society as well as in their workplace. The committee also encompasses the professional standards committee. Equality, diversity and belonging are key themes that should be part of all behaviours and decision making. The Vascular Society is committed to ensuring that all of our members can participate in the activities of the society and in their work environment in an atmosphere of inclusivity, impartiality and security. If you wish to raise any workforce issues, please feel free to contact the Society via [admin@vascularsociety.org.uk](mailto:admin@vascularsociety.org.uk)*

On a happier note, our new journal – Journal of Vascular Surgery of Great Britain and Ireland (JVSGBI) is set to publish the inaugural edition in time for this year’s ASM. Professor Ian Chetter has provided the following update - *the JVSGBI “working group” has made fantastic progress over the last few months. We are aiming to deliver a quarterly, on line journal with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition planned for 01/12/21 to coincide with the ASMs. The aim of the JVSGBI is to facilitate the dissemination of research findings, educational material and important news / views to the vascular community. We have established the journal management structure with oversight by the Editor in Chief (VS Research Committee Chair). The process of establishing an editorial board with appropriate cross speciality / society representation is well underway, and we have recruited 150 reviewers. The editorial office and manuscript handling process is open ([editorialoffice@jvsqbi.com](mailto:editorialoffice@jvsqbi.com)), the Journal is ISSN and DOI registered, and we have written, designed and produced branded material (i.e. instructions for authors). Following a tendering process and ongoing engagement with industry, we will finalise the website and officially launch the JVSGBI by the end of September 2021.*

With the 2021 NVR report, POVS 2021 and a new journal all to be available for the Manchester meeting, it looks to be an exciting week and I am very much looking forward to seeing as many as possible of you there.



Michael Jenkins  
President VSGBI