

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Your Council met in Dublin at the beginning of February, at the invitation of our Irish representative Ciaran and the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. In this newsletter, I hope to update you on current issues and to bring to your attention items that were raised.

I would first like to draw your attention to an important **Medical Devices Alert**

Endologix has stopped selling the Nellix EVAS device and is recalling unused stock. MHRA recommends enhanced patient surveillance due to a high risk of graft failure beyond two years after implantation.

For the full MDA:

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/nellix-endovascular-aneurysm-sealing-evas-system-device-recall-and-enhanced-patient-surveillance>

Delivering the Vascular Curriculum

One area that we are particularly proud of is our success as a Society in delivering the ASPIRE Courses for our vascular trainees. These courses are matched to the curriculum and receive excellent feedback from our trainees. Just days before the council meeting, we delivered our first Aspire 8 Course to our trainees and the first trainee who has completed training on the new curriculum has been appointed to a Consultant post. Now we are planning ASPIRE 1/2 for the trainees starting on the IST pilot schemes this summer. It is planned that this course will run in parallel with the trainee day at BSET in 2020. The Council expresses their thanks to all those that have helped deliver the ASPIRE programme and our approved courses.

Dates for the forthcoming ASPIRE Courses are:

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|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| • Aspire 5 | 25-27 th April | Hull |
| • Aspire 4 | 18-21 st June | Cambridge |
| • Aspire 6 | 18-21 st June | Cambridge |
| • Aspire 3 | 27-29 th September | Wolverhampton |

Other courses your trainees may be interested:

1. **Amputation Course** - We have a few places remaining on the Amputation Course 4-5th March in Coventry. Trainees who are VS affiliates are entitled to a reduced course fee of £600. Do encourage your trainees to sign up.

2. **Extensile Vascular Exposures Course** 10th – 12th April. Coventry – [Click here for flyer](#)
3. **Introduction to Vascular Surgery** – A course for medical students, foundation doctors and Core trainees. This course is a joint initiative between the VS and the Rouleaux club and is held at Olympia during the Charing Cross meeting – [Click here for flyer](#)

Faculty and Course Directors wanted

We are always looking for new faculty. If you are interested in teaching on any of the ASPIRE Courses, please contact Keith Jones – Chair of the Education committee. We are also seeking expressions of interest to deliver the ASPIRE 5 Course from 2020. If you wish to discuss the logistics of delivering this course, please contact Ian Chetter, the current ASPIRE 5 course director.

Bullying and Harassment

The report from the Bullying and Harassment Working group can now be found on the VS website. We have written to the Directors of Medical Education and Training Programme Directors highlighting our concerns. The working group has recommended 2 action points:

1. All surgeons involved in surgical education undertake the e-module on Bullying, Harassment and Undermining available from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh website (<https://www.rcsed.ac.uk>) as part of their medical and educational appraisal.
2. Local departmental/deanery induction material is created to include the definitions of Bullying, Harassment and Undermining and the different ways this can be raised if encountered. This should also include the details of the trusts Freedom to speak up Guardian.

Audit and QI Committee report– Chairman: Jon Boyle

The Audit and QI Committee remains busy with a number of on going projects. Work on the Lower Limb Ischaemia Quality Improvement Frame work (PAD-QIF) is nearing completion. Stakeholder engagement has been excellent and the final version of the framework should be complete by the end of February 2019.

We have worked closely with the QI team at the RCS England and are hopeful of their support in the dissemination of the QIF, identifying pilot sites and sharing good practice. There is no doubt that the GIRFT report identified significant delays for many patients

presenting with critical limb ischaemia in terms of both investigations and revascularisation and the QIF will address these issues.

The deadline for completion of NVR records for patients treated in 2018 for AAAs and CEAs has been brought forward to March 15th 2019. This is because of the increasing time HQIP and NHSE require to check and comment on audit reports. We believe it is vital that the Annual Report is available at the ASM, and these timelines should allow for this.

The Committee continues to work closely with industry and Northgate to further develop our data sets to include device data within the registry. This will go hand in hand with data collection on longer-term outcomes in particular on re-interventions and revision procedures. It is hoped that we can pilot this in 2019.

We would like to thank Mr Denis Harkin and Mr Mike Clarke for their hard work and contributions to the committee over the last three years and welcome the new members, Mr Arun Pherwani, Ms Sue Ward and Ms Lucy Wales who have joined us.

Vascular Representation on College Council.

Currently Cliff Shearman is our representative on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. However, any member of our Society can stand for election. This year, Rob Sayers, former President of the Society, is standing in the forthcoming elections. Council is pleased to offer their support for his candidacy and asks you to consider supporting him. [Please click here to see attached his supporting statement.](#)

ACCEA

A reminder to you all that if you wish the Vascular Society to support your ACCEA application, this needs to be in by 5pm Friday 1st March.

Varicose veins and venous leg ulcers.

Currently 93% of CCG's are non-compliant with the NICE guidelines for Varicose veins. However, Professor Alun Davies has been working hard to rectify this. He recently met with Professor Steven Powis, Medical Director NHS England. It is good to hear that Professor Powis is fully signed up to the NICE guidance and he is encouraging CCG's to implement these. Hopefully he can be persuaded to come and talk to us at the ASM in November.

Charing Cross Symposium 15-18th April

As members of the Vascular Society, the CX board are offering you a £100 discount on your entry ticket to this meeting. The CX board are also keen to encourage trainees and entry to the 4 day meeting is just £197.50.

You are also entitled to free subscription to Vascular News and Venous News. If you don't already receive this, you can subscribe at : <https://bibapublishing.com/subscriptions/>



Our new secretariat Executive Business Support (EBS)

If you have contacted the office, you may have noticed a change, after an open tender exercise, we have moved from Fitwise to EBS. The move has been remarkably smooth so far. As part of the change, we will be reviewing how we communicate with you and keep you abreast of important news and developments. So watch this space.