

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the SARS newsletter which contains information on forthcoming SARS meetings and collaborations. Please note to assist you and your trainees attend SARS 2008, we have reduced the delegate fees. Please circulate this amongst your colleagues/junior staff and encourage them to both join SARS and attend the 2008 meeting. Remember, membership is free for all Basic Surgical Trainees and Year 1 and 2 Higher Surgical trainees. Copies are also available on www.surgicalresearch.org.uk.

SARS Cambridge, January 2007

The Society is extremely grateful to the efforts of local organiser, Professor A Bradley, who assured the success of the meeting. Feedback received included 'best for sometime' and 'highlight of my presidency'. Speakers included Professor Edward Whang, Harvard and Professor Thomas Lennard, Newcastle upon Tyne. See the SARS website for more details.

The Patey Prize was awarded to Bijan Modarai, Academic Surgery, St Thomas' Campus, King's College, London, for his presentation: *Adenovirus-mediated VEGF gene therapy enhances venous thrombus recanalisation and resolution.*

The President's Prize was awarded to Joe Dawson, Cardiovascular Sciences St George's, University of London, for his poster: *Secretion of interleukin-6 into the circulation by aortic aneurysms is influenced by aneurysm surface area and subsequent repair.*

Surgical Academic Bursaries of £3,000 were awarded to the following:

- Edward Choke - *Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) enhancement of angiotensin-II induced aneurysms in apolipoprotein-E deficient mice: Molecular mechanisms and immunohistochemical analysis.*
- Rajaran Ramoorthy - *Laparoscopic vs. Open Surgery for Colorectal Cancer: Impact on Circulating Cancer Cells.*
- Richard Brady - *Investigation of the role of C-SRC in the NF-Kappa-B –Mediated anti-tumour effects of Aspirin.*
- Sanjay Patel - *The role of vascular progenitor cells in restenosis following arterial injury.*

Council changes from 13 Jan 2007

Professor Kevin Burnand took over as President, Mr Dion Morton as Member-at-Large and Dr Marilena Loizidou as Non Clinical Scientist. Furthermore, at the April Council meeting, Professor Norman Williams was elected as President Elect to take over as President in 2009.

Mr IC Chetter, Dr PE Watkins and Mr PD Carey all demitted office and The Society thanks each of them for all their contributions. For more information see <http://www.surgicalresearch.org.uk/councilmembers.htm>

ASiT / SARS Collaboration

The relationship between the Association of Surgeons in Training and SARS continues to grow, to the benefit of both societies. At a difficult time for surgical training and academic surgery, it is important that both groups continue to provide mutual support.

Despite fears to the contrary, surgical research looks set to remain important during the years of postgraduate training, and will remain accessible to both trainees on dedicated academic programmes and those training in conventional clinical appointments. Plans are currently underway to pilot a [research network](#), which will allow trainees to collaborate in multi-centre clinical trials and provide an easy point of access for support from senior SARS members. It is hoped that such a programme can be rolled out nationally in due course and provide a useful point of contact for trainees wishing to include high quality research in their training.

ASiT Meeting, Belfast 2007

The over-riding theme was 'looking to the future' for training issues and surgical practice. Speakers included the Presidents of all four surgical colleges and Mr Ribeiro answered open questions on his role in the MMC review process. Mr Andrew Lansley, the shadow health secretary, gave a politician's take on the current problems faced by trainees and responded to questions from the floor (Mrs Patricia Hewitt declined her invitation).

A pre-conference course on trauma skills was run in conjunction with Professor Ken Boffard from Johannesburg. The feedback was so good that in 2008 we plan to increase the number of courses to include intermediate laparoscopic skills and research methods. Potential candidates are advised to book early, as places are likely to be over-subscribed.

The **ASiT/SARS prize** was awarded to Richard Brady, for his presentation '*SRC Activity and NF-KAPPA B Dependent Anti-tumour Effects of Aspirin in Colorectal Cancer*'.

SARS Meeting, 9-11 January 2008

We are very happy to say local organiser Mr R Vohra has secured the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Professor Carlson has put together another excellent programme including, BJS lecture 'Enhancing recovery after surgery, an evidence-based approach', Professor Henrik Kehlet, Copenhagen and the John Farndon memorial lecture 'Surgery of the endocrine pancreas', Professor Robin Williamson, Hammersmith Hospital.

The symposia are 1. 'Protecting organ function in the critically ill surgical patient.' 2. 'Cell signalling, from basic science to clinical concept.' 3. ASiT Symposium, 'The "Walport" scheme two years on, has academic surgery been revitalized?' and a debate on the importance of research training between Professor K Burnand and Mr K Ballantyne. 4. Breakfast symposium, 'SARS will safeguard surgery in Great Britain & Ireland'.

The Patey Prize will be competitive with only the best 16 papers selected for presentation. Selected poster authors will have the opportunity to present their work orally in 5 free poster presentation sessions, and to compete for the coveted President's Poster Prize. The rest will be e-posters, a new introduction to the meeting, and will be shown on LCD players.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts are now being accepted for the SARS 08 Meeting. We are utilising the services of Surginet and all submissions must be made electronically at <http://www.surginet.org.uk/abstracts/>. The deadline for submission is midnight 30 September 2007. Full details will be posted on the SARS website www.surgicalresearch.org.uk.

Registration Details

Registration will be on line precise details will be posted on www.surgicalresearch.org.uk as soon as confirmed or can be obtained by calling the SARS office 0207 869 6640.

- Consultants - £250 for members and £300 for non members
- Trainees - £150 for members and £200 for non members
- £50 for late registration

SARS/ASiT Symposium, 7-9th March 2008, Birmingham University

The call for abstracts begins 1st October 2007 and the deadline is 21 December 2007. More details will be posted on SARS website www.surgicalresearch.org.uk and on the ASiT website <http://www.asit.org>.

Dates for Your Diary

30 Sept 2007	SARS 2008 Abstract Deadline
01 Oct 2007	ASiT 2008 call for abstracts
21 Dec 2007	ASiT 2008 Abstract Deadline
9-11 Jan 2008	SARS 2008 Birmingham Botanical Gardens
7-9 Mar 2008	ASiT 2008 Birmingham University
2009 Bristol, 2010 London, 2011 Dublin	Future SARS meetings