

Welcome

Welcome to the December newsletter from SARS, which aims to provide updated information about the Society to its members. Please feel free to circulate this to your colleagues who may not be members but have an interest in the aims and activities of the Society.

Website

The SARS website has undergone a radical change in recent months, and our thanks to Sophie Mitchell for her considerable expertise in progressing the changes. The website address remains:

www.surgicalresearch.org.uk, but we hope that the site is now able to provide much more in the way of relevant updated information. If you have suggestions for additions to the website e.g. relevant links, please send these to the Secretariat at sars@rcseng.ac.uk.

Communication with Members

The era of electronic communication is with us! And do we have your correct and updated email address? It is our intention to provide members wherever possible, with mailing by email, but to do so we need to have correct addresses. If you have not provided your email address, or if it has changed recently, please provide the current details to the Secretariat at: sars@rcseng.ac.uk.

SARS Research Fellowships

Joint SARS/RCSEng Research Fellowships:

- Mr John Conti, Division of Cancer at the Southampton General Hospital for a project entitled: 'Do hepatic stellate cells regulate the growth of colorectal cancer metastases', and Mr Antony Goldstone, Department of General Surgery at Addenbrookes Hospital, for a project entitled: 'Improved diagnosis of colorectal cancer by analysis of cell cycle state and phase'.

Joint SARS/RCSI Research Fellowships:

- Mr Jonathan McGuinness, Department of Surgery, RCSI, for a project entitled 'Omega 3 fatty acids reduce infarct size in the open chest model of cardiac ischaemia reperfusion injury.'
- Mr James Oliver Murphy, TCD Department of Surgery, for a project entitled 'Studies of chemoprevention of oesophageal adenocarcinoma by vitamin C in a rat model'.

These awards represent a significant investment by both parties and we look forward to hearing of the outcome from the research fellowships, and of the career progression of those appointed to these posts.

Belfast Meeting, January 14-16 2004.

After much planning by Declan Carey and his team, followed by an excellent response to the call for abstracts, the programme for this meeting has now been finalised. The meeting promises to be an exciting and informative three days covering a range of aspects of surgical research training and practice. There will be 2 Patey Prize sessions along with 5 free paper sessions. The latter have been developed under themes that include 'vascular biology', 'cellular oncology and 'novel technologies'. In addition there will be approximately 70 posters with the top ten posters being orally presented in the afternoon of the Thursday.

A feature of the meeting is several lectures by internationally recognised experts. The Society is honoured to welcome Professor Ed Deitch from New Jersey who will deliver the British Journal of Surgery Lecture, and Professor Irving Taylor who is the John Farndon Lecturer for 2004. Professor Deitch will also be contributing to the President's symposium that reflects the major research interest

of the Society's President and will consider 'New Insights into Surgical Sepsis' provided by a range of internationally recognised experts.

The possible changes to surgical education that may follow the creation of the PMETB will be considered in a session in which the Society is pleased to welcome both Professor Sir Peter Morris from the Royal College of Surgeons of England as well as Professor Clive Morton, the Chairman of PMETB.

Full details of the meeting along with details of registration and a downloadable programme are available at the SARS website: www.surgicalresearch.org.uk/belfast2004.htm.

ASGBI Meeting - Harrogate April 2004

The ASGBI will be holding their annual meeting at Harrogate (28-30 April). It is proposed that the authors of the best 6 papers presented at the Patey Prize session in Belfast will be invited to present an updated version of their paper in the SARS session at the Harrogate meeting.

Surgery in the Undergraduate Curriculum

The Education and Professional Development Committee, under the Chairmanship of Professor Irving Taylor, have recently produced a document entitled 'Surgery in the Undergraduate Curriculum'. This succinct, but far-reaching document makes clear recommendations about this area of surgical education, which will impact on all surgical academics. A copy has been sent to all Deans of medical schools in the UK and Professors of Surgery. If you would like a copy, please email sars@rcseng.ac.uk or alternatively download it from www.surgicalresearch.org.uk.

Elections to Council

In 2004 the terms of office of two members of council comes to an end. As such there will be a need for the Society to hold elections in 2004 (most probably towards the end of the year). Please give some thought to these elections and if you are interested in wishing to know more about the roles of council members, please feel free to contact either the President or Honorary Secretary. Council members are elected for a 3 year term of office.

Travelling Fellowship

There is still time to apply for the 2003 SARS Travelling Fellowship. The award will be up to a maximum value of £3,000. Applicants must be members of the SARS and be under 35 years at the time of application. Priority will be given to proposals, which will enable the individual to learn new research techniques or undertake a specific research project.

Applications, which should be accompanied by curriculum vitae, giving full details of the activities to be undertaken during the fellowship with approximate costing of travel and subsistence. The successful applicant will be asked to present a report to the Society on their return from the research project. Applications should be sent by **31 December 2003** to the Honorary Secretary at the SARS Secretariat.

And Finally

To thank all members for their contribution to the Society during 2003 and hope that in 2004 the Society will continue to make significant contributions to the field of surgical training, research and education.

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