

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2005, which follows a successful annual meeting of the Society, held in Newcastle. The newsletter remains an important route for communication with members of the Society, and is archived on the website www.surgicalresearch.org.uk. Please feel free to circulate the newsletter to colleagues who may not be members of the Society.

SARS Annual Meeting - Celebrating 50 years of SRS / SARS

12 – 14 January 2005, Newcastle

The annual meeting was held in Newcastle and our sincere thanks to the local organiser Mike Wyatt for all his hard work that made it such a success. The newly opened Hilton Hotel at Gateshead, with panoramic views of the City of Newcastle and the River Tyne, was the impressive and comfortable venue. This year's meeting had as its theme '50 years of SRS/SARS' and there was an outstanding programme with a mixture of peer-reviewed papers and posters, plenary sessions and debates.

The meeting was truly international with invited speakers including:

- Professor James Fawcett, University of Queensland, Australia, who gave the BJS lecture on the subject of cell adhesion
- Professor James Shapiro, University of Edmonton, Canada, who delivered the John Farndon Memorial Lecture on the subject of clinical islet transplantation
- Professor Michael Menger, Hamburg, who gave a keynote talk on microcirculatory dysfunction in ischaemia-reperfusion.

It was a great pleasure to have guests at the meeting from our 'sister' societies, namely the SUS, ESSR and the South African Society for Surgical Research.

In recognising two of the major areas of progress in medicine over the last 50 years, plenary sessions were dedicated to 'Advances in Transplantation' and 'Genetics of Gastrointestinal Diseases'. At both, internationally recognised experts delivered the results of recent research in these areas as well as making predictions for future developments.

The **Patey Prize** was awarded to:

E Myers, ADK Hill, EW McDermott, NJ O'Higgins and LS Young from The Department of Surgery, St Vincent's Hospital and The Conway Institute, University College Dublin for the paper entitled: ***A predictive role for ETS-2 and SRC-1 in endocrine resistant breast cancer.***

The **President's Poster Prize** for the best poster presentation was awarded to:

CD Vimalachandran, CC Thompson, AR Shekouh, A Dodson, W Prime, F Campbell, JP Neoptolemos and E Costello from the Division of Surgery and Oncology, University of Liverpool and The Department of Pathology, Royal Liverpool Hospital, for the poster entitled: ***identification of novel proteins in the pancreatic cancer microenvironment.***

Future Meetings

SARS/ASGBI April 2005

SARS will be contributing to the ASGBI Annual Meeting to be held in Glasgow (13-15th April 2005) as follows:

- Wednesday 13th April 2005 - SARS Education Symposium: 'Surgical research is integral to modern surgical training'
- Wednesday 13th April 2005 - Six of the Best Papers (as presented at the SARS Annual Meeting in Newcastle January 2005)
- Friday 15th April 2005 - SARS Research Symposium: 'Preoperative optimisation of the surgical patient - scientific basis for best practice'

Please come along and show your support for SARS by taking part in these excellent sessions with internationally recognised speakers.

SARS Edinburgh 11-13 January 2006

The SARS Annual Meeting 2006 will be held in Edinburgh on 11-13 January. The local organiser is Mr Steve Wigmore (recently elected to SARS Council). The venue for the meeting is to be the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and 2006 represents the quincentenary celebration for the College.

Continued overleaf



SARS Cambridge 2007 and Birmingham 2008

SARS is very pleased to accept the invitations by Professor Andrew Bradley and Mr Rajin Vohra to host the Annual Meetings in Cambridge in 2007 and in Birmingham in 2008 respectively. Provisional dates for Cambridge are 10-12 January 2007. Birmingham dates will be set in the near future.

SARS Council

At the AGM in January, there were several changes to Council. Professor Irving Taylor assumed the Presidency of the Society, and in doing so thanked Professor Brian Rowlands for all the hard work and enthusiasm that he had contributed to the Society. Professor Rowlands will remain on Council as past-President for one year, but already has a busy time ahead for himself. His recent election as Vice President (elect) of the ASGBI will ensure that he continues to contribute to the issues and problems surrounding surgery, surgical training and research.

Four new members were elected to Council in September 2004, and they are:

- Mr Daryll Baker, Consultant Vascular and General Surgeon, Royal Free Hospital
- Mr Gordon Carlson, Consultant Surgeon, Injury Research Group, Hope Hospital, Manchester
- Professor Matt Thompson, Professor of Vascular Surgery, St George's Hospital, London
- Mr Steve Wigmore, Senior Lecturer in Surgery, School of Clinical Sciences, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

The Society thanks those Council members who have demitted office, Mr Peter McCulloch and Professor Paul Redmond for their contributions to the Society.

To read more about the new Council members, visit <http://www.surgicalresearch.org.uk/councilmembers.htm>.

Modernising Medical Careers

The ASGBI has recently produced a consensus statement on 'Modernising Medical Careers and General Surgery'. This was discussed in some detail by Council in January and it was felt that there was need for the Society to address several of the issues raised, especially those relating to the importance of research training within the surgical curriculum. Professor Matt Thompson will be coordinating the Society's response to this.

Annual SARS Subscription

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Newcastle, it was agreed to raise the annual subscription rate from £50 to £60. This is required to keep pace with inflation and to maintain a healthy financial baseline for your Society. These changes are with immediate effect. 2005 subscriptions are due on or after 21st February and letters will be sent out prior to this date.

Thoughts for the future - Brian J Rowlands

The success of our meetings in Belfast and Newcastle and the high standard of the scientific and educational programmes suggest that SARS is in good health. Beware complacency and ensure that future meetings in Edinburgh, Cambridge and Birmingham maintain the standards we have set for ourselves. We must encourage greater numbers to attend our Annual Meetings, not only trainees who represent the future of academic surgery, but established surgeons who benefited from the 'cut and thrust' of SRS meetings. They must provide surgical role models and ensure that the pressures created by shorter training, EWTD, increasing specialisation and curriculum review do not undermine our ability to produce the next generation of academic surgeons. We have recently been in discussion with the ASGBI to set up a consensus conference later this year on the future of academic surgery. We seek to clearly define the career pathways and professional aspirations of both 'university' and 'academic' surgeons in an effort to ensure that research, education and clinical innovation are central to the art and science of surgical practice. SARS has an important role to play in influencing the surgical agenda and we must liaise with all stakeholders to secure the future of academic surgery.

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