

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the July newsletter which covers important aspects including details of the forthcoming SARS Annual Meeting, SARS Council elections and an overview of some of the links that have been made between SARS and other Societies, both nationally and internationally.

SARS Annual Meeting, 12 – 14 January 2005, Newcastle

Plans for this meeting are well under way and the SARS Programme Committee has put together a stimulating programme with both national and international keynote speakers; Professors Roger Pedersen and Andrew Bradley (Cambridge), Professors John Burn and John Dark (Newcastle), Professor John Neoptolemos (Liverpool) and Professor Malcolm Dunlop (Edinburgh). International speakers include Professor Jonathan Fawcett (Brisbane, Australia) and Professor James Shapiro (Edmonton, Canada). In recognition of the meeting representing the 50 year anniversary of the Surgical Research Society (the forerunner to SARS), the programme will concentrate on two key themes relating to areas where significant advances in scientific and medical knowledge have been made over the last 50 years; transplantation and medical and molecular genetics.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts are now being invited for the SARS Annual Meeting in Newcastle. Further details can be found on the enclosed flyer which you may also wish to display on a suitable notice board in your hospital or university. **The closing date is Midnight 30 September 2004.**

SARS Annual Meeting, 11 – 13 January 2006, Edinburgh

In January 2006, the SARS Annual Meeting will be held in Edinburgh. 2006 represents the quincentenary of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and it is hoped that the SARS meeting will involve the facilities and expertise of the College. More details will follow in due course, but please be aware of the website detailing the quincentenary of the College: www.rcsed.ac.uk

Project Planning International (PPI)

At the Belfast meeting, PPI undertook much of the organisation of the meeting, and gave an excellent service, helping to raise the level of efficiency at the meeting. Following from this, the Society have contracted PPI to provide organisational, logistical and registration support for their annual meetings over the next 3 years.

Elections to SARS Council

Three members of Council demit office at the AGM in January 2005. The Society is seeking nominations for new Council members to serve for 3 years (2005-2008). **Please see the enclosed flyer for further details.** All members will be given the opportunity to vote by postal ballot at the end of September. Results of elections will be announced following the Council meeting at the end of October. Successful candidates will take up their position at the Annual Meeting in Newcastle in January 2005. The Honorary Secretary must receive all nominations by **17 September 2004.**

SARS – National and International Liaisons

National

SARS have been invited to organise a session at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland. This will be held in Harrogate, 24-26 November 2004. More details are available at the VSGBI website: www.vascularsociety.org.uk. Please note closing date for submission of abstracts is **6 August 2004.**

International – Professor Brian Rowlands

SARS has an excellent liaison with a number of other societies dedicated to the promotion of research and academic endeavours. Our sister societies, the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) in the USA/Canada and the European Society of Surgical Research, exchange information with us on a regular basis about meetings and other activities. In the past, a Tripartite meeting every three years has provided a forum for academic interchange across a spectrum of research and educational topics.



International – Professor Brian Rowlands (continued)

Reciprocal invitations are extended to the officers of these societies to attend Annual Meetings. Recently I had the pleasure of representing SARS at the SUS Meeting in St. Louis in February and ESSR in Athens in May. Both meetings had high quality scientific programmes and Mark Duxbury's Patey Prize presentation was featured at each ensuring that the best SARS science gets widespread international exposure. Your council and the leaders of our sister societies want to encourage greater liaison and exchange of information. To this end, we will be inviting submissions from SUS and ESSR for our meeting in January 2005 in Newcastle, to be selected on a competitive basis alongside our own abstracts. These arrangements will be reciprocated for SUS Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in February 2005 and ESSR in Konya, Turkey in May 2005 – information about the latter enclosed with this mailing. More information about our sister societies and their activities is available through the links to SUS and ESSR on the SARS website.

In addition, Mike Wyatt extended our international contacts by attending recently the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa Meeting (SRSSA) that took place at the Eskom Convention Centre, Pretoria, SA in May 2004. The Honorary Secretary, was invited as the Ethicon SARS Visitor. The programme was a mixture of both clinical and scientific papers delivered from all regions of Southern Africa. There is clearly a high incident of HIV infection in this region and many of the papers reflected the problems associated with this. SARS would like to thank Professor Barry Jacobson for the invite and we will look forward to welcoming him to our Annual Meeting in Newcastle in January 2005.

We shall be exploring further contacts with them and other similar societies in the Far East and Australasia. Preliminary discussions are in hand to replace the Tripartite Meeting with an international meeting of all surgical academic and research societies every 4 years – 'The Academic Surgery Olympics'. We will keep you informed about developments. We would also be interested to hear your views on external liaisons and the value of developing and maintaining international contacts.

Travelling Fellowship

SARS have recently awarded the 2003 Travelling Fellowship to Mr Damian Mole of Queen's University Belfast for his project entitled 'Pro-inflammatory properties of mesenteric lymph in severe acute pancreatitis'. Mr Mole will be travelling to New Jersey to carry out his project at the laboratory of Professor Edwin Deitch in Newark, New Jersey, USA. Applications are now being invited for the 2004 Travelling Fellowship and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary by **31 December 2004**. For further details please visit <http://www.surgicalresearch.org.uk/travelling.htm>.

SARS/RCS Surgical Research Fellowship

Mr John Conti, University of Southampton, was awarded the Joint SARS/RCS Surgical Research Fellowship in May 2003. This was initially for 1 year but has now been extended for a further year due the other recipient of this award declining it. Working in the Divisions of Cancer Science and of Infection, Inflammation and Repair, he has been studying the desmoplastic reaction in response to colorectal carcinoma that have metastasised to the liver. The research programme has been most successful and was presented by Mr Conti at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in 2004. He also received the best paper prize at the very prestigious Medical Research Society meeting. Mr Conti will be presenting his work at the SARS Annual Meeting in Newcastle.

Clinical Excellence Awards

Any member who wishes to seek the support of the Society in applying for a clinical excellence award is asked to write to the President of the Society before October 2004.

And finally....

Congratulations to Professor Norman Williams, on his election as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and also to Professor Cliff Shearman and Professor John Baxter to their appointment to the SAC in General Surgery (and in doing so joining four other members of SARS: Professors John Primrose, John Monson and Andrew Bradley and David Leaper).

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