

Dear Colleague

This newsletter follows on from the recent away-day and to update those that were not present at the AGM.

The society continues to move forward due to the hard work of an active board supported by our hard working secretariat. The key elements of development and change that I wish to make all aware of are outlined below.

Change in constitution

These were ratified by the membership:

- The current vice-chair will take over as chair at the November AGM. I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Jonathan and I feel he will make an excellent chair. In future the vice-chair is elected and serves for 2 years and then automatically takes over as chair for 2 years.
- The post of president will cease to exist after Professor Stanton stands down. Stuart has been an excellent president giving the board the wisdom of his experience and we are all very grateful for the input that he gives to the society.
- A member needs to have served as chair of a committee for one year or vice chair for 2 years to be eligible to stand for one of the executive positions.

Positions due for election

The following posts are due for election this year:

- Vice-chairman
- Treasurer
- Database Chairman
- Associate representative.

Phil is standing down as treasurer having worked extremely hard for the society and enabling us to have a firm financial footing whilst investing in projects for the society. He has been a great support to me as chair.

The database committee is a new committee that is no longer absorbed into the executive roles. Phil has been leading this and has further developed the capabilities and use of the BSUG database. We are now required to have an election for a new chair. As this is a new post, previous membership of the committee is not a requirement; however active use of the database with a minimum of 100 cases in the last 2 years is.

Patrick has been appointed a consultant and hence has stood down as associate representative. He has strongly supported the juniors and we are all very grateful for his hard work and enthusiasm.

Please consider these positions as enthusiastic leaders helps the society move forward.

In addition, we need committee members for the various groups when these are identified. Please do apply but remember membership is limited to one group only.

Membership

You have recently received an email regards membership fees. The different categories are laid out. Please do read the email sent from Stella regards payment and methods. The less time spent sorting out queries the less money is spent on unnecessary administration and the less that membership fees need to rise in the future.

We would encourage members to elect to join as international members as linkage and integration with IUGA and EUGA is important for the society. We have been given preferential rates by these societies and it would be a shame not to take advantage of this.

Scientific Meetings

The annual scientific meeting will take place on 2nd and 3rd of November 2017. The afternoon of Wednesday 1st November there is to be a joint meeting with the Israeli Urogynaecology Society. This has been organised through the hard work of Professor Stanton. Exchange of ideas with colleagues from abroad is invaluable and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this half day as well as the main meeting.

For all meetings over the year please view via the website. Strong attendance and interaction at the BSUG meetings is one of the great strengths of the society.

Grants

We have some excess funds that we wish to use to support the membership. The last questionnaires sent out had too few responses to have any meaning. Possible areas of spending were discussed at the away-day and we felt that members should be able to apply for funds which could be for travel to a meeting, travel to visit a unit, pump prime a research project or buy a piece of equipment for urogynaecology. We will be developing a competitive process and sending this out to members before the next AGM.

NICE guidance

Nice has established a committee to review and further develop its guidance on urinary incontinence. The next version will also include prolapse. We are delighted that 2 members of BSUG are expert members of the committee (Rohna Kearney and Karen Ward). Jason Cooper and myself represented BSUG at the scoping consultation and we will keep the membership informed of progress and ask for input when public consultation happens in the future.

Specialist Commissioning

This is progressing but no concrete developments yet. I represent BSUG on this leaner committee and Fiona Reid represents her region. We are endeavouring to develop a process that supports specialisation but does not reduce the level of support for primary or secondary care. Fistula is being developed together with colleagues from BAUS and will come under highly specialised commissioning.

Honouring esteemed colleagues

The committee felt that although this is something that we would like to do, that it is fraught with difficulty. We may honour some and insult others who are less high profile yet have contributed strongly to the field of urogynaecology and BSUG. Overall we felt that every member contributes in their own way and to have a system of identification could be negative. Jason Cooper is going to develop a survey monkey to ascertain members' views.

Urogynaecology posts and meetings advertisements

We receive many requests and it was felt that the website is the place to advertise these and not by emailing the membership. However, we all felt that this should be restricted to BSUG members.

Meetings able to be advertised are those sponsored by BSUG or the College. It was agreed to advertise on the website NHS posts in the UK for a urogynaecology trainee, consultant, sub-specialty post or research post.

Mesh

The website identifies those units that comply with the set criteria. It is not an endorsement of competence. The NHS England leaflets for tapes and vaginal mesh will be available on the website. These should be used in addition to any local leaflets that a unit wishes to give to patients.

IUGA meeting

Phil and Dudley put forward an excellent bid for the 2020 meeting but unfortunately were not successful. We are considering putting together another bid for 2022. If anyone is interested, please let me know. We will then have a vote so that BSUG only puts forward one bid from the UK. Hopefully fourth time lucky!

ACCEA

This is underway and should you wish BSUG to offer support, please respond to the email sent by Amanda. The committee will judge all applications via a committee and offer support on a competitive basis.

These are the key areas I wished to highlight. I hope you will all join me in thanking all the committees, chairs, executives and secretariat for their hard work. I look forward to catching up at the ASM if not before.

Alfred