



Chair's Report

13 September 2013

It is a huge pleasure to give this, my second annual Chair's report. This has been another exciting year for BAS. I must begin by congratulating our Secretary, Dr Jackson Kirkman-Brown, for his award of MBE in the New Year's Honours for services to reproductive medical science. Through Jackson's pioneering work in the management of scrotal injury, he has given hope of fatherhood to servicemen who have suffered blast injuries as a result of war. This is a tremendous and much deserved honour for Jackson's work with honour and although BAS may have been part of 'the good' in the past we are proud to be a now have a committee of 'the great and the good'. Well done Jackson.

Secondly, I would like to thank the whole committee committing to our joint vision only attainable with their sustained hard work throughout the past year. Our vision has been:

- i) To make BAS the society that regulatory bodies and the public recognise as the Society that is the authority on all aspects of male reproduction
- ii) To take an active part in training of clinical andrologists
- iii) To maintain an active andrological presence online, Facebook and Twitter
- iv) To develop a platform whereby we can access research funding for Andrology

Each member of the committee has taken on a specific role to help BAS attain these goals.

- i) To make BAS the society that regulatory bodies and the public recognise as the Society that is the authority on all aspects of male reproduction.**

Over the past year we have made representations to both HFEA and NICE. Following our contributions to the review of the HFEA and HTA reforms, Jackson met on behalf of BAS with Justin McCracken, the author of the independent report to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and the Minister for the Cabinet Office. We are in broad agreement with the ensuing report.

In 2012, we have made submissions to NICE with regard to their recommendations for clinical andrology in UK Fertility Clinics. Again, some of these have been incorporated in the 2013 NICE Guidelines. Jackson and I have been invited to speak for the Science Media Centre where we are called upon to (in the words of their mission) to provide, for the benefit of the public and policymakers, accurate and evidence-based information about science and engineering through the media, particularly on controversial and headline news stories when most confusion and misinformation occurs.

We would like to thank Bill for continuing to represent BAS on the Society of Biology which influences funding, training, public awareness and animal research issues in particular that apply to many of our Societies members.

Iwan Lewis- Jones has been our representative on British Fertility Society, National

Gamete Donation Trust and UK NEQAS for many years. Sadly, Iwan has decided to retire and we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for his knowledgeable contributions and inimitable style.

ii) To take an active part in training of clinical andrologists

This year's BAS meeting here in Liverpool has been another great success. Our thanks go to our clinical BAS team Iwan; Lewis Jones and Nabil Aziz. We have had wide ranging sessions to interest our whole membership. The discussions have shown the interest the audience has had in each of the topics. As well as the scientific conference on Friday, Iwan and Nabil ran a clinical Andrology study day in Liverpool Women's hospital including male history taking, how to conduct a physical examination, and discussions of case histories pertaining to the day to day experiences of Andrology clinicians. We have also contributed lectures to the first annual British Fertility Society study day on male fertility.

iii) To maintain an active andrological presence online, Facebook and Twitter

We have many links to papers and conferences on our BAS webpage and have input through Facebook and BAS Messenger on Twitter. We are also currently redesigning our webpage.

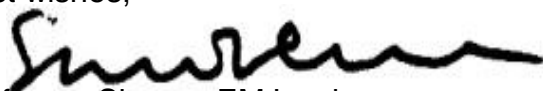
iv) To develop a platform whereby we can access research funding on behalf of BAS

Roy Jones has taken on this role and is pursuing leads with Association of Medical Research Charities.

May we also thank David Miller in his role as Treasurer for continuing the battle with NatWest to access our own finances. As we are now a charity, our annual accounts have become more formal and onerous with submissions to Companies House so we are grateful to David for providing the time and tenacity that these tasks have involved.

For a prolonged number of years the Society had financial difficulties due to our small membership and our annual conferences running at a loss. We are now firmly in profit. This is for two reasons. Last year's conference hosted by Martin Brinkworth in Bradford was the fourth consecutive conference that has been profitable. I wish to congratulate Martin for this; no mean feat in today's economic climate. Again I believe the key to success was designing a programme that attracted both clinicians and scientists, interested in Andrology. Our second source of revenue has been through the efforts of Jackson Kirkman-Brown. For the second time, Jackson ran an international semen analysis course in the UK, on behalf of BAS. The course aimed at laboratories outside the Nordic countries in the UK complied with the new revision of the ESHRE syllabus for basic semen assessment courses related to the 5th edition of the WHO manual. It was hosted and organised by Jackson, in conjunction with ESHRE and NAFA and held in Birmingham.

Best wishes,



Professor Sheena EM Lewis
Chair of The British Andrology Society