

Chair's Report at Annual General Meeting 4 June 2018

Medical Society, Cavendish Square, London

It is my pleasure to give this, my seventh annual Chair's report. I must begin by thanking the whole committee for their support throughout the past year. Special thanks are due to our new secretary; Lorraine and our stalwart treasurer David. Thanks also to Sarah our administrator, for working closely with Lorraine on the web as well as taking care of our subscriptions and the organization of this meeting.

Thanks for Bill and Jacqui who organised this, another historic venue. I am glad it is not as warm as last year's venue in the Linnean Society rooms.

The Medical Society is a very appropriate venue for our meeting this year since 2018 has been a major milestone for clinical andrology. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 'miraculous' birth of Louise Brown on 25 July 1978.

This event co-insides with the news that IVF has now delivered 6 million babies globally and if you are interested the Science Museum in South Kensington has a special celebratory exhibition from July to November: *IVF: 6 Million Babies Later* explores the ten years of testing, hundreds of failed attempts and many setbacks faced by Robert Edwards, Patrick Steptoe and Jean Purdy, in their quest to treat infertility and achieve the first successful IVF birth.

This does my heart good to see how, in this one small area of research, Science has transformed Society clinically, morally, ethically and legally.

However, in 1971 when Steptoe and Edwards presented their work in similar society rooms to these in the Royal Medical Society in Wimpole St, it was a rather different scenario. They were condemned from every quarter.

The medical fraternity criticised the procedure of laparoscopy (another technique now advantageous in so many surgical procedures), the MRC rejected their application as dangerous; even though 3000 procedures had been performed with

no adverse effects and James Watson (of Double helix fame) denounced their research as suspect.

From a moral stance, the influential BBC produced a television program about cell fusion and in-vitro fertilization which opened with a picture of the atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima. The church condemned them as morally wrong. But like good researchers, they had a sound hypothesis so they persisted. And look at the global benefits of those 2 men's' vision.

Today we host our fourth Andrology Open Floor format with its two-fold aims:

1. To give young andrologists an opportunity to hear keynote lectures from leaders in our field.
2. To give them an opportunity in an informal setting to present and discuss their work and get feedback from those of us who have been andrologists for slightly longer. We have had record submissions this year, all top quality, with new groups coming onboard and I think you will agree that it has been this morning has been another great success.

In terms of the society, during 2017-2018, BAS has continued to exert its influence with a number of our Exec members sitting on other important scientific committees

I continue to sit on the HFEA Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee or SCAAC.

SCAAC discusses with progress with pure science and clinical protocol innovations. The HFEA also prepares detailed ongoing reviews of Health outcomes of ART children and monitors the use of ICSI. Debates on committee are vigorous and it is good to stay in touch with new HFEA strategies. In particular, the new website last autumn with traffic lightin to guide patients about good, not so good and poor female 'add ons' to ART treatments. This year we are focusing on male add ons. Watch this space.

Asif represents us on BAUS and Martin represents us on the journal: Human Fertility.

Jacqui-

Bill has continued to represent us on The Royal Society of Biology with the special interest group: Society of Biology Animal Sciences Group.

This is an opportune moment to express our thanks to Bill as he wishes to stand down from exec this year. Bill has been involved with BAS from too many years to record. He has always been a source of sound and measured advice. He was the instigator of us becoming a charity and he spent many hours with legal teams bringing that to fruition. More recently, he has chaired our research grant panel. We voted unanimously to award him with our highest accolade, the Setchell Medal in 2012 for his excellent contributions to Andrology.

Bill, please accept this token of our esteem.

Events during year - Jackson The fifth successful Clinical Laboratory Andrology / BSAC (JKB/SM) with 18 attendees and 16 passes. The course ran at a profit of £8000.

Press & Media

Profile through Media and press

Finally, throughout the year Jackson and I have represented BAS on the Science Media Centre and commented on numerous controversial papers prior to publication to interpret them objectively for the public. I have also represented BAS informally on LinkedIn .

We continue to support the umbrella of Associated Fertility Societies in the Fertility Shows in London and Manchester and also to have Board to Board meetings once a year. In the last month's meeting we all agreed to have greater communication between the societies and advertise partner societies events.

Merger of Societies of Reproductive Scientists

The current proposal supported by Association of Clinical Embryologists is to form a merger group of ACE, BAS and ABA possibly calling ourselves BARS- British Association of Reproductive Scientists but if you have a better idea please tell us. Following our poll of BAS members which was overwhelmingly in favour of a merger, David, Lorraine and I represented BAS on the working party. It is because of our commitment to this working party that David and I have agreed to stand

again for BAS Exec. Our presence there is to safeguard academic and clinical Andrology as a unique speciality within any future society union.

We have met twice with ACE and ABA. Things are progressing slowly but positively with all 3 societies now in full support. The aim is to have a series of proposals agreed by the working party to be presented to each society for their approval by mid 2019.

Finally, we are ending today with a special event. I hope you all can stay for it. One of our keynote speakers: Prof Richard Sharpe is speaking on **The changing face of couple infertility and its inter -generational implications.**

I love the term 'couple infertility' bringing the man back to centre stage and I am very much looking forward to hearing Richard speak again this evening.

Thank you.