

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This Association Newsletter represents a significant initiative by your Council to improve communication with its membership. The Newsletter will be produced at least six monthly and will complement our rejuvenated website which I strongly urge you to visit on a regular basis (www.augis.org). I would also ask you, the members, to consider making contributions to both our future Newsletters and website. I am pleased to welcome Fiona Wilson to our Association Office. She will be assisting our increasingly busy Administrator, Jenny Treglohan, in supporting our website development and also in establishing stronger links with biomedical industry for whose continuing support the Association remains extremely grateful.

Having enjoyed a hugely successful Annual Scientific Meeting in Portsmouth last September, I am pleased that Richard Hardwick has identified an outstanding venue for our Cambridge meeting, which, for the first time, will be held in association with **The Dutch Society of Gastro-Intestinal Surgery**. We stand to gain considerably from the contribution of a number of well-known

colleagues from Holland. I am delighted that Professor John Hunter from Oregon has accepted our invitation to attend as the British Journal of Surgery Lecturer.

The activities of Council will be reported elsewhere in this Newsletter but I am pleased to report that we are making definite progress on our national audit and databases. There will be an opportunity to assess the advances through our AUGIS symposium, which will contribute to the theme "Know your Results" of the ASGBI meeting in Harrogate on 29th April 2004.

It is difficult to believe that I have already passed the half way stage of my Presidency of the Association, which continues to move from strength to strength. Whilst I have enjoyed the challenges of the last 18 months, I look forward to handing over the Presidency to Professor Mike Griffin who will, I am sure, continue to steer the Association to a position of continuing strength.

JAMES GARDEN, PRESIDENT

COUNCIL - 2003/2004

PRESIDENT

O J Garden

SECRETARY

C J Stoddard

TREASURER

S Cheslyn-Curtis

CHAIR: CLINICAL SERVICES & AUDIT

R H Hardwick

CHAIR: EDUCATION & TRAINING

S Paterson-Brown

ORDINARY MEMBERS

J N Baxter (Wales), I J Beckingham (Trent), J A C Buckels (Midlands), R M Charnley (North), S M Griffin (President Elect), R H Hardwick (Anglia), R G Lightwood (S Thames), L D McKie (N. Ireland), D Menzies (N Thames), R W Parks (Scotland), M Rees (Oxford & Wessex), J V Reynolds (Ireland), C R B Welbourn (South & West), M R Zeiderman (North West)

AESGBI REPRESENTATIVE

D Menzies

BSG REPRESENTATIVE

K R Palmer

TRAINEES' REPRESENTATIVE

P J Lamb

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

AUGIS CURRENTLY HAS 523 MEMBERS - VISIT www.augis.org TO BECOME A MEMBER

Membership of the Association is open to all surgeons, both trained and in training, with a major sub-specialty interest in upper gastrointestinal surgery. Affiliate membership is also open to those who wish to promote the objectives of the Association in advancing the science and practice of upper gastrointestinal surgery and the promotion of research in this field.

Full:	Duly registered Medical Practitioners in permanent appointments	£120.00
Associate:	Duly registered Practitioners in training appointments	£60.00
Affiliate:	Non-Medically qualified Scientists/Nurses working in UGI surgery	£20.00
Senior:	Members who have reached the age of 65	£20.00

2003 ANNUAL MEETING

The Association continues to thrive with 270 registered delegates attending the Annual Scientific Meeting in Portsmouth on the 25 - 26 September 2003. The meeting, designed to promote standards in training in upper gastrointestinal surgery and endoscopy, was a great success and benefited greatly from the participation of our overseas speakers, Professor Murray Brennan (New York) and Dr Barbro Eriksson (Uppsala). Education Day highlights included 'Setting up a Service', 'Training in Upper GI Surgery' and 'Management of Neuroendocrine and GIST'.

British Journal of Surgery Lecture Professor Murray Brennan - 'Specialist Centres or Specialist Surgeons?'

Access our website www.augis.org to download the accepted oral & poster abstracts from the 2003 AUGIS Annual Scientific Meeting.

COUNCIL REPORT

The last meeting of Council took place on Monday 12 January 2004 at The Royal College of Surgeons in London. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 30 April 2004. The following matters were discussed at the last meeting.

1) 2004 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The last Annual Scientific Meeting in Portsmouth was a great success and plans are now underway for the 2004 Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be hosted by Mr Richard Hardwick at the West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge from 23-24 September. The Dutch Society of Gastro-Intestinal Surgery has accepted our invitation to participate in our Annual Scientific Meeting and we look forward to their contribution. The programme is currently being discussed and when available will be placed on the AUGIS website. A call for abstracts has already been sent out and can be submitted electronically to www.augis.org. The deadline for abstracts to arrive is **Wednesday 30 June 2004**.

The meeting will focus on the following topics:

- Upper GI Haemorrhage
- Techniques of Laparoscopic Surgery for Upper GI Resection
- Neo-adjuvant therapy for Upper GI Cancer
- **Lecture:** Laparoscopic surgery for cancer – is it safe? Professor John Hunter from Oregon, United States of America – kindly sponsored by the British Journal of Surgery.
- **Lecture:** Giant Hiatus Hernia - Professor John Hunter - kindly sponsored by Cook (UK) Ltd.

Abstract Submission

We are now calling for abstracts for the Annual Scientific Meeting. All abstracts are to be submitted electronically via the Internet – www.augis.org.

The closing date is **Wednesday 30 June 2004**.

2) AUGIS PROGRAMME AT ASGBI MEETING IN HARROGATE, 28-30 APRIL 2004

At the Association of Surgeons Annual Meeting in Harrogate in April, AUGIS will contribute to the theme of the meeting "Know your Results" through our symposium, which will focus on the audits on oesophago gastric cancer and pancreatico biliary malignancy. An innovation for this meeting will be a "Meet the Experts" breakfast session on "The avoidance and management of bile duct injury".

Wednesday 28 April

9 – 11 am	Upper GI Papers (x12)
11.15 – 1.15 pm	British Obesity Surgery Society Symposium (BOSS) (12.30 – Guest Lecture on Revisional Gastric Surgery, Professor Harvey Sugarman, Virginia, United States of America)
2 – 3.30 pm	Upper GI Papers (x 9)
4 – 6 pm	BOSS Short Paper Session

Thursday 29 April

7.45 am	Meet the Experts Breakfast Session – Bile Duct Injury
9 – 10.30	Six of the best Upper GI Papers
2 – 3.30	AUGIS Symposium: Know your Results – Audit
4 – 5.40	Upper GI Oral Poster Presentations

Friday 30 April

All day	Association of Endoscopic Surgeons Symposium and papers
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3) REPORT FROM CLINICAL SERVICES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (Mr R H Hardwick)

Members of Committee

Mr R H Hardwick (Chairman)
 Professor O J Garden (President)
 Mr C J Stoddard (Honorary Secretary)
 Miss S Cheslyn-Curtis
 Mr G Clark
 Mr P McCulloch
 Mr R W Parks

Let me begin by thanking Mick Crumplin for all his hard work as the previous Chairman of the Clinical Services and Audit Committee. Since taking over the Chair, I have endeavoured to continue the good work he began. I have met with Jenifer Smith, Audit Manager for CHI, who recognises that CHI must support national multi-disciplinary audit if it is to get high quality outcome data. A teleconference with members of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) audit committee resulted in further agreement for work on the appointment of a project manager with IT support to develop web based data collection for a more simplified version of the AUGIS data base for upper GI cancer patients. There will not, however, be any funding for new personnel locally to collect data. This will be a disappointment to many but not a surprise. The Clinical Services and Audit Committee decided at its September meeting to limit the next AUGIS oesophago-gastric and

pancreatic report to a one year period for October 2002 to October 2003. Access variations of the Dendrite database have been circulated by Peter McCulloch as has a pancreatico-biliary database written by Rowan Parks. We appreciate that there have been teething problems with some aspects of these databases but would enthuse all members of AUGIS to please return your data for the report period as soon as possible. This will ensure a meaningful report which will be produced by Dendrite after Sharon Davies has cleaned the data. It will be one of the discussion topics at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Cambridge in September 2004. So, "please send your data in!"

4) REPORT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE (Mr S Paterson-Brown)

Members of Committee

Mr S Paterson-Brown (Chairman)
 Mr C J Stoddard (Honorary Secretary)
 Mr P J Lamb (ASIT representative)
 Mr T H Brown
 Mr N J Everitt
 Mr R H Hardwick
 Mr G J Toogood

At the last meeting of AUGIS Giles Toogood (Leeds) and Nick Everitt (Chesterfield) were elected members of the Education and Training Committee to replace Elliot Chisholm and Ajith Siriwardena who had completed their three years.

In 2003 the main areas addressed by the Education and Training Committee were the curriculum for Upper GI Surgical training, the Joint Advisory Group for gastrointestinal endoscopy, accreditation of courses by AUGIS and the annual academic and scientific meeting.

Curriculum for Surgical Training

Richard Hardwick represented AUGIS on the SAC Sub Committee to discuss curriculum for higher surgical training. Several meetings took place last year involving all the sub specialty associations in order to produce a curriculum for the training of "general surgeons" taking into account the pressures and particular requirements of the sub specialty associations. The final curriculum is being put together but further discussions are still taking place. It is likely that surgical trainees will be eligible to sit the final Part III examination after four years of registrar training, or six years after the second foundation year, if seamless training is developed. They will therefore obtain CCST during their fifth year of surgical training. At the present time it is envisaged that further sub specialty training may be required but mechanisms to obtain this, and in particular, funding have not yet been identified.

Joint Advisory Group for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (JAG)

Tim Brown represented AUGIS on the above group which has developed criteria for accrediting endoscopic training units in the United Kingdom and developing a portfolio for trainees wishing to become accredited in gastrointestinal endoscopy. The appropriate paperwork is now available through the BSG and all units and trainers who wish to be accredited for training in gastrointestinal endoscopy should contact the BSG. Surgical trainees should also obtain a portfolio document in order that this can be presented to the BSG for accreditation of endoscopic competence.

Accreditation of Courses for AUGIS

A form has now been developed and is available on the AUGIS website for obtaining AUGIS accreditation for courses in relation to upper gastrointestinal surgical topics. Once the form has been filled in by the course organiser and returned to the AUGIS office it is emailed or faxed to all members of the Education Committee, with an answer being provided within a few days. Once accreditation has been obtained, local organisers can add this to the advertisement and the course can be placed on the AUGIS website.

5) AUGIS WEBSITE

The AUGIS website is to be reconstructed over the course of the coming months, through the generous sponsorship of Novartis.

6) NEW MEMBERS approved at the last Meeting of Council

Full Members

Mr D P Berry	Leicester General Hospital
Mr S Gupta	Lister Hospital, Stevenage
Mr G Hanna	St Mary's Hospital, London

Professor J L Meakins	John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
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Mr A Sigurdsson	Shropshire Royal Hospital
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Associates

Mr N S Johnson	Southampton General Hospital
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Mr N Ravi	St James's Hospital, Ireland
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Mrs Asma Sultana	Royal Liverpool University Hospital
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Affiliates

Mrs V Goodall	Leighton Hospital, Crewe
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Miss R E Wilkins	West Suffolk Hospital
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7) UPPER GI TRAINEES – BARRETT'S CLUB (Mr P Lamb)

This group continues to represent the views of all upper GI surgical trainees (oesophago-gastric, hepatobiliary, pancreatic, obesity) through its affiliation to AUGIS and its seat on the AUGIS Council. This is an important role at present given the ongoing changes in the training curriculum, the intercollegiate exam, and subspecialisation. It also allows trainees to meet and socialise with colleagues from other regions. Interest in the group has increased following a successful annual meeting and dinner held during the AUGIS Annual Scientific Meeting in Portsmouth last September, kindly supported by **Tyco Healthcare**. This year's event will be held on Wednesday 22nd September in Cambridge prior to the AUGIS meeting. Details will be posted on the AUGIS website.

Anyone in training (SHO, research fellow or specialist registrar) with an interest in upper GI surgery is welcome to join. Please contact Peter Lamb directly for further information peterjameslamb@hotmail.com. A discussion group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thebarrettsclub>) is also active and designed to allow members to keep in touch between meetings.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2004

- 28–30 APRIL Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Annual Meeting, HARROGATE www.asgbi.org.uk
- 15–20 MAY Digestive Disease Week, NEW ORLEANS www.ddw.org
- 21 MAY British Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Group Annual Scientific Meeting, BIRMINGHAM dilys.thomas@uhb.nhs.uk
- 27–29 MAY International Society for Diseases of the Oesophagus, World Congress, MADRID www.vvge.be/evenementen/workshop10.htm
- 2–6 JUNE International Hepatopancreatobiliary Association Meeting, WASHINGTON DC www.ahpba.org/ihpba
- 23–24 SEPTEMBER AUGIS Annual Scientific Meeting, CAMBRIDGE www.augis.org
- 25–26 NOVEMBER Association of Endoscopic Surgeons Annual Meeting, LIVERPOOL www.aesgbi.org

2005

- 27–29 APRIL Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Annual Meeting, BIRMINGHAM www.asgbi.org.uk
- 22–23 SEPTEMBER AUGIS Annual Scientific Meeting, Trinity College, DUBLIN www.augis.org

2006

- 3–7 SEPTEMBER IHPBA / AUGIS Meeting, EDINBURGH www.augis.org

COURSES

2 JUNE 2004

Upper GI Course

Y K S Viswanath, James Cook University Hospital, Marton Road, Middlesbrough
Contact 01642 854863 for more information

More information on AUGIS accredited courses can be found at www.augis.org

INTERCOLLEGIATE EXAMINERS

Association members who wish to propose themselves as examiners for the Intercollegiate Examination in General Surgery can contact Ms. **Iolanda Veziano** at the Intercollegiate Office in Edinburgh (email: i.veziano@intercollegiate.org.uk). An application pack can then be sent on to you. It is unusual for applicants to be considered within five years of a consultant appointment and experience in examining and training is an advantage.

COMPANIES SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, CAMBRIDGE 23 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2004:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| AstraZeneca | Nikomed Limited |
| Bard Limited | Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited |
| Cook (UK) Limited | Oakfield Instruments Limited |
| Dendrite Clinical Systems | Regent Medical |
| Ethicon Endo-Surgery | Teasdale Surgical |
| KeyMed | Tyco Healthcare (UK) Commercial Limited |
| Mantis Surgical | |

OTHER NEWS

SPONSORSHIP OF ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Our Association membership is growing rapidly and is a reflection on the desire of surgeons with a specialist interest in upper gastrointestinal surgery to meet and share expertise on oesophago-gastric, hepatobiliary and pancreatic disorders. A number of new sponsorship opportunities are being initiated for 2004. In addition to the standard exhibition packages we have offered in previous years, we are now inviting companies to take advantage of our **Bronze, Silver and Gold** partnerships. Further information on all sponsorship opportunities can be obtained by contacting Fiona Wilson, Industry Liaison Officer at AUGIS – fwilson@asgbi.org.uk / 020 7304 4773.

BRONZE partners enjoy a range of benefits, including more prominent exhibition stand space, acknowledgement in the final programme and a web link from the AUGIS website to their company website.

SILVER partners are entitled to the above as well as second choice of exhibition stand space, inclusion of a half page advertisement and company information in the biannual Newsletter. We are delighted to welcome **Cook (UK) Ltd** and **Ethicon Endo-Surgery** as Silver sponsors this year.

GOLD sponsors receive all the above benefits, as well as information in two mailshots per year to AUGIS members, named sponsorship of a lecture at the Annual Scientific Meeting with full acknowledgement in programme, a highlighted link from the AUGIS homepage and invitations to the Council Dinner and Annual Gold Partners Meeting and Dinner hosted by the Association Executive. It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Novartis** as a 2004 Gold partner in their joint capacity as website and Annual meeting sponsor.

GOLD PARTNERS - NOVARTIS

Novartis Oncology is not a name many of the AUGIS members are familiar with, however following the licensing of Glivec in Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST), and with their existing license of Sandostatin in Neuroendocrine Tumours (NET) they have identified AUGIS as a partner in their activities to raise the profile of these rare tumours. We are currently working in partnership with **Novartis** to enhance the AUGIS website, developing a research and clinical forum on the website where difficult cases and interesting case studies may be shared. **Novartis** are providing information and advice to help raise the profile of GIST and NET, and the importance of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to the diagnosis and management of these rare tumours, for example facilitating the development of MDT GIST guidelines for Scotland through a multidisciplinary advisory panel. For further information please contact lucy.hickinbotham@pharma.novartis.com or visit www.gistsupportuk.com

SILVER PARTNERS - COOK (UK) LTD

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Because the use of synthetic mesh is associated with complications such as oesophageal stricture, erosion and perforation, surgeons are using **SIS** to reinforce large paraoesophageal hernia repairs. References can be requested at www.cooksurgical.com or by contacting **Cook (UK) Ltd** on 01462 473100.

SILVER PARTNERS – ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY

Ethicon Endo-Surgery (EES) develops and markets a broad portfolio of advanced single patient use surgical instruments and medical devices for minimally invasive and traditional surgery. Our mission is to help physicians around the world transform patient care through innovation.

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NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK UPPER GI CANCER TRIALS

The current National Cancer Research Network Trials portfolio can be accessed on its website www.ncrn.org.uk.

NRCN portfolio studies comprise cancer clinical trials which are supported or funded by a member of the National Cancer Research Institute (MRC, CRUK, LRF, Department of Health).

Oesophago-gastric cancer trials

REAL2 (advanced oesophago-gastric cancer)
RECaD (cancer and pre-cancer detection in the oesophagus)

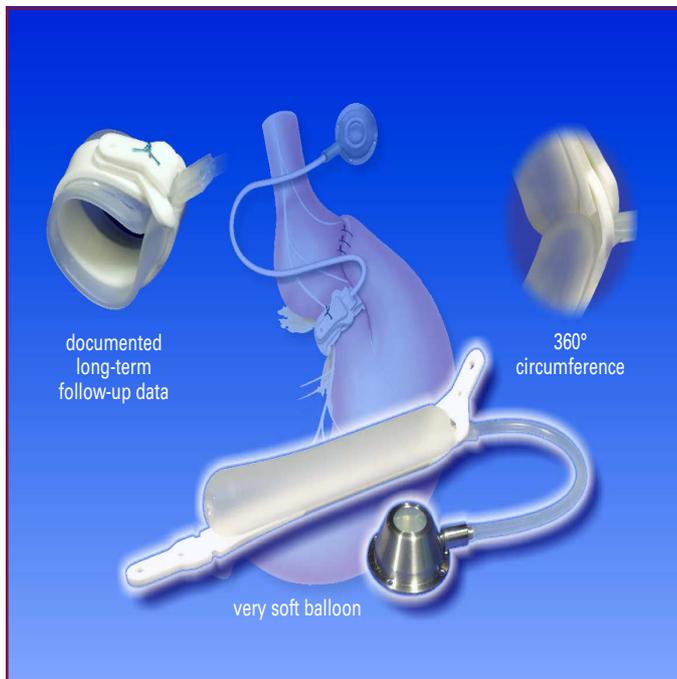
Pancreatic cancer trials

ESPAC - QLQ (quality of life assessment for patients with pancreatic cancer)
ESPAC-3 (v2) (phase III adjuvant chemotherapy trial on pancreatic cancer)
GEMCAP (Phase III trial for patients with advanced pancreatic cancer)

Liver cancer trial

EORTC/GITCCG40983 (pre- and post-operative chemotherapy versus surgery alone in resectable liver metastases from colorectal origin)

A number of trials are under way but which are not open to additional centres. The national trial of thoracoscopic splanchnicectomy (NaTTS) is an open randomised comparison of various techniques for pain relief in patients



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with abdominal malignancy. Other trials in patients with resectable adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus (OEO5) and irresectable hepatoma (HEP-1) are in set up phase and details will be available through the website.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF SURGERY LECTURERS AT AUGIS

1998	PROFESSOR B LAUNOIS (France)
1999	PROFESSOR LAUREANO FERNANDEZ-CRUZ (Spain)
2000	PROFESSOR TOM DEMEESTER (United States of America)
2001	PROFESSOR K BOFFARD (South Africa)
2002	PROFESSOR D GOTLEY (Australia)
2003	PROFESSOR M BRENNAN (United States of America)
2004	PROFESSOR J HUNTER (United States of America)

DEREK BUTLER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Derek Butler Research Fellowship is offered by the Digestive Disorders Foundation (DDF) specifically for projects researching oesophago-gastric cancer. Derek Butler was a patient who underwent surgery for oesophageal carcinoma and left a bequest to the DDF. Up to £240,000 is available to fund a three year research project. Further details can be obtained by contacting the DDF Digestive Disorders Foundation, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB, (Tel 020 7486 0341) or Mr C J Stoddard - c.j.stoddard@sheffield.ac.uk.

JOINT AUGIS / BRITISH DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK

The BSG has been looking at the possibility of holding a British Digestive Disease week with AUGIS in the future. Your Council does envisage some benefits and possible drawbacks to such an arrangement. The views of members would be appreciated.

AUGIS AUDIT DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS FOR OESOPHAGO-GASTRIC CANCERS

We are asking for all data from 1st October 2002 to 1st October 2003 to be submitted as soon as possible, so that we can compile a report for this Autumn. If you have not already done so, please try to submit at least the minimum data set specified in the "mandatory patient data only" option on disk to Sharon Davies, NOGCU, c/o Ward 36, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4LP. If you have not yet been sent one of the new disks please contact Jenny Treglohan at the AUGIS office – 020 7973 0305.

MATERIAL FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT AUGIS NEWSLETTER

Please submit any material you wish to be considered for inclusion in the next AUGIS Newsletter to Mr C J Stoddard, Honorary Secretary, c/o AUGIS at The Royal College of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PE.