



THE ASSOCIATION OF COLOPROCTOLOGY OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland
A company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales Company reg. no. 5962281
Registered charity 1118063 Registered Office: @ The Royal College of Surgeons of England,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Edinburgh International Convention Centre Monday 4th July 2022 at 08:00 – 09:00

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence:**

James Wheeler, Honorary Secretary, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that there were over 860 delegates registered at this year's annual meeting.

Apologies for absence had been noted.

2. **Minutes of last meeting held in Harrogate on 5th July 2021**

The Minutes of the last AGM were approved with no matters arising.

3. **Matters of urgent business** – none reported.

4. **President's Report.**

The President reported that the last two years had been turbulent with having to cancel meetings due to the pandemic. This is the first fully face to face meeting since 2019. Professor Sagar conveyed his gratitude on behalf of the Association to Nicola Fearnhead and Steve Brown who provided excellent advice and leadership to Members during this difficult time and liaised with the specialist surgical associations and the four Royal Colleges to generate guidance and support.

This work has continued during the past year highlighting diagnostics – the fall off in colonoscopies, referrals and treatment. Work has been carried out with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) and Joint Advisory Group on GI Endoscopy (JAG) particularly highlighting colonoscopy and getting this service back to normal. Work has been carried with JAG and the Quality Insurance Group to ensure that training continues to progress so that trainees are given the appropriate training and support to where they should have been prior to COVID.

ACPGBI continues to evolve and grow commemorating its 30th birthday. The successful progression of the Dukes' Club and the Early Years Consultant Network was highlighted and the inauguration of the EDI Committee to ensure inclusivity is key within the work and ethos of the Association.

Concerns were highlighted with regard to the increased rate of emergency colorectal cancers (late diagnosis around the country) and waiting lists for IBD patients.

There has been a positive step forward and advancement of Robotics with more industry awareness.

The President acknowledged his gratitude for the superb and successful work undertaken by the ACPGBI Committees:

- Research and Audit – Jim Tiernan
- External Affairs Committee – Shahab Siddiqi
- Education and Training – Laura Hancock
- Multidisciplinary Clinical Committee – Michael Davies

The important work carried out by Athur Hari Krishnan, Honorary Treasurer, was acknowledged. The investment portfolio was being explored by Executive Members so that ACPGBI finances can be managed more efficiently and effectively.

The President reported on the recent Tripartite meeting which unfortunately had to be run as a completely virtual meeting. The next meeting will most likely take place in Paris in 2025 and will involve Europe as well as Australia, New Zealand, America and the UK making it a four national tripartite.

Finally, the President thanked and acknowledged the excellent work of the ACPGBI regional chapters.

5. **Honorary Secretary's report**

New Executive Committee positions from 6 July 2022 are:

Charles Maxwell-Armstrong, President
Jared Torkington, President-elect
Justin Davies, President-in-Waiting

Graham Branagan, Honorary Secretary
Laura Hancock, Assistant Honorary Secretary
Nicola Eardley, Chair, Education and Training Committee

James Wheeler highlighted the great expansion of roles and opportunities afforded to ACPGBI ordinary members to be involved in the work on the various committees.

Newly elected committee members

Research and Audit

Elaine Burns

Education and Training

Katherine Grant (re-elected)
Tavinder Gill (re-elected)
Cat Boerboom
Kate Hancorn

Colonoscopy Committee

Chair is Katie Cross who has taken on the role from Sarah Mills who will remain on the Committee.

Clinical Governance sub-committee

Elections took place just after the 2021 Annual Meeting

Justin Davies
Charles Maxwell-Armstrong
Faheez Mohamed
Paul Skaife

EYCN Committee

New Chair will be Ash Bhalla
Newly elected Members
Jon Evans
Gregory Thomas
Abi Patel

EDI Committee

Kiran Altaf is the Chair
Elected Members
Aarti Kalyanaraman
Jim Khan
Sreelakshmi Mallappa
Evrpidis Tokidis

Changes to Directors and Trustees

Resignations of Professor Pete Sagar and Mr James Wheeler..
Appointments of Mr Charles Maxwell-Armstrong and Mr Graham Branagan have been appointed Directors and Trustees.

6. Revisions to the constitution – these have been circulated to ordinary members

New Student Category

This has been proposed by Charles Maxwell-Armstrong and seconded by Laura Hancock. As there were no objections this new membership category was carried forward.

Special Meeting for extraordinary events

As the number of ACPGBI members has increased since ACPGBI was first established, it was proposed that the number of members to attend ad hoc special meetings would be increased from 10 to 50 members. As there were no objections this motion was carried forward.

ACCEA Committee

ACPGBI has been removed as a nominating body and therefore this committee has been disbanded

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Review

In the year ending December 2021 saw an income of £778,433 and spent £623,502. The net movement was £154,941 with a net profit of £40,000 (after reconciliation)

Income

The vast majority of income is from subscriptions and from Colorectal Disease Journal and sister organisations.

Expenditure

Around £90K is spent on office management salary and pension costs, £100K was spent on Education and Research. £60K was spent on members to access Colorectal Disease Journal.

Key ACPGBI priorities are Education and Research, Travelling Fellowships, education from the Pelvic Floor Society, Dukes' Club and contributions to BRUK.

At the end of December 2021 there was a balance of £969,882 in ACPGBI accounts.

ACPGBI have two main accounts; the annual meeting account and a business account. The annual meeting account showed a downward trend – as a result of COVID and a loss of revenue from two successive annual meetings. However, ACP have weathered the storm, thanks to membership subscriptions, sponsorship and the Association for organising a range of educational activities which boosted the balance in the Business Account. The total cash balance remained stable at £1 million.

Membership Subscriptions: As of the end of December 2021, there were 1,613 members, vast majority being surgeons. There is also 500 trainee members and over 100 ACPN/Allied Healthcare Professionals. Last year, ACPGBI had over £300,000 from subscriptions. In keeping with ACP strategy, subscription rates have remained the same for a third consecutive year.

Harrogate 2021: A hybrid event, where facility met face to face and just over 950 delegates accessed the meeting remotely. An overall net deficit was sustained due to the expenses incurred from running a virtual platform.

Interest on Reserve Funds: ACPGBI Board of Trustees have set up a panel to investigate ways to mitigate future loss of income from rising inflation and poor interest rates to safely invest surplus funds. Updates on progression will be made available in the coming months.

Financial Strategy for 2022-23: To continue funding Educational activities, implementing new fellowships, such as robotic.

Regional activities will continue to fund £1K to facilitate Chapter meeting during the year.

Continue to offer ACPN members 50 free places at the Annual Meeting and allow free student places and part reimbursement of travel expenses for student presenters. Offer reduced registration rates of ACPGBI members.

Industry Partners to have an ongoing strategy to balance books.

Thanks were given to the following companies for their ongoing financial support to the 2022 meeting:

Strategic Educational Partners

Ethicon
Medtronic

Gold Sponsors

CMR Surgical
Intuitive Surgical
THD (UK)

8. **Report from the President of the Dukes' Club:** The Dukes' Club elected a new Executive Committee in September 2021 this followed a revision to the appointment process and involved anonymised voting open to the full membership.

Regional representatives have been elected matching each of the ACPGBI regional chapters.

Last year's Dukes' Club Educational Weekend was a hybrid event attracting over 120 delegates from across the globe including North America, Asia and Africa. There were three pre-conference courses and feedback has remained positive.

Over the past 12 months, the popular webinar series has continued. The feedback from trainees was they wanted courses to supplement their training. The webinars have been across a number of topics including well-being and clinical topics.

Face to face courses have been re-introduced comprising of two national and three regional meetings in collaboration with colleagues including trainee organisations. In December 2021, Dukes held an EGS trauma and training symposium in association with ASIT, the Moynihan Academy and the Roux Group. In May 2022, a new collaboration was launched with the Roux Group and BASO on Essentials of Surgical Research.

Dukes' continue to be involved in research pairing with the ACPGBI Advanced Malignancy Committee to publish a review on Pelvic exenteration and two training videos have been published as part of the Fundamentals of Colorectal Surgery Programme with a third video that is in production.

Dukes' Club main aim is support trainees in both clinical and non-clinical ways. Engagement of membership (currently over 500 members) is encouraged with a more transparent and accessible application process for regional trainee representatives and executive committee members.

Colorectal surgery is being promoted as a 'career of choice' through association with ASIT, medical students and junior trainees. Nigel D'Souza, previous endoscopy representative, has worked hard to bring together an endoscopy training dashboard which is due to be launched in conjunction with training across the sub-specialities, Dukes' have put together a statement on the importance of providing Training to trainees in the COVID recovery phase.

Dukes will be working with the ACPGBI PLG to develop a series of pelvic floor training videos.

Dukes' are looking forward to welcoming as many trainees as possible to the Educational weekend on 17-18 September 2022. This is the 25th year of the Dukes' Club where there will be the opportunity to attend a range of pre-weekend courses.

9. **Report from the National Bowel Cancer Audit.**

Nicola Fearnhead delivered a comprehensive NBOCA report. There had been a definite number of drop off of patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer during the pandemic, however, the report only captures patients from the first half of the pandemic. Only 61% of eligible patients with stage III disease went on to receive adjuvant chemotherapy in England and Wales.

Overall patient pathways, in terms of diagnosis, a large proportion came through screening, GP referral and emergencies. Dependent on mode of access to diagnosis has a real impact for the potential of survival.

Surgical care has a high post-operative survival rate in both the elective and emergency settings with a slight reduction of medium length of stay for both groups. Rectal cancer - there has been a fall to less than half of patients undergoing resection surgery. The proportion of patient survival beyond diagnosis of bowel cancer after surgery was 8 in 10, with no surgery 3 in 10 and overall 7 in 10 patients survived beyond 2 years.

There was a rapid turnover during COVID to gain a sense of what was happening on the ground to provide better support.

During the first 3 months of the pandemic there was a dramatic reduction in the number of patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer as many services were closed during that time. However, during the following 12 months there have been an increase of diagnoses for colorectal cancer recovering to nearly 100%.

During the COVID period, numbers of patients receiving cancer surgery fell to 71% but increased to 82% during the following year. This was also the case for Wales. Patients receiving chemotherapy as an adjuvant treatment fell and patients received radiotherapy for rectal cancer increased dramatically but has now returned to a near normal level.

Patient Report has been published with input from Patient and Carer Panel led by Professor Bob Arnott.

NBOCA data set updates. Some of data items have been changed in order to capture what is happening on the ground. This year there has been much more detail about the genetic basis of tumours in terms of the type of test used and the result outcome. For the first data will be collected on BRF, KRAS and NRAS mutations.

There has been a number of publications on COVID work and range of clinical and mythological papers during the past 12 months.

Two short reports have been published: Hospital and surgeon level volumes for rectal cancer in England and Implications for Wales and Trends, characteristics and outcomes for patients diagnosed under 50 years old with metastatic colon cancer in England.

NBOCA overarching principle is to continue to report on bowel cancer outcomes and the patient journey and will continue to report on how the pandemic has changed and affected by colorectal cancer care.

The surgeon level clinical outcome publication has been suspended for the duration of the pandemic but has provided to individual Trusts for internal governance.

Next NBOCA will be focusing on QI initiatives which launched last October.

10. **BRUK Report: Asha Senapati presented the Bowel Research UK report. BRUK is the Association's charity.**

Lynne Dunne is the interim CEO. It was noted that Paul Reynolds, Co-Chair and John Northover have resigned. However, John Northover continues to be very involved with the work of the charity.

The Trustees and Members of Staff of BRUK were introduced.

Highlights from last year

Although fundraising during the pandemic had been difficult, nearly £1 million has been raised and this level of income has been continued this year.

The inaugural grant round after the merger was in July 2021. Overall half a million was given to research funding around the country.

Thanks and gratitude were given to Grant Committee. Professor Sue Clark is the Chair who has taken over from Professor Charles Knowles.

CC Grant Tracker was introduced this year which currently going through an implementation process – making grant application and administration smoother.

A Research Strategy has been developed – with the help of the Scientific Advisory Committee chaired by Nicola Fearnhead. This is an essential component of being able to raise funds and to inform people about the direction of travel.

BRUK has any active and vigorous PPI programme known as PaRT (People and Research Together) – the more patients that get involved the better.

BRUK's role is to raise money for research with help from ACPGBI to spend money on good research. Therefore, it is essential the partnership between these two organizations is strengthened.

Thanks were conveyed to ACPGBI staff and the incoming and outgoing Presidents for the work carried out for BRUK.

12. Reappointment of Auditors
Ford Bentall was reappointed as auditors
13. AOB
None
14. Date of Next AGM
Tuesday 4 July 2023