



THE SOCIETY FOR
VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Annual Scientific Meeting

24th to 26th November 2020

Year Book 2020

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1 – President’s Welcome



Hello everyone and welcome to the Vascular Society’s Annual Scientific meeting 2020.

As I’m sure you can tell this year is unfortunately going to be a little different to the usual conference that we all know and love but we have all been working hard to ensure that all the great content, education and networking that you are used to is not lost in this virtual environment. Special thanks go to Conference Secretary Carole Tennison for all her hard work making this year a success in what has probably been one of the most difficult years to be conference secretary.

The SVT programme this year starts on Tuesday afternoon where we will have talks on the effect of COVID-19 on our services plus we also have an update on the EVAR surveillance study by Mr Matthew Grima. To end the first day, we then have the Jackie Walton lecture which this year is from the chief investigator of the SONAR study, Mr Gavin Pettigrew, who will be offering some preliminary results.

Wednesday afternoon sees the beginning of the SVT Scientific programme where members will be presenting their research and case studies to the community. As usual we will be offering time for questions following each presentation which this year will be via the in-built messaging software so please don’t hesitate to get involved.

The final day of the conference will start with the heads of service meeting and Ask the exec session where we will get the opportunity to discuss the burning issues in vascular science. To close the SVT conference myself and Vice President Emma Waldegrave will hold the AGM where we will discuss the past year and outline the future SVT plans. The winner of the scientific programme will also be announced along with the winner of the Ann Donald Scientist of the year award.

The conference comes to a close Thursday evening where we have a fantastic presentation by Mr David Nott OBE on risk and resilience which I encourage all of our members to attend as it promises to be a fantastic finale to the week.

I really hope you all enjoy what we have on offer for you this year and hopefully we will be able to resume normal service next year back in sunny Manchester.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Lee Smith
President SVT

2 - Education Annual Report

CPD for 2020 AGM

As you will be aware the Vascular Society Annual Scientific Meeting is being run virtually this year. The SVT are pleased to offer CPD points for AVS members attending this meeting.

There are **5 points** available for attending the 6 hours worth of SVT sessions. You can submit your emailed attendance certificate as evidence as an entry on your online CPD locker using "Vascular Meeting 1 day". Please note online attendance is logged and may be verified by the CPD team.

If you have also signed up to view the Vascular Society Annual Scientific Meeting there are **10 additional points** available. You can submit your emailed attendance certificate as evidence as an entry on your online CPD locker using "Vascular Meeting 2 days". Please note online attendance is logged and may be verified by the CPD team.

Points will also be available for those AVS members presenting – please contact the CPD team for more information.

CPD Officers: Hannah Lines and Amy Bolsworth at cpd.avs@svtgbi.org.uk

CPD Audit

10% of AVS members selected for 2019-2020 CPD audit. Those who had already been audited within the last three membership years were exempt. All remaining AVS members passed the audit and maintain AVS status into membership year 2020-2021.

General CPD

15 AVS members with insufficient CPD entered by deadline of 31st August 2020, therefore AVS status lapsed going into membership year 2020-2021 (starting 1st September 2020). CPD team contacted those members via email registered to their online profile informing them of 'grace period' to update CPD locker online by 30th September without any re-instatement fees.

6 members continue to have lapsed AVS status from 1st October 2020. Please check your AVS status within your CPD section of your online locker, and if lapsed please contact the CPD team should you wish to re-instate your AVS status. Can all members also please ensure that your email address registered to your online profile is kept up to date, particularly during extended periods of leave (sick leave, secondments, maternity/paternity leave etc).

AVS Theory Examinations

Spring 2020 administration were cancelled due to COVID19.

Autumn 2020 administration was limited with regards Pearson Vue exam centres offering limited venue options and examination slots.

Awaiting position on 2021 examinations, details will be posted on SVT website nearer application dates.

SPRING 2021 ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION DATES

26th January 2021 – 6th April 2021

REGISTRATION DATES

26th January 2021 – 20th May 2021

These are the dates in which candidates may set-up their appointment time to test at Pearson Vue.

ADMINISTRATION DATES

20th April 2021 – 20th May 2021

These are the dates in which candidates test.

EXAM RESULTS RELEASE DATE

19th July 2021

AUTUMN ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION DATES

3rd August 2021 – 12th October 2021

REGISTRATION DATES

3rd August 2021 – 25th November 2021

These are the dates in which candidates may set-up their appointment time to test at Pearson Vue.

ADMINISTRATION DATES

26th October 2021 – 25th November 2021

These are the dates in which candidates test.

EXAM RESULTS RELEASE DATE

24th January 2022

Please forward any queries onto Theory Exam officer Laura Haworth at theoryexam@svtgbi.org.uk

Theory Examination Item Writing Workshops

2020 sessions cancelled due to COVID.

2021 sessions planned for June 2021 (Tech paper in Manchester, Physics paper in London), members who signed up to 2020 sessions will be contacted for 2021 availability.

Study Days

Jan 2020 Fundamentals Study Day took place in Coventry.

March 2020 Examination Study Days cancelled due to COVID.

- 2021 study days will likely run as remote sessions. Provisional date for Fundamentals Study Day is Monday 24th Jan 2021, once confirmed this will be published on the SVT website with an email sent out to all members.

- Plan to run 'An introduction to Vascular Ultrasound' workshop for Vascular Surgeons at 2021 VS AGM.

Contact for Fundamentals Study Day is Asif Dilshad at asif.dilshad@uhcw.nhs.uk

Contact for Theory exam study day is Davinder Virdee at dsv_svt@hotmail.com
Contact for Vascular Surgery Study Day if Felicity Woodgate at felicity.woodgate@nhs.net

AVS Practical Exams

Placed on hold March-September 2020 due to COVID19. Applications have now re-opened and previously processed exams are being scheduled.

New guidelines in place regarding COVID19, both host centre and external examiner will be required to sign a disclaimer assuming responsibility for health & safety of staff and patients during national and local restrictions.

Please forward any queries onto the practical examination officers Laura Haworth and Hannah Williamson at practicalexam@svtgbi.org.uk.

Minimum Scan Numbers for AVS Logbook

The Education Committee are inviting applications from SVT members to form a short life working group reviewing the current minimum scan numbers required across all three core modalities.

We invite stakeholders from the following groups....

- Heads of Service (particularly from centres that have no, or limited provision for venous services and those who have ample venous numbers for their trainees).
- Current AVS trainee.
- Newly qualified AVS.
- STP Graduate.
- Chair of STP curriculum review & SVT Education Committee educational pathways rep (Helena Edlin). Review alongside learning outcomes for new STP curriculum.
- Chair of SVT Education Committee (Heather Anderson & Hannah Lines)
- SVT Executive Committee president and vice-president (Lee Smith and Emma Waldegrave).

First scoping meeting will be held 8th Dec 2020.

Second meeting will be held Jan 2020.

Please forward on notes of interest to the practical examination officers at practicalexam@svtgbi.org.uk.

Clinical Scientist Equivalence Document

The SVT are in talks with The AHCS surrounding the design and development of an AVS equivalence document. The SVT would like The AHCS to recognise areas of the equivalence mapping template that are attained via AVS training, without the need to submit further evidence.

For areas not covered by the AVS training pathway, the SVT would like to be able to advise and provide examples of additional activities that an AVS could undertake to support their equivalence portfolio submission.

The SVT are also awaiting the final publication of the new STP curriculum (due Winter 2020) so that any documentation reflects the new programme.

The SVT are awaiting feedback from The AHCS regarding this project and hope to have more news in 2021.

AVS Research Module

No new developments with the proposed AVS research module due to COVID19. We hope to marry development of this module alongside the proposed Clinical Scientist equivalence review with The AHCS (see above) to ensure alignment of the research module learning outcomes with the equivalence mapping template.

The research module will become a mandatory part of the AVS training pathway, however to support qualified AVS in their equivalence journey we will also offer this project as a standalone module.

Once designed, the Education Committee will need to develop theory exam content at an item writing workshop to be included in the theory examinations.

Hopefully we will have more updates in 2021.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members of the SVT Education Committee for their time dedicated to the SVT, especially volunteering their precious time during a pandemic. I wish the new incoming chair of the Education Committee, Hannah Lines all the best over the next few years.

Many Thanks

Heather Anderson
Education

3 - SVT Research Committee Report 2020

SVT Research Grants

The SVT Research award is to enable Vascular Scientists to conduct small-scale studies such as pilot or feasibility studies, with the hope that larger grants will be applied for at a later date. There is a total of £10,000 available per year, with a maximum of £4,000 per award.

The SVT Research grants window closed at the end of March 2020. We received one application and I am pleased that Osian Llwyd, Oxford, was awarded a research grant.

As in previous years, if the full allocation was not awarded, then we had another window that closed at the end of September 2020. We had one application and are still in the process of review. The applicant will be informed in the near future.

We envisage the 2021 window will open in the new year and close at the end of March 2021.

The Vascular Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)

We have been continuing our work with the James Lind Alliance Vascular Priority Setting Partnership. This is a national project working with the to give patients, carers and vascular health professionals an opportunity to have their say in what they think is important for future research for vascular conditions. The project is led by a National Steering Group with representation from the key vascular societies, charity and advocacy organisations (including the SVT).

We have previously had question submission prioritisation by healthcare professionals. Patients and carers have submitted questions are there is an open survey for patients to prioritise these.

We would like your help by getting your patients and carers to fill in the survey.

Please visit: www.hyms.ac.uk/research/vascular-ppsp

Thanks to Steve Rogers and Laura Scott for their work over the last year. Also, I am pleased to welcome Yvonne Sensier, Nida Nadeem and Mari Murumets as new members of the committee.

Please contact us with any feedback or questions research@svtgbi.org.uk

Richard Simpson, SVT Research Committee – Chair

4 – Treasurer Report

	31st August 2020	
	All Funds	
	£	£
Income		
Annual General Meeting	5,000.00	
Advertising	3,580.00	
Exam, revision and study day fees	2,242.34	
Membership fees	22,274.39	
Venous forum	0.00	
Royal Society of Medicine	0.00	
Surgeon training fees	0.00	
Miscellaneous income	0.00	
Sponsorship	0.00	
Charitable donations	0.00	
Bank interest received	205.23	
Exchange rate gain	0.00	
<i>Total income</i>		<i>33,301.96</i>

	31st August 2020	
	All Funds	
Expenditure	£	£
Annual General Meeting	918.12	
Ann Donald memorial award	0.00	
Committee expenses	0.00	
Education committee meetings	2,717.01	
Journal access	3,015.74	
Executive committee	2,563.47	
Professional standards committee	1,959.11	
Research committee	0.00	
CASE expenses	2,286.10	
Trainee network expenses	0.00	
Revision days	2,902.15	
Study days	0.00	
Practical examination fees	183.34	
Inteleos on-line examination fees	0.00	
Newsletter	25.00	
Postage, printing and stationery	1,746.14	
Website / database administration	1,435.00	
Insurance	663.32	
Professional fees	3,249.42	
Venous forum	0.00	
Faculty of Healthcare Science	0.00	
Vascular Access Society	0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	19.08	
Sponsored research grants	4,000.00	
Donations	300.00	
Academy for Healthcare Science	524.40	
Presidents medals	0.00	
Bank charges	1,751.08	
Exchange rate loss	0.00	
<i>Total expenditure</i>		30,258.48
Net income		3,043.48

5 – Membership Report

This year membership numbers are slightly down compared to last year.

The membership as of 24th November 2020 was 498.

Comprising of: -

9 - Associate members

10 - Honorary members

476 - Ordinary members

3 - Special Interest group

It's been just over a year since we stopped our registration renewals by standing order and on the whole it's gone smoothly. There are some issues where members are not seeing their membership updated when they renew, but, after having gone through a few of these, it appears that this happens when people do not renew on time and this fee then backpays the year to bring them up to date.

At present there are quite a few members who have not renewed their membership and will shortly lapse if this is not addressed. So, could everyone check their membership to see if they are fully paid up. We will send an email reminder out shortly.

Many Thanks,

Lynne McRae

Membership Secretary

6 - Professional Standards Report

We are in the process of reviewing and updating the current guidelines as well as producing further documents covering other less common imaging and physiological tests.

The PSC team are engaging with external bodies and stakeholders to make sure that our documents represent current practice.

As always, we welcome constructive comments and suggestions. IF you have any questions please contact the Professional standards committee via the following email:

svt.professionalstandards@gmail.com

Many Thanks,

Kamran Modaresi

PSC Chairman

7 – BMUS Report

Following the lockdown in March this year, BMUS made the sad decision to cancel their Annual General Meeting and all physical study days due to the ongoing pandemic.

However only a few months later, when committee members had some time to catch up adjust to the new work pressures the committee rallied together and launched their **BMUS Webinar Wednesdays**. These webinars are provided online by subject matter experts across a range of ultrasound specialisms and are accessible free of charge to members via the BMUS website.

One of the first webinars was delivered by Pam Parker, President of BMUS who discussed the professional issues facing the ultrasound workforce during the pandemic, including provisions for education and training and how to tackle the mounting backlogs.

The most recent webinar by Nick Dudley can be found here;

<https://www.bmus.org/webinarwednesday-an-incremental-approach-to-ultrasound-qa/>

BMUS 'Re-Imagined' virtual Conference

Tuesday 8th - Thursday 10th December 2020 from 6pm - 9.30pm

Following the success of their webinars, BMUS decided to deliver some of the ASM content in a mini virtual meeting, to be held on the evenings of the would have been ASM. This mini conference has been cleverly named 'BMUS Re-imagined'. Please see details below;

<https://www.bmus.org/mediacentre/events/bmus-re-imagined/>

The SVT will provide some talks presented at our ASM for BMUS audience on Wednesday the 9th at 8:30pm

Full program can be found here;

<https://www.bmus.org/bmus-2020-reimagined/>

Looking forward, **BMUS ASM 2021** will be held in Cardiff City Hall from the 7th-9th December.

The SVT continues to work closely with BMUS, collaborating on Education and training content and other mutual professional interests such workforce planning and career frameworks.

BMUS, RCR and SCoR have continued to lobby for progress on obtaining statutory regulation for sonographers.

Recently the Department for Health/Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy have launched a consultation: 'The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Regulation of Professions: Call for Evidence'; regarding the need for professional regulation and is asking for input from individuals, institutions, employers and organisations.

BMUS have provided a response, working alongside CASE (Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education) and the CASE Chair, Heather Venables, to provide evidence from an educational accreditation stance.

The SVT has also responded to the consultation. We await further updates in the new year.

BMUS ultrasound guidance document will be updated and published online this December as is the annual custom.

The SVT were asked to provide our expert guidance for Lower Limb DVT scanning and Carotid and Vertebral artery Duplex scanning – both SVT protocols have shared and will be published within BMUS Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice.

A recent report by Health Education England published on the 4th of November

'The NHS is set to radically overhaul the way MRI, CT and other diagnostic services are delivered for patients, a major report to NHS England'

Professor Sir Mike Richards was commissioned by NHS chief executive Sir Simon Stevens to review diagnostic services as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The review's proposals will help save lives and improve people's quality of life including for cancer, stroke, heart disease and respiratory conditions.

Please find a link to the report for your information;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BM2025Pu-item-5-diagnostics-recovery-and-renewal.pdf>

8 – Presidents Report

It was a great honour to take over as SVT President from Dominic Foy back in November 2019. This was the proudest moments of my career and I am very grateful to being given this opportunity.

It would be an understatement to say a lot has changed this year. With the impact of Covid-19 affecting many aspects of both professional and personal life it has been a difficult year for us all, but I am immensely proud of the response of all SVT members during this difficult time. From redeployment onto the front line to changes in service provision to ensure our patients and colleagues are kept safe, you have all done yourself and the profession proud. Well done.

I know this year's conference will be a lot different from usual but we hope it still provides you with all the usual insight, knowledge and networking that we usually benefit. A big thank you to our Conference Secretary Carole Tennison for her hard work in bringing this together in what was probably the most difficult year to be a Conference Secretary.

Education and Training

Back in March we took the difficult decision to stop both practical and theoretical exams and although a tough choice, it was the correct decision to ensure the safety of examiners and patients. Following the removal of lockdown restrictions, we were able to complete all theory exams in October and were also able to recommence practical exams. Good luck to all trainees who sat their exams this year and congratulations to all newly qualified AVS.

In order to align the SVT accreditation process more closely with the AHCS equivalence pathway we have been planning on reviewing the accreditation syllabus to include more research. Due to Covid-19 we have not progressed this as far as expected but hope to have a firmer plan ready for 2021-22.

Research

The SVT Research/Innovation award is to enable Vascular Scientists to conduct small-scale studies such as pilot or feasibility studies, with the hope that larger grants will be applied for at a later date. There is a total of £10,000 available per year, with a maximum of £4,000 per award. Many SVT members have already benefitted from these grants and we encourage all members to utilise this if they have any research/audits they wish to perform. Along with the grants the SVT research committee also has information and guidance available on the website for members wishing to write research proposals and grants, plus as a member of the SVT you gain free access to the European Journal for Vascular Surgery.

BMUS

The SVT continues to work closely with the UK's primary ultrasound society providing education and training at their national annual conference along with sharing protocols and guidance on vascular sonography for their members.

CASE (consortium for the accreditation of sonographic Education)

CASE is an organisation that exists to accredit sonographic courses delivered within the UK. The SVT works closely with CASE to enable this essential work to occur.

RAD-AID

The SVT is in discussion with the charity RAD-AID to create an award for an SVT member to provide free travel to help with their work in providing healthcare education and training in Africa, Asia and Central America. More information on the SVT/RAD-AID initiative will be available in the new year.

Membership Categories

The executive committee are in the process of changing membership categories to allow for a more streamlined and simpler categorisation that will also allow other professionals who share an interest in vascular science to join in some form and benefit from our guidance and protocols to help improve standards.

The process of changing membership categories will require a vote by the membership which will be announced at this year's SVT AGM.

Professional Registration and Lab Accreditation

This year the SVT introduced a compulsory register of AVS on our website enabling employers to quickly and easily get verification of a member's AVS status. Along with the SVT register there are also registries open for AVS within the SOR and AHCS.

Vascular Lab accreditation with the UKAS IQIPS scheme is still to see its full potential with only 3 vascular labs currently achieving accredited status. It is something the SVT Exec Committee is keen to improve and is going to be working with both UKAS and our members to help more labs gain accreditation.

The year ahead...

The year gone by presented numerous challenges that I had not thought possible when I took the reins as president back in the non-Covid days of November 2019. This meant a lot of the

plans I had for the society needed to be put on hold this year however with the distant hope of normality on the horizon I am determined to push ahead with our plans in the coming year.

- In the next 12 months, I aim to produce a survey on workforce planning which will hopefully give us an idea of any potential future issues regarding staff levels.
- Following the success of online zoom/teams based virtual meeting this year we are looking to utilise this technology for future study days and revision sessions.
- RSI is as always, a major risk factor in our profession and the last survey on this was a number of years ago so I plan to produce another RSI survey plus provide online resources for our members.
- The SVT RadAid global health initiative will launch in 2021
- Mental health and wellbeing is an important aspect of overall health and following the year's events is as important as ever. I look to increase the resources we offer for our members to help with any of these issues and potentially offer training.
- Promote IQIPS accreditation and work with the accreditation board to help more vascular departments achieve the standards necessary.

At the end of a difficult year we start to look forward to a better 2020-21 and with hope of the meeting in person again at the November 2021 SVT Conference.

Many Thanks,

Lee Smith

SVT President