

Dear members,

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I take over the presidency of the BSGI and the very first thing that I would like to do in my new role is to pay tribute to my two predecessors. The society is in its eleventh year, having been established by an elite group in 2007, and my two predecessors were there at the very outset as founding members. Professor Nazar Amso was our first leader and president and subsequently in 2016, the role was taken over by Professor Neil Pugh. I think it is true to say that it has been their continued efforts and stewardship that has steered the BSGI to where we are today.

What is most poignant at this time for us at the BSGI, is that Professor Amso after eleven years of unconditional service has stepped down from running the society and I think it is worth taking a minute to remember and appreciate some of what he has done for the BSGI during this time. Setting up and running a professional society is far from easy and he was one of the original group who had not only the original vision for the society but also the wherewithal to be able to create it and make it work. He played a major role in drawing up the society's constitution and undertook the necessary work to secure the BSGI's status as a registered charity in-keeping with regulations laid down by the Charity Commission. Nazar was mainly responsible for constructing and principally running our first website and as technology has moved on his experience in this area has been critically important to the BSGI when he recently help navigate us through the costly and complicated process of developing a much needed replacement, up-to-date website. He has been a major driving force behind the planning and delivery of all of our Annual Scientific Meetings and most of our one-day educational meetings and joint meetings and workshops with other specialist societies, which have always been successful. He has tirelessly found and delivered administrative support for the society, sometimes undertaking a part of this day-to-day burden himself when times were hard. Also through his connections in the profession he brokered a meeting with the president of the RCOG and initiated what turned out to be a long-lasting, close, professional relationship for us with the College. The relationship we have maintained with the RCOG is vitally important to us and it helps define our positioning within the profession. Ultimately, it is this close, mutually beneficial relationship that directly led to the BSGI having a seat on the prestigious RCOG Professional Societies Committee, which in turn has provided the BSGI with something of a voice pertaining to Gynaecological Imaging within the RCOG and a democratic role contributing to the planning of the RCOG national and international professional development meetings. I think therefore that overall the BSGI owes Nazar a huge thank you for his sustained enterprise and efforts because it has directly led us to where we are today. In true Nazar style he is not looking now to a quiet retirement but instead he is busying himself with several major on-going commercial ventures in the world of Ultrasound and Ultrasound training and we wish him well.

I also want to thank our out going president, Professor Neil Pugh. As a founding member and a committed executive committee member ever since, he has worked closely with Nazar to deliver many of the achievements listed above

which have certainly helped bring the society to where it is today. Under his own presidency our success has continued and as well as having had successful annual scientific meetings in Birmingham in 2017 and at the RCOG in 2018, we had an excellent joint meeting on endometriosis with the BSGE in London in 2017 and we provided a well-attended imaging workshop for an ESHRE campus meeting in Cardiff 2017. The BSGI has also provided well-attended hands-on Ultrasound workshops for the RCOG BICOOG meeting in Birmingham 2016 & EBCOG in Turin 2016 as well as the recent EBCOG meeting in Paris 2018. We are part of the planning committee for the RCOG BICOOG meeting in London 2019 and will be providing a breakout stream on gynaecological imaging within the main program of this meeting. We have also put in a bid to deliver a hands-on imaging/ultrasound workshop at this meeting too. The last RCOG BICOOG hands-on workshop we did in Birmingham in 2016 was fully booked and the feedback confirmed that it was very well appreciated. As is the process Neil now takes up a two-year, ex-officio advisory role on the executive committee to ensure continuity of care with regard to running the society. We would like to thank him for his leadership over the last two years.

The presidency is just a two-year term of office but the way that the BSGI committee is structured means that I have already been part of the executive committee for four years. Firstly I was elected as Secretary for two years and then as Vice President over the last two years which means that I have a lot of experience working closely with the other committee members and that I have a detailed understanding of how the society functions. Irrespective of all of that I am still sure that the next two years will pass alarmingly quickly and in this relatively short period of time we have much to accomplish if we wish to keep the BSGI in a healthy condition with the aim of moving with the times to secure our continued position as a well respected national society within our complicated multidisciplinary professional environment.

Hopefully, we will be able to achieve these basic objectives but it is my ambition also to develop the society as best we can during my period of office. I am hoping to find opportunities to increase our membership numbers and to extend our position and role within the healthcare environment. In order to achieve these developments I am going to need a lot of help and support from a growing membership base from which we hope to find dedicated, enterprising and motivated individuals who want to join us at the helm to form a dynamic, strong and supportive committee who can help move the society on to another level.

As I have become the president, Dr Leena Gokhale has been elected into the Vice President post, which leaves the Treasurer's post is now vacant. This along with a number of other vacant positions on the general committee means that we are about to embark upon a round of elections and we will be encouraging motivated individuals from the membership to put themselves forward for office. Information about all the vacant committee posts will be announced on the website in the near future and the membership will be kept informed about the elections process via the website.

On the committee there has always been a trainee's representative and this post is also currently vacant. However, I am of the opinion that we need to embrace the energy, enthusiasm and support of our trainees (from O&G and other allied specialties) so rather than elect just one trainee representative on to the general committee I am hoping to create a new trainee's committee within the society with a representative trainee member selected from every deanery. I would also like to welcome more regional representatives from our radiography, sonography and nursing and midwifery colleagues so that they can join us and have their say. I am keen to set up robust lines of communication into each deanery, to get real-time feedback from the trainees and stakeholders from around the UK to find out the current state of gynaecological ultrasound training and delivery in the UK and see how we can help deliver whatever aspects of ultrasound training and support that is needed. In the past we have conducted a number of surveys to find out the real state of affairs out in the deaneries and I am hoping to commission some further fact-findings surveys via our website in the near future to help guide us with our strategic planning for the future. I feel that we are going through difficult times at present where there are gaps in medical rotas and problems with departmental budgets which means for many, funded study leave can be difficult to come by and with this in mind I want to see how best we can use our resources to reach out to and address the needs of our membership and other stakeholders.

I think it is not unreasonable to suggest that Gynaecological Ultrasound sometimes sits in a peculiar position in the NHS where a number of stakeholders from varying backgrounds sometimes appear to compete with each other in some sort of ultrasound 'market place'. We need to help remove obstacles in the access to gynaecological ultrasound for our trainees and medical and allied healthcare professional colleagues so I am proposing that we should select a senior medical representative from every deanery on the BSGI committee who can work with the deanery trainee representative sorting out the access and organisation of gynaecological ultrasound training to help ensure that the RCOG (and RCR) gynaecological USS curriculum requirements are attainable locally for those trainees who want to achieve it.

I have already mentioned that we have just completed the construction of a new website. These are always difficult and time-consuming to administer and keep up to date so we are looking to recruit individuals who have an interest in this area who can work as a group to help make the most of this valuable platform and hopefully succeed to develop and use it to its full potential. We have decided to publish a quarterly newsletter via the website to keep the membership informed of our activities and to promote our various ventures and enterprises. I am keen to revisit our CPD program to see if we can simplify this and make it more accessible to everyone via the website. As well as our CPD program I hope to look at various credentialing and accreditation programs that are emerging to see if we are able embrace these systems and help roll them out across the UK for our practitioners via our website.

The BSGI will be organising its usual annual scientific meeting at the RCOG in 2019 and work has already begun with this process. However, in 2019 we are

hoping to hold another professional development meeting somewhere in the North of the country too so that people who cannot afford the time and expense of travelling to the capital have access to a valuable training day closer to home. We are going to explore the possibility of holding a trainees meeting alongside our professional development meetings with the possibility of making hands-on trainee's workshops available too if the demand is there. On the back of our success with BSGE and ESHRE last year we are also exploring opportunities to run combined meetings and workshops with other professional societies whenever possible. We have in the past run many one-day hands-on trans-vaginal ultrasound workshops within a number of deaneries across the country and if through our surveys we find that there is an appetite for more of this type of training then we can provide support for the local representatives who wish to establish and deliver more of these study days.

Finally, I want to say that I am very pleased to be your next BSGI president and that I looking forward to representing our membership over the next 2 years and that I really want to help develop the BSGI by opening up our committee structure to enthusiastic, motivated and dynamic individuals who share our love of Gynaecological Imaging and want to take on the ambassadorial roles needed to break down age-old obstacles, forge new relations and collaborations amongst our colleagues and basically champion the delivery of quality gynaecological ultrasound scanning services and training structures across the UK.

The two years ahead will pass quickly I'm sure, and in this time there are many things I want to achieve with the society. I can only do this with a strong committee and a motivated membership so I hope you will all support me with my vision. I would welcome any new members with a desire to promote the use of ultrasound in our specialty to share this passion and join our committee. Our elections will run very soon.

Following on from another highly educational and topical annual scientific meeting, with several very respected speakers, we are already looking towards what meetings we can hold over the next 12 months.

We listen to our membership and the feedback we receive and I encourage you to share your ideas. In response to what you have told us we will have a drive this year to actively develop a more dynamic trainee body as we recognise it is our junior members who will be our future. We recognise that acquiring training is difficult and we hope to change this.

This newsletter will be our way of keeping in touch with the membership and we welcome any input our readers want to provide. If you want to contribute, with cases or articles, please don't hesitate to get involved.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Chamberlin
President