

# MEETING BULLETIN

2007  
Annual  
Meeting



The Society for Cardiothoracic  
Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland



**A group of surgeons** from Papworth have reviewed the literature in respect of pneumothorax surgery. This morning they discussed their *meta-analysis*, which remarkably found that surgery performed using VATS access is associated with a 4-fold increase in recurrence when compared to the open procedure.

**A multi-study from North America** compared two types of surgery for neonates with critical aortic stenosis. Results show that survival in patients undergoing biventricular repair was poor when compared to those who had univentricular repair. The team today examine factors leading to early failure.

**At yesterday evening's Business Meeting** there was overwhelming support for proposed changes to the Society's structure. These included a radical makeover creating a new executive membership, with a secondary representative board. There was also member agreement for future patient involvement.

**At yesterday's well attended trainees meeting**, Mr James Roxburgh announced the introduction of the new and groundbreaking e-Logbook. Trainees will be able to access their individual log book from any centre. The software will be available soon, and will have the ability to break down each clinical procedure into its constituent parts. Despite Lead Dean Professor David Sowden presenting a bleak outlook for all trainees within the NHS, applications for cardiothoracic surgical training stands at a massive 50:1.



**SCTS President, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh**, welcomes everyone to the 2007 meeting here in Manchester. He says the meeting has got off to a good start with high quality presentations, and in particular a stimulating talk from Dr Fred Grover - immediate past President of the STS. Sir Bruce will address all delegates in his Presidential speech on Wednesday afternoon, where he will demonstrate how the reputation of the Society has changed over the last few years. He will also highlight some of the outstanding challenges ahead.

**Using an animal model**, scientists from the Hatter Institute in London demonstrate the mechanisms by which *Atorvastatin* (a cholesterol lowering drug) may protect the heart during a myocardial infarction.

**Surgeons from the QEMC in Birmingham** today spoke of their findings following a prospective randomised double-blind trial looking at the use of *thyroxine* and *methylprednisolone* in potential cardiac donors. They showed that the use of these drugs was not the main reason for improvement in donor hearts.

**In a similar study** of lung donors, the same surgeons failed to demonstrate any benefit when using *methylprednisolone*.

**In the largest ever published series** in high risks patients awaiting cardiac surgery, a Sheffield group have demonstrated that staged carotid stenting can be carried out with negligible early morbidity. Results and postoperative outcomes are comparable to historical reports of staged or combined carotid/cardiac surgery.

**MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

**Surgeons from Belfast** will demonstrate how current smokers display a reduction in the endothelial function of the *internal mammary artery*, when compared to ex and non-smokers. Their findings suggest that smoking cessation may enhance graft patency and therefore patient survival.

**Professor David Taggart** this morning spoke of the early results from an important international surgical randomised trial. The study compares the use of *single internal mammary artery* against *bilateral internal mammary arteries* in patients undergoing CABG.

**Surgeons from Liverpool** compare outcomes between patients being operated on for *stable* and *unstable angina*, using off-pump total arterial grafting. They found the incidence of postoperative bleeding, in-hospital mortality and deep sternal wound infection to be slightly higher in the *unstable angina* group. Meanwhile, survival at five years was similar.

**The team from the Bristol Heart Institute** have used their database to develop a model that accurately predicts the need for blood transfusion following cardiac surgery.

**In another talk today**, surgeons from the same centre will demonstrate how cardiac MRI provides an accurate assessment of scar tissue, allowing the surgeon to optimally plan left ventricular reshaping surgery.

**Delegates enjoy the opportunity to relax and chat at yesterday evening's welcome reception.**



**A record attendance of trainees**

MANCHESTER