Surgeons from the Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto, Canada, will today describe their experience of managing 30 children who underwent cardiac surgery for infectious endocarditis.

Congenital heart surgeons from Osaka, Japan, today say that steroid replacement therapy after surgery for congenital heart disease does not increase the incidence of infection.

In an excellent session yesterday afternoon, invited speakers Sir Donald Irvine and Alan Wood, Head of Firearms for Manchester Police, discussed possible approaches to revalidation in cardiothoracic surgery. Revalidation will become a statutory requirement for all clinicians in the UK, and ways of formulating a robust and workable structure were explored.

Birla et al, from The Heart Hospital, London, will demonstrate that preoperative hydration in patients with mild to moderate renal dysfunction will result in lower postoperative rises in creatinine. More importantly there was a lower postoperative morbidity.

You can hear surgeons from Great Ormond Street Hospital and The Heart Hospital, London; describe their experience with surgical and percutaneous management of regurgitation in the pulmonary valve.

Messrs Dunning and Nashef will today explain new guidelines governing peri-operative management in cardiac surgery. These guidelines have been issued by the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery.

Graham Cooper this year hands over his responsibilities as Meeting Secretary to Simon Kendall and David Taggart. Graham has held the position for six years, and the Society would like to thank him for his hard work and determination in making the meetings so successful. Under his jurisdiction we have seen a year-on-year increase in numbers of delegates – this year having a record of attendance of over 350. The Society has also widened its scope in the past two years to include all Health Care Professionals involved in the field of cardiothoracic surgery. At the end of his term, Graham can be proud to see a more professional Society, with an improved structure. Thank you Graham, for a job well done!

Health Care Professionals from Liverpool describe how they have overcome the expense and the limited number of training programmes available to them. They have developed a comprehensive range of training CD roms, covering a wide range of topics, and which are available free.

REMINDER
Could all people attending the Annual Dinner tonight please be outside the MICC at 6.15 PM. Coaches will be leaving promptly, as a tour of Old Trafford football ground will precede the dinner. This year we are joined by honoured guest, Sir Bobby Charlton. Enjoy the evening, and we look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh next year.

WEDS. 14TH MARCH 2007

Surgeons from Middlesbrough, Stoke-Upon-Trent and Manchester will give an account of the new Cardiothoracic Advanced Life Support course. This modification to the Resuscitation Council (UK) course is designed to ensure all staff members working in cardiothoracic surgery have a common language of protocols and skills in an emergency situation.

H. Munday from Papworth Hospital in Cambridge will today describe a Doctor v Nurse comparison of the talc slurry procedure in the treatment of pneumothorax. Early results in this pilot study indicate no difference in patient satisfaction or recurrence between the two groups.

In an interesting discussion, surgeons from the north-west of England will today compare and contrast different risk adjustment models, used when analysing surgeon specific mortality.

Medical students from Manchester University have been excellent in facilitating the smooth running of this year’s meeting. They have ensured that all delegates have been in the right place at the right time, as well as providing a first class roving mike service inside the auditorium. We would like to offer them a huge thank-you, and wish them the best of luck in their future medical careers.