Endocrine Surgical Associations – history

By the 1950s several surgeons were beginning to see and practise surgery of the endocrine system. Among the first was Oliver Cope in Boston.

In 1971 (25 – 29 January) an international course in endocrine surgery was organised at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith by Richard Welbourn, Selwyn Taylor and their colleagues. The speakers included Ivan Johnston (Newcastle) and Orlo Clark (San Francisco), who was then working at Hammersmith.

IAES
In 1979 Peter Heimann, a Swedish surgeon who was Professor of Surgery at the University of Bergen, wrote to colleagues and proposed the formation of an ‘International Association of Endocrine Surgeons’ (IAES). Peter Heimann died from Gastric cancer in March 1979, but the IAES was formed in September of that year during the meeting of the International Society of Surgery in San Francisco. Selwyn Taylor was elected President and Orlo Clark secretary.

BAES
During this meeting Richard Welbourn and Ivan Johnston conceived the idea of forming a British Society of Endocrine Surgeons. On 25th March 1980 they arranged an informal one-day meeting on endocrine surgery at Hammersmith hospital. Richard Welbourn was elected Chairman, Ivan Johnston Secretary. The British committee met and proposed the formation of an ‘Endocrine Surgical Group’.

AAES
Also in 1980 an American Association of Endocrine Surgeons was formed with Norman Thompson (Ann Arbor) as President.

1980 - Present
In 1981 at a meeting in Birmingham the Endocrine Surgical Group was formed. The meeting lasted a day and the highlight was a guest lecture by Per-Ola Granberg of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, on ‘reoperations for primary hyperparathyroidism’. He and two distinguished senior British surgeons – Selwyn Taylor and Hilary Wade – were elected to Honorary Membership. Professor Welbourn proposed a Crest for the Group, depicting an endocrine gland or tumour, containing a steroid nucleus, a peptide chain and thyroid hormone molecules, with a scalpel superimposed. The Group, however, did not accept it and the Committee was asked to reconsider the matter. Mr Chris Pegg from Nottingham created the definitive design of the logo, which is also the template for the Presidential medal. This oval crest incorporates the pituitary, parathyroids, thyroid, pancreas, adrenals and testes.
In 1982 the Group met at St Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical School and changed its name to ‘British Endocrine Surgical Group’. In 1984 at a meeting at St Thomas’ Hospital Medical School, the name was once more changed to ‘British Association of Endocrine Surgeons’, which reflected the prestige that the Society had achieved. In 1986 the Association was recognised by the Department of Health as the representative organisation of Endocrine Surgery. In 1994, the British Journal of Surgery prize for the best paper at the Scientific meeting was inaugurated. The award of £500 was shared by Mr GP Sadler and Mr G Asimakopoulos. In 2007 the members voted to change the name to ‘British Association of Endocrine and Thyroid Surgeons’ to emphasise that the Group is the professional body for thyroid surgeons, and thyroid surgery constitutes two-thirds of all endocrine surgery. The current membership is 266.

Venue of Annual Scientific meeting:

1981   Birmingham
1982   St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London
1983   John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
1984   St Thomas’ Hospital, London
1985   The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
1987   The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,
1988   University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
1989   Cite Hospitaliere, Lille
1990   The Royal London Hospital, London
1991   Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge
1992   The Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury
1993   The Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol
1994   The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
1995   Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham
1996   The Royal Liverpool Hospital, Liverpool
1997   Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen
1998   Northern General Hospital, Sheffield
1999   Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,
2000   Millennium Meeting: London with AAES and Swedish AES (St Thomas’)
       and CHRU, Lille
2001   Derriford Hospital, Plymouth
2002   Palazzo dei Congressi, Pisa
2003   University of Leeds, Leeds
2004   Grand Hotel, Lund
2005   International Centre for Life, Newcastle upon Tyne
2006   St Anne’s College, Oxford
2007   Royal Marsden Hospital, London
2008   Hemicycle de la Communaute Urbaine, Marseille
2009   St Thomas’ Hospital, London
2010   Birmingham (joint meeting with BAHNO)
2011   Le Chateau du Clos de la Ribaudiere, Poitiers
2012  Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
2013  Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome
2014  Liverpool Town Hall, Liverpool
2015  Phyllis Court Club, Henley-upon-Thames
2016  Hilton Hotel, Berlin
2017  The Assembly Rooms, Belfast
2018  TIC, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Officers of the Association

Presidents
1981-1982  Professor Richard Welbourn (London)
1982-1983  Professor Gerard Taylor (London)
1984-1986  Professor Ivan Johnston (Newcastle)
1987-1989  Mr Andrew Gunn (Dundee)
1989-1991  Mr Malcolm Wheeler (Cardiff)
1991-1992  Mr John Webb (Bristol)
1993-1995  Mr Colin Russell (Belfast)
1995-1997  Mr Tony Barnes (Birmingham)
1997-1999  Mr Nicholas Dudley (Oxford)
1999-2001  Professor John Farndon (Bristol)
2001-2003  Mr Richard Collins (Canterbury)
2003-2005  Mr Anthony Young (London)
2005-2007  Professor Zyg Krukowski (Aberdeen)
2007-2009  Professor Tom Lennard (Newcastle)
2009-2011  Mr Barney Harrison (Sheffield)
2011-2013  Mr John Watkinson (Birmingham)
2013-2015  Mr David Scott-Coombes (Cardiff)
2015-2017  Mr Mark Lansdown (Leeds)
2017-Present  Mr Gregory Sadler (Oxford)

Honorary secretary/treasurer
1981-1983  Professor Ivan Johnston
1983-1995  Professor AW Goode
1995-2002  Mr Barney Harrison
2002-2007  Mr Richard Bliss
2007-2012  Mr Greg Sadler

Secretary
2012-2016  Mr Ashu Gandhi
2016 – Present  Mr Michael Stechman

Treasurer
2012-2017  Mr Jeremy Davis
2017- Present  Miss Fiona Eatock
BJS Lecturers

2018  Forty years as trainee and trainer
      Professor Bruno Carnaille, Lille, France

2017  Utilising science in Endocrine Surgery to solve clinical problems and develop novel therapies
      Professor Stan Sidhu, Sidney, Australia

2016  The human C cell and its tumours
      Professor Bruno Niederle, Vienna, Austria

2015  Molecular aspects of Thyroid Cancer: from microscope to operating table
      Professor Nikiforov, Pittsburgh, USA

2014  The Treatment of “asymptomatic” hyperparathyroidism
      Dr Janice L Pasieka, Calgary, Canada

2013  Prevention and management of iatrogenic hypoparathyroidism
      Professor A. Sitges-Serra, Barcelona, Spain

2012  The future of nerve monitoring in thyroid surgery
      Dr Greg Randolph, Massachusetts, USA

2011  Indications and extent of lymphadenectomy in well differentiated thyroid cancer
      Dr Geoff Thompson, Rochester, USA

2010  Investigation and Management of Retro-Sternal Goitre
      Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Bin Abdullah
      Deputy Minister of Health, Malaysia

2009  Challenges in Medullary Thyroid Cancer.
      Professor Henning Dralle, Halle, Germany

2008  Incorporation of new technologies into clinical practice.
      Dr Jon van Heerden, Mayo Clinic, USA