**British Association of Endocrine & Thyroid Surgeons - A Short History**

**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 – Sewlyn 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>St Thomas’ Hospital, London</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Cite Hospitaliere, Lille</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>The Royal London Hospital, London</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>The Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>The Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>The Royal Liverpool Hospital, Liverpool</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Northern General Hospital, Sheffield</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,</td>
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| 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 Hémicycle de la Communauté Urbaine, Marseille
2009 St Thomas’ Hospital, London
2010 Birmingham (joint meeting with BAHNO)
2011 Le Château du Clos de la Ribaudière, Poitiers
2012 Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
2013 Università 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
2019 Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Campus de la Ciutadella, Barcelona

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)
2017-2019 Mr Gregory Sadler (Oxford)
2019-Present Mr Jeremy Davis (Gillingham)

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

2019 Primary Hyperparathyroidism and the Cardiovascular System
Professor Inga-Lena Nilsson, Stockholm, Sweden

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