

## **Endocrine Surgery 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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***

Association of Endocrine Surgeons was formed with Norman Thompson (Ann Arbor) as President.

### ***ESES***

In the mid 1990s discussions arose about the need or otherwise of a European society in addition to the IAES. There was a difference of opinion between North and South Europe. The debate intensified in 1999 at a meeting in Vienna and in 2002 at the BAES meeting in Pisa a unanimous decision was taken to form ESES and the founding conference was held in Vienna in 2003.

## **BAETS**

### *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. Mr GP Sadler and Mr G Asimakopoulos shared the award of £500. The Millennium meeting was organised by Tony Young and was celebrated as a tripartite event between BAETS, AAES and the Swedish Association of Endocrine Surgeons. The programme started at St Thomas' Hospital and concluded at the Cité Hospitalière in Lille. This proved so successful that on average one in three annual meetings are hosted in Europe. 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 total 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  
1986 The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London  
1987 The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,  
1988 University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff  
1989 Cité Hospitalière, 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 Ribaudière, 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

### **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 Russel (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)

#### 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

2012-2016 Mr Ashu Gandhi

2016 – Present Mr Michael Stechman

Treasurer

2012-2017 Mr Jeremy Davis

2017- present Miss Fiona Eatock