



BRITISH NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2001

President's Address:

This has been to put it mildly a tough year for your President and I have not had the time I would have liked to put into the Society. I apologise therefore for the delay in this Newsletter. Despite this we have made progress in that both the AGM in December and the recent British Cardiac Society symposium were successes. We have also started the next survey into the practice of Nuclear Cardiology, thanks to Andrew Kelion, and have the bones of a web site in situ with funding now available to get this up to a professional standard. Richard and Liz have also continued to be very successful with the joint BNCS/BNMS CD learning aid, which is commended to all.

Due to the problems we encountered last year I agreed to stay on as President for the time being, however, other duties now mean that I must start handing over the responsibility for the Society to Dr Anagnostopoulos who will take over formally in December. Dinos has been a great friend and help and I am very grateful to him for taking on this major responsibility. I have every faith that he will do a superb job and be a great improvement on the current President! We will need a new Secretary in December and the Officers welcome nominations.

Medical bit:

There is often a lack of understanding with respect to the role of Nuclear Cardiology from the prognostic point of view, in patients with ischaemic heart disease. It is true to say that this technique performed optimally may still "miss" 10% of people from the diagnostic point of view but this should not be confused with its prognostic capability. On the whole a normal perfusion scan, even in a patient with known ischaemic heart disease, has an excellent medium-term prognosis of <1% mortality. No other test, to date, has been shown to be so useful in this regard and it is much superior to either exercise testing or coronary angiography. Given that the great majority of patients fall within the middle ground of risk by exercise testing there is obviously need for an extended role for Myocardial Perfusion Imaging in the assessment of IHD. There is also another concern and that is related to the fact that a patient's symptoms do not correlate well with the severity of disease and hence their cardiovascular risk.

Subs:

Sorry to raise this thorny issue but we very much need your money in order to be able to provide a quality AGM in December and to pay our way with general expenses. Whilst we do obtain commercial sponsorship, annual subs and Registration fees for the AGM are a very important part of our income.

December AGM:

Following on from the success of last year's meeting, which was very well attended despite the transport difficulties, this year's AGM will be held on Friday 14th December. The venue will be the Paul Wood Post Graduate Centre, National Heart and Lung Institute, Sydney Street, London as per previous years. The Guest Speaker will be Dr Jim Udelson who will be speaking about the role of MPI in assessment of Chest Pain in the Out-Patient Setting which is obviously very topical given the initiatives to provide widespread rapid assessment clinics.

British Cardiac Society Symposium Thursday 23rd May, Manchester

Although given what is termed the "graveyard slot" (ie the first early morning session after the formal Dinner!) turnout was quite respectable and the talks excellent. Dinos spoke on the main well-known benefits of myocardial perfusion imaging and its recent ability to assess LV contraction, Dr Dave Northridge spoke on the developing role of echocardiography to assess perfusion. Whilst this seems currently not to be a threat to MPI, developments in direct myocardial perfusion imaging using contrast were very interesting. Finally Dudley gave an excellent talk on the role of MRI in perfusion imaging supplemented by quite outstanding examples.

We have been given a substantial grant for 2003 from the Cardiac Society in order to attract an external speaker and this is obviously a very welcome gesture.

Web site:

The BNCS has modernised itself and now has a web site – bncs.org.uk – for which commercial development money has recently been provided due to the generosity of Bristol Myres Squibb. The rather primitive site will therefore be shortly getting a professional makeover.

BNMS/BNCS guidelines for perfusion imaging:

Several prominent figures of both organisations have now revised these guidelines and hopefully they will be published on the BNMS web site and as hard copy in the near future. This joint development will hopefully provide robust support for the increasing numbers of sites undertaking myocardial perfusion imaging.

BNCS survey into Nuclear Cardiology Practice in UK - 2001.

Andrew Kelion has not only kindly agreed to get the next audit up and running but has already achieved this formidable task! We are using the previous format with the addition of information on waiting times etc which we have previously not collected and thus the data should be directly comparable. Judging by the demand for new gamma cameras in the wake of the NSF recommendations, in England, we hope that numbers of investigations continue to rise with decreased waiting times.

Best Wishes to All

Malcolm Metcalfe – President.