

24th September 2010.

Hello Colleagues,

'Liberating the NHS' ! Well, that's exactly what the caption says –with regards to the recent White Paper and GP commissioning consortia. Well, if it does materialise (and I have no doubts –it will), then the GPs will be in a powerful role of commissioning services –which will be in the best interest of their patients and the taxpayer. A true 'gate keeper' role –engaged in clinical governance issues and economic strategies. I have always stated and preached passionately –that "appropriate surgical services should be delivered in the Primary care settings –where 'adequate' infrastructure and skills are available". Under NO circumstances, should the quality and safety of patient care be jeopardised. ASPC should play a leading role in advising, guiding and directing the policies related to decision making at the 'grass root' level.

Our recent ASPC conference in London was hailed as a great success and I would like thank the Council, ASPC and BANSV members for their support. One agenda –stood out loud and clear—from the majority of delegates, that they were receiving little or no support from their secondary colleagues. Few members had good rapport with their secondary care colleagues. In view of the above, the Council has decided to have a 'parallel' conference along with the ASGBI (Association of Surgeons in Great Britain and Ireland). The conference has been scheduled for the 13th May 2011 in Bournemouth –so please pencil this date in your diary. Details of the conference will be made available on ASPC (www.aspc-uk.net) and ASGBI (www.asgbi.org.uk) websites. The main idea of this joint venture –will be to 'network' with your secondary care colleagues and for them to know about the activities of ASPC. You are invited to send abstracts, posters etc... for presentation at the conference.

The Council has been doing a lot work on 'ASPC audits' especially with regards to Vasectomy (led by BANSV), Carpal tunnel Surgery and Dermatology. Details of these will be made available on our website too. Please take part and help the Council –in ways you feel just.

Early this month, I was in Kenya –to look at the feasibility of starting a new charity hernia surgery project at Nakuru. It looks very promising. Any ASPC volunteers seeking to broaden their horizons and / or donate some of their time and skills to Kenya –please get in touch with me.

Meanwhile, take part in your local GP consortia and pencil in the date for our next conference ---13th May 2011 in Bournemouth!

Best wishes,

Raj Dhumale
MS FRCS