

April 2009

Didn't we have a fantastic conference at Stratford on Avon! I am sure you all agree it was a great success and we certainly had some stimulating discussions and debates. Our guest speakers were brilliant and gave scintillating presentations. All the presentations are on our ASPC website – for you to revisit at your own leisure. I guess it would be fair for me say that the conference 'message' was: that there is a 'need' for a unified surgical community (primary and secondary care) to deliver surgical services to the highest possible standards. The importance of good and adequate training required to deliver such a service should be offered from primary and secondary care settings. There is a need for a 'tailored' curriculum for those intending to offer such a service and gain recognised accreditation. ASPC will endeavour to liaise with all relevant professional bodies to achieve these goals – which would be in keeping with the DH Care Closer to Home policy. We should all ensure we keep up with our surgical audits, keep a good record of 'continued professional development' and engage in academic debates –where appropriate.

Primary Care is the current hot bed for increased surgical activity –as PCTs are very keen to shift appropriate surgical services where skills and structure are available. So ensure you have a good working relation with your PCT and attract more work in your setting via SLA, Choose and Book etc. PBC seems to be progressing at a different pace in different parts of the country – so if you have an active and progressive PBC –engage with them.

I know our membership base has increased and I am glad about it –BUT, I would like to see more members joining our association year after year. I shall be grateful if you could inform your colleagues about our organisation and invite them to join. It will be good for them and for us –collectively, in more ways than one.

We have a good web forum too and please log on to the same and take part.

Knowledge is meant to be dispersed and shared knowledge is best by far.

Finally, ASPC has written a letter to NICE re controversies with current dermatology guidelines and its implementation. Many thanks to all those who contributed and ASPC looks forward to the response.

Best wishes,

Raj Dhumale