

18<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Dear Colleagues,

HAPPY NEW YEAR. I sincerely hope you have a pleasant, fruitful and a satisfying 2010. It appears, Gordon Brown plans to hold elections around May of this year and regardless of what the politicians say during the pre election phase –we must not be complacent about their views –especially regarding the funding aspect. We are all aware of the £20 billion savings needed by 2012—which as I said, ought to shift more surgical services to primary care –where appropriate, as it is cost effective and value for money. To ensure shift of appropriate services, ASPC members must ensure their skills, accreditations and CME are up to date, SLA's renewed and looking to expand their repertoire!

I am grateful to ALL the members for their input re NICE Dermatology GDG—and I have sent the collated views to NICE in Dec 2009 and await NICE's final verdict on the same. I am also glad to welcome BANSV members and you will hear more about our joint ventures including our *joint conference*, at the AGM –which will be held at the Prospero House, London on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (details on ASPC website). I look forward to seeing you all there –so please pencil this date in your diaries now.

The theme for this years conference is 'Opportunities and Challenges' and we have quite a few distinguished guest speakers. I am (as you will be) keen to hear their views.

As some of you know, I was in Ghana in Nov 2009 and it was immensely satisfying. We performed 186 hernia repairs in remote rural Ghana. The weather was very hot and humid, the working conditions truly primitive –but the love, affection and gratitude showered on us by the Ghanaians was immense. I am going to Nepal (April 2010) to set up a similar sort of rural surgical service and would encourage ASPC members to volunteer for future international charity projects. Please feel free to contact me.

ASPC has been approached to forge international links with Primary care surgeons from abroad. I think this will be a valuable link –in promoting our cause –i.e : delivery of high quality, safe and cost effective surgical service.

Lots more to tell you! - – so do come to Prospero House, London on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 –to our joint ASPC and BANSV Conference.

See you there!

Best wishes,  
Raj Dhumale  
ASPC President