

22nd April 2008

Dear Colleagues,

I am sure your thoughts will be similar to mine, regarding our very first ASPC conference in Stratford-on -Avon: It was fantastic! It was heart warming to see like minded fellow professionals, all eager to participate and voice their opinions. Speaker presentations were crisp and of excellent quality. We hope to have all these presentations on our website as soon as possible.

There were numerous representatives from all involved in the delivery of surgical services from the primary care sector: GPs, Consultants, trainees, nurses, podiatrists and from the PCT too! All had one goal in mind—how do we take this initiative further? There were positive inputs regarding training and accreditation, networking and knowledge dispersion via the association forum, and increasing the momentum of delivery of services by integrating clinical and managerial skills.

We must increase our expanding membership base by informing colleagues (medical, nursing, managerial) of our association and involving them to further the cause of our organisation. We must continue to hold regular local and national meetings and involve our secondary colleagues –where feasible. We must teach and learn, debate and question, invite and participate –at all levels –broadening our information base. By doing so, we will ensure the sustainability of shifting ‘appropriate’ secondary care surgical services to the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ASPC Council members, all the delegates, our sponsors (Ethicon, Limbs and Things, Tyco) and Karen (my wife—who took on the role of the receptionist for the day) for their support, involvement and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,

Raj Dhumale

MS FRCS

President