

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Welcome to our August 2025 newsletter, rounding up everything that's been happening over the past four months - and what a rollercoaster it's been! We're thrilled to share that the ASPC is now bigger than it's ever been, with over **250 members** and counting. That growth reflects the incredible momentum and energy across our community right now.

Our **2025 Conference** was nothing short of sensational, this year's event truly had it all. And if you weren't there... seriously, why not?! You missed a cracker! 2026 promises to be bigger, better and even more fun! **June 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> 2026 – save the date!!** Behind the scenes, there's been a huge amount going on, from training reform and national engagement to member support and policy work, we've been busy making sure our voice is heard, and securing our future. Thanks for being part of the journey. Let's keep the momentum going!

Dr Gareth James, ASPC President and Audit lead: [President@ASPC-uk.net](mailto:President@ASPC-uk.net)

## ASPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 2025, LEICESTER MARRIOTT

**“What a conference, what a venue - and what an unforgettable Indian banquet night!”**



With superb speakers and a host of brilliant hands-on workshops offering insight and inspiration to vibrant discussions and genuine connections, the **ASPC conference 2025** was a real celebration of the talent and passion across our field. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive with an average rating of over 4.7/5.0 for all our lectures and workshops - with countless comments on the quality, relevance, practical value of the sessions, and praising the hands-on learning and fresh clinical insights.



Our revamped **Poster competition** saw five excellent entries, all available in the Conference 2025 folder in the members' area. Congratulations to the **BEM's** team who were awarded the 2025 **Laurel Spooner Poster Prize**.

Next year's poster competition for conference 2026 promises to be bigger and better, with the top 3 presenting at the conference

**Mentorship:** It was especially inspiring to see so many young surgeons at this year's conference - the future of our specialty is clearly in good hands. But too few senior members have stepped up to mentor them. Sign up to be an ASPC Mentor: Leave a legacy, aspire to make a difference and to inspire others



The second **ASPC Conference Golf Competition** saw six players battle it out for the prestigious *Raj Dhumale Trophy*. Despite the weather, it was a tight contest, with Prasun Kumar winning and receiving the trophy from ASPC founder Raj Dhumale at the Conference Dinner. Plan now to book the day off before our 2026 Conference to join us!

**Charities:** The ASPC has proudly donated £1000 to 3 charities:

- **Walk it off** - (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/walking-it-off-for-mental-health>) Alex M's will be walking over 1,400 miles from Northampton to Alife, Italy to raise awareness for Men's mental health in 2026
- **Operation Hernia** (<https://operationhernia.org.uk>) providing hernia repair missions to communities that otherwise would not receive it and to train to local doctors
- **Reseed** - (<https://reseed.org.uk/>) Create sustainable livelihoods and employment for people in Sierra Leone

To learn more about the incredible work these causes support, and how to donate, visit our Charities page on the website.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, presented, participated, and contributed in any way making the **ASPC 2025 Conference** such a brilliant and uplifting success. Many attendees said it was the best ASPC conference yet - with a few going so far as to call it the **best conference they've ever attended**, full stop. That kind of feedback means the world, and it reflects the energy, passion, and professionalism of everyone involved. Here's to an even bigger and better 2026!

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**Audit Results:** The completed comparison audit sheets for Vasectomy, Carpal Tunnel Decompression and Skin Surgery submitted prior to the conference 2025 can be found in the **AUDITS 2025 folder** found in the members-only AUDITS section

## Save the Date – 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June: ASPC Annual Conference 2026!

With the venue recording an impressive average feedback score of 4.7 across all aspects - conference venue, location, food and drink, and of course the unforgettable Friday night dinner and entertainment - we're thrilled to announce that we'll be returning to the Leicester Marriott on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June 2026. We're already planning another fantastic programme, and yes... Friday's entertainment will be just as epic – just don't forget to pack your dancing shoes!

**Early bird tickets will be available before the end of the year - don't miss out!**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Primary Care Surgical Association Conference** – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Kilkenny, Ireland

The upcoming PCSA Conference promises to be another exciting event, with a strong focus on advancing skin surgery techniques. Don't forget, all ASPC members are also PCSA members, so head over to expand your skin knowledge and skills, and experience first-hand some famous Irish hospitality!

**Vasectomy Study Day** 8<sup>th</sup> November Oxford Spires

The **12th Annual Vas study day** is coming soon, so join Soon and the team for a full day of vasectomy learning, updates, and networking, with ASPC members getting a discount!

**For more details on both events please, visit the ASPC News & Events page**

Plus, please come and say hello and visit our stand at the **Best Practice** conference **Birmingham NEC** on **8/9<sup>th</sup> October**.

## OTHER ASPC UPDATES

### ASPC Council

The council welcomes **Ali Phillips** as our new Consultant and Innovation lead, and **Gregg Pickering** as our BSSH education committee representative.

We say a thanks and fond farewell to **Ashleigh**, and offer a warm welcome to **Emma** as our new Audit Secretary.

### ASPC Working Alone Statement

The ASPC firmly believes that no clinician should be expected or pressured to operate alone for any procedure. This is a matter of safety, professionalism, and appropriate clinical standards. If you're ever asked to work solo and you're not comfortable, please direct your manager or employer to our official **ASPC Working Alone Statement**. You can find it on our website in any of the 3 (Vas/CTD/Skin) **PROCEDURE folders** in the members-only area, or in our NEWS section.

### Standardised Vasectomy Contract

We've created a standardised vasectomy contract template to support you in any new contract negotiations with your ICBs. It includes everything that actually matters - stripping out the usual padded bureaucracy, extra red tape and unnecessary filler. If you use it, we'd love to hear how it goes. And more importantly, if your commissioners refuse to engage with it, please let us know - we're here to back you up and will follow it up directly. You can find it on our website in the vasectomy **PROCEDURE folder** in the members-only area.

## WEBSITE



The **ASPC Providers Map** is now live on our website: a fantastic new tool that shows who's working where, what services they offer, and how our network is growing across the UK. It's designed to help you connect with local colleagues, find opportunities for peer-to-peer review, mentorship, and training.

**Please take a moment to check your entry.** Are you still offering the procedures you've listed? If you've marked yourself as a trainer, have you specified the type of training you provide?

Keeping this information accurate helps everyone get the most out of the network.

Our **Job Opportunities** page is also now up and running on the website.

Here you can offer yourself as a freelance community surgeon, or discover clinics who are actively seeking surgeons. Discount for ASPC members - contact Paula to get ahead of the competition!

### Your Voice, Your ASPC: Shaping The Future Together

If you think the ASPC should be focusing on something specific, have feedback, or want to get more involved, please use the QR code to share your ideas and help shape the future of the ASPC.



### Courses

To find all the latest courses on minor skin surgery and joint injections please make sure you check out the **COURSES** page on the Website.

We are also happy to advertise your courses/events on our website, provided they fit with the ASPC ethos – just contact us.

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## **TRAINING AND TRAINING PATHWAYS**

All ASPC Vasectomy and CTD trainers should now have received information about the new ASPC training pathways and logbooks. If you've missed the email, please contact Paula and we'll make sure you're up to date.

Dr Asif Ahmed is now an official **ASPC CTD trainer**, and has successfully trained his first trainee - congratulations to Dr Naseer Khan.

We aim to have a third CTD trainer by the end of the year, and possibly a fourth before the next conference.

**If you have any interest in training in either Vasectomy or Carpal Tunnel Decompression (especially if you want CTD training before the end of the year) then please contact Paula for details**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Comparison of sperm concentration in fresh and postal post-vas semen samples: a prospective agreement study**

Melanie Atkinson, Louise Massey, Gareth James, Rosie Sullivan, Happy Tahiri, Kampire, Michel Labrecque 16th July 2025: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjsex-2025-202768>. Our head-to-head study comparing postal versus laboratory post-vasectomy semen analysis testing, presented at Conference 2025, was published last month in the BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health journal. While the abstract is freely available online, ASPC members can access the full paper via the **Publications** page in the members' area of our website.



The **FPA** (Family Planning Association) now offers dedicated online vasectomy patient information, developed in part with input from ASPC members.

The example vasectomy guide can be seen [HERE](#).

FPA membership for a single surgery is only £99 + VAT per year. That gives access to this resource, and 35+ FPA other peer reviewed patient guides, ready to share with your team and patients via text, email, QR code, or individual printing.

For more info see [CLICK HERE](#) or email [fpadirect@fpa.org.uk](mailto:fpadirect@fpa.org.uk)

## **EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ASPC SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER**

### **Primary Care Show, Birmingham 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May**



We both lectured and hosted a stand at the Primary Care Show in Birmingham. Our visibility and awareness as an organisation took a significant step forward, with many attendees said, "We didn't even know you existed!". We made lots of new contacts, and the event was such a success that we've already signed up to present and run a stand again next year!

### **ASPC Dermatology and Skin Surgery Study Day, Hotel La Tour, Milton Keynes 12<sup>th</sup> April**

We had an amazing day, with fantastic feedback for both lectures and workshops, an average rating of **4.8/5.0** But here's the catch - only **14 attendees out of the 50** were already ASPC members. If we want to keep offering these valuable events, we need more of our members to show up and support them. **So, use it or lose it, folks!**



### **VTS day: Hereford 20<sup>th</sup> March**

In March we ran another VTS education afternoon on the benefits of diversifying as a GP especially relating to surgery to GP training schemes, whilst educating them on what every GP should know regarding Vasectomy, CTS and Skin Surgery.

If you're connected to a local VTS scheme, get in touch - we'd be happy to run a half to whole day educational session, which is applicable to **ALL GP's** and not just those with a surgical bent.

## **SPONSORS**

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors—without their generous support, we simply wouldn't be able to run the conference. Their backing not only helps us cover essential costs, but also allows us to keep the event accessible, deliver high-quality content, and continue bringing our community together year after year.

Here are some details about the organisations who made it all possible:



**BPAS** <https://www.bpas.org/> attended the ASPC Annual Conference to attract vasectomy surgeons as we expand our service. We had great interest at our stand, enjoyed connecting with colleagues and stakeholders, and found the event friendly, informative, and welcoming. We'll return next year.



**Wesleyan Financial Services** <https://www.wesleyan.co.uk/> offers tailored financial planning for Medics at every career stage. We provide support with pensions, retirement planning, savings, investments, family protection, and finding the right mortgage—helping you secure your financial future with expert, personalised advice. Contact us via [louise.finch@wesleyan.co.uk](mailto:louise.finch@wesleyan.co.uk)

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**BRI Wealth Management** <https://brigroup.co.uk/> offer tailored financial planning and investment solutions, with over 200 years of advisor experience. We specialise in NHS pension advice, retirement planning, savings, investments, and financial protection. Contact Barney Sears at [brs@brigroup.co.uk](mailto:brs@brigroup.co.uk) or call 01676 523 550



**MSI Reproductive Choices** <https://www.msichoice.org.uk/>

It was a pleasure connecting with attendees, sharing our services, strengthening referral links, and inviting professionals to join our team. The energy was fantastic, and we're excited to be part of future events.



**The Global Ultrasound Institute** [Home - Global Ultrasound Institute](https://www.globalultrasoundinstitute.com/) proudly sponsored the 2025 ASPC Conference. We provide tailored point-of-care ultrasound training for GPs and specialists—online or in person—enabling fast, accurate diagnosis and targeted treatment in the community. Contact GUSI to learn more.



**Acculabs Diagnostics** <https://acculabsdiagnostics.co.uk/> showcased its partnership with **Sapyen** and advances in reproductive health at the ASPC conference.

Supporting Melanie Atkinson's study, they highlight postal post-vasectomy semen testing's accuracy, poised to transform PVSA testing. Excited to share future progress!



**Sapyen** <https://www.sapyen.co/> **Sapyen** and **Acculabs Diagnostics** launched world-first postal PVSA testing that is ASPC and BAUS guidelines-compliant. Sapyen's revolutionary home-to-lab PVSA kit preserves sperm motility for 72 hours with its proprietary stabilising media, making it suitable for PVSA and Special Clearance testing at £99



**Advanced Sedation** <https://advancedsedation.co.uk/> Dr Rudi Swart, with extensive experience in community-based moderate intravenous sedation, founded Advanced Sedation in 2015. His mobile service helps anxious patients avoid general anaesthesia for minor surgeries, supported by his Emergency Medicine background and recent peer-reviewed publications.



**BlueKit Medical** <https://bluekitmedical.com/> provides high-quality, sterile, single-use procedure packs—customised, assembled, and ready to use. Each tray includes premium instruments to streamline workflows, reduce waste, and minimise infection risk, ensuring clinical assurance and the highest standards in patient safety and care.



**State Bank of India** [https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbi\\_home.html](https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbi_home.html) We were honoured to sponsor the recent ASPC Conference. Supporting this initiative aligns with our commitment to healthcare and development. The keynote presentations and networking added real value to our business development efforts. We look forward to future events.

