



YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY

It is an honor to be the York Medical Society President for its 190th season, and I look forward to the year that is to come.

On behalf of the York Medical Society, I would like to thank the outgoing President Dr. Jonathan Evans for his excellent stewardship of the medical society over the last year. There have been a considerable number of challenges presented by the COVID pandemic that has meant it has not been possible to have our usual face to face meetings. These meetings are the lifeblood of the society since they allow the all-important human connectedness that the pandemic has shown us that we need and crave. Jonathan steered us through this difficult time with calm, thoughtful and empathetic leadership, and together with colleagues found numerous and innovative ways of helping us to connect. Zoom meetings have been a way of bringing York Medical Society meetings into our homes at a time when many people are relatively isolated. Jonathan will continue to be a valued member of the Board.

Large thanks should be given by us all to the many clinicians and staff in our medical community who have delivered superb clinical services against considerable odds during this pandemic.

I would also like to take this opportunity to add my thanks to Mr Mike Stower who has been the Treasurer of the York Medical Society for the last 10 years. Mike is standing down from the Board and as Treasurer but will continue to be a valued member of the society. Mike has steered the finances of the York Medical Society through some challenging times, not least a period of austerity, COVID and the sale of the York Medical Society buildings at 23 Stonegate to the York Conservation Trust. This latter arrangement enables the Society to move onto a sound financial footing, with continued use of the York Medical Society buildings and has guaranteed the future of the society for many years to come. Dr. John Reid will be taking over from Mike as Treasurer and we welcome him to this role.

Thanks also to Mr Andrew Grace and Ms Deena El-Sharief who are standing down from the Board. Andrew is a past President and has been a strong advocate and wise advisor over the years. Deena has brought energy and innovation to the group and both will be missed.

We hope that it will be possible to move back to face to face meetings by the time the next programme begins in October 2021. We will watch Government announcements with interest and will keep the membership informed. The programme for the 2021/2022 year is shortly to be finalised. This will be posted on the website and will also be circulated to all the members. We are pleased to have some exciting and interesting presentations including for example Sir Marcus Setchell, previous obstetrician to the Royal household and Dr. Chaand Nagpaul, Chair of the BMA Council. We also have a rich and interesting oration too look forward to from Dr Heather Bonney a principal curator at the Natural History Museum, which will take place on Saturday 2nd October 2021 followed by a dinner at the Mansion House. Members are encouraged to put this date into the diary.

There will also be a number of other social events including the Burns Supper, a popular night at the Merchant Taylors Hall which will be taking place on Saturday 29th January 2022. We also have a comedy night, with an evening of songs by Jake Thackray performed by the excellent *Fake Thackray*, a Choral Society evening and our usual wine tasting events wonderfully led by Dr. Stuart Calder.

We hope to welcome new members to the Society in the next year and we particularly encourage GMC registered medical staff to consider joining. The York Medical Society is situated in the middle of town. We meet on some Friday evenings for a glass of wine followed by an excellent high quality presentation and this is a wonderful way to start the weekend. There is an optional supper after the presentation at a very good rate. Some members choose to come to this and chat with colleagues, whilst others use the meeting as a springboard and then go on to meet family and friends for dinner elsewhere. COVID has reminded us how important social interaction is, and we would recommend York Medical Society to all ages as a mechanism for having a high quality venue in town, that can be rented for a range of events, or simply to use it for the organised programme that we put together each year.

We will keep you informed and will publish next year's programme shortly.

Professor Barry Wright
York Medical Society President