



YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2023

Dear Colleagues

I have the honour of being the 192nd president of the York Medical Society and write to you all to tell you about the coming year.

First, I would like to thank Mark Roman, my predecessor for his excellent stewardship of the society with an interesting lecture programme which included excursions to Leeds, Poppleton and a visit to The Leveson Centre.

I would also like to thank Jonathan Evans and Vijay Jayagopal, board members who are retiring having served their time on the board or leaving for work commitments. A special note to Jonathan who steered the society through Covid in his year as president managing to keep the momentum going throughout.

We welcome new members of the board – Will Robertson and Dariush Saedi.

I would also like to thank Kathryn Griffith and her team for updating the Articles of the Society. These will shortly be circulated for the final confirmation and comment.

Financially, following some tumultuous political years, we can see light at the end of the tunnel with improving stability in the financial markets. John Reid and his team, guided by Brewin Dolphin financial services company, have worked hard to come out the other end.

I have started my year with the usual and increasing concern of recruiting new members. We aim to plan events to help with this problem. The culture in the medical world has changed. When I started in York in 1995, we were expected to join the society and go to some of the meetings. I met GPs as well as hospital staff, putting faces to names that appeared on the bottom of letters. This helped continuity in clinical practice, knowing who would share the care of a patient and have easier access to speaking to that person at a later date. This no longer is a priority, with an almost anonymous referral system. Surely it still helps to know your colleagues.

We welcome all those that join, even if it is for access to use the ever-popular wine society that is run for the benefit of the society members. The society has opened its doors to members with professions affiliated to medicine, and some are considered on an individual basis. Publicity has improved with Twitter, Facebook and our website. We have discussed with community networks ways to improve our access to potential new members to the society. Attached to this letter is a link to our website and application form. If you know of a potential doctor who may be interested in joining, simply forward the link.

<https://yorkmedsoc.org/membership/>

Attempts at recruiting new members started with our cricket match on Friday 18th August. Nigel Durham, and Vijay Jayagopal organised a hospital team and Neil Metcalfe, one for the GPs. The match was held at the York Sports Club in Clifton. It was a good evening and hopefully we were successful at recruiting new members. Some were encouraged by the imminent whisky tasting evening!

A golf match took place at The Oaks, Bubwith on Wednesday 23rd August organised by John Reid.

The Oration is on Saturday 14th October. The oratory lecture is in the afternoon with Dame Professor Lesley Regan, Professor of Reproductive Medicine, Imperial College, ex-President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In her present role she was tasked by the government to produce a strategy for women's health. She will be telling us about this and discussing its importance in medicine. As a junior doctor, as an excellent clinician she became interested in recurrent miscarriage and collected the largest pre pregnancy blood and database which started the basis to her research and eventually, running specialist clinics in London. Our day continues with the annual dinner at a new venue in the Kirkgate Street at the Castle Museum. Having visited this recently I do hope they remove the awful smells that are supplied in particular areas of the street! I do hope you will arrange to come with some of your friends. In this economic climate we have striven to keep the price down, with the Society covering the costs of the venue hire, the ticket price relates to the rising costs of catering. A selection of soft drinks will be available as well as the wine pairings supplied by the wine club.

This year's lecture programme starts after this with St Luke's Sunday and a walk around WW2 York. The programme combines both medical and non-medical topics. These include diabetes, neural pathways and treatment in clinical practice, Himalayan Mountain rescue to Santorini volcano, the battle of Monte Cassino, the American war of independence, history of a local doctor with an interest in palaeontology. A charity songs and carols evening with David Whittle's 'Mixed Blessings' quartet will run on 8th December. Our meetings will continue to be recorded and run live with zoom. This latter route has helped some more immobile members and also gives access when you are away or otherwise engaged.

Following the valedictory address by Mark Roman on cycling in York, Sarah Watson is organising a green forum to promote good practice in both the hospital and community setting. She has some medical advocates to help run these sessions.

We hope to display more of our medical equipment in a new cabinet and will organise David Pring to present a session for us to understand some of their function. I also hope to revisit the Borthwick Institute in York University to see more of our books that are now housed there.

I must thank my predecessor Mark and all the board as well as our office team Jane Mortimer and Angie Zurek for all the guidance and assistance in putting this all together.

Enclosed is the programme. Please think of someone who may want to join and send them the link <https://yorkmedsoc.org/membership/> and also remind someone who is a member but who you haven't seen at a meeting to come along. The supper after meetings is a place to meet your friends as well as to get to know new people.

With best wishes

Sue

**Miss Susan Mitchell, FRCOG
President
York Medical Society**