

We would like to make members of the Vascular Society (VS) and British Society of Interventional Radiology (BSIR) aware of a very useful and constructive meeting that took place today (20.6.19). The meeting included ourselves as the Presidents of both Societies, along with Professor Chris Imray, Mr Mike Jenkins, and Dr Ian McCafferty. The Royal College of Radiologists Vice-President Dr Caroline Rubin and IR committee chair Dr Jai Patel were in attendance.

It was unanimously agreed that such direct communication, to discuss the many areas of mutual interest, was the preferred method of assuring progress for the future, and a further meeting is booked for 3 months' time.

In the meantime, we are committed to ensuring that patient outcomes and services remain the over-riding objective.

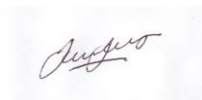
We discussed a number of ways that working and training practices can be utilised to enhance the delivery of a vascular service, and ways that these can improve the working lives of vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists, whilst ensuring fulfilling careers for consultants and trainees. It is an essential objective that vascular surgery and IR have sustainable futures, and that procedures and services, where the two disciplines do not overlap, are not compromised.

This is a difficult path to follow, and one with many outside influences.

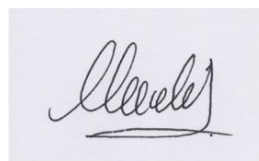
We discussed in detail the issue of registries, which are important both for audit as well as unit/individual performance. The NVR continues to make developments, and we would encourage all VSs and IRs to contribute data for vascular procedures. IR, in a wider sense, needs to develop registries of procedures which are not presently covered by the NVR. This project will be progressed. All BSIR/VS registries welcome every doctor offering any particular procedure, and membership of one society or the other is not considered important to participation. The intention, ultimately, would be an integrated system, with linkages with other NHS systems. We will be seeking the advice of NHSX in this.

There have been communications regarding appointment processes, and the content of proposed job plans. We would encourage all vascular service adverts to have the prospective approval of local VSs and IRs, to ensure that the local service is appropriately planned, and ensure a smooth appointment, without destabilisation of the current service model. Royal College approval for such advertised posts will take this into account.

We hope that continued dialogue, and mutual support, will benefit patients and vascular specialists going forward. We would like to invite suggestions for these future discussions, which can be sent to the administration teams of either society (council@bsir.org and admin@vascularsociety.org.uk). We cannot promise to resolve all problems, but we will try to address as many as possible, and seek outside help where necessary.



Professor Ian Loftus
Vascular Society President



Dr Trevor Cleveland
BSIR President