

Holiday/New Year Newsletter 2017



President's Message

Dear SRHSB Members,

As we approach the holidays I want to sincerely wish all of you wonderful times with family and friends, and a healthy and fulfilling New Year. As we close 2017 and look forward to 2018 most of us reflect on what we accomplished, both personally and professionally, and I would like to do the same for our Society.

No doubt we have experienced membership challenges, and even though the quality of science at the annual meeting in St. Louis was highly-regarded, the attendance was lower than desired. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that the Executive Committee (EC) has learned a lot from these trials and I know we have made critical decisions that are designed to improve and sustain the Society. For example, we knew from personal communications that financial hardships and serious concerns about travel restrictions prevented many members from attending the St. Louis meeting, and from those realizations the EC focused on a strategy that would (1) locate the annual meetings in Europe and (2) make them more affordable. The first step in this process was to solicit member opinions via a survey, which generally confirmed the challenges we had with an international meeting in St. Louis. From there, the consensus of the EC was to forego a full scientific meeting in 2018 in order to save our resources and plan for a great meeting in 2019. Since the Society's bylaws require an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the membership (quorum to equal at least 15 members in good standing), we decided to arrange a one-day scientific symposium that would also allow time for an AGM. We were most fortunate when Ian Pople generously volunteered to host this meeting in Bristol, UK on June 28, 2018; I can't thank Ian enough for hosting this meeting, and I'm sure that you will all agree (see below) that he has already organized an exciting *and free* symposium. I am confident that this symposium and AGM represent the best compromise for the Society's current situation, and I hope you will all make an effort to attend.

I am also very excited about the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting. Agustin Castaneyra-Perdomo and Leandro Castaneyra-Ruiz have kindly agreed to host this meeting in the Canary Islands. Specific arrangements are still being made but I think we all agree that the extra preparation time will allow Agustin, Leandro and their local organizing committee to formulate an excellent scientific and social meeting.

In other news, we are working on giving key members of the EC editor access to the website so that changes and new information can be updated in a timely manner. Carolyn Harris has done a remarkable job in creating a workable website, practically free of charge, and with the added help of other EC officers I think the website will become more interactive and up-to-date.

Back to the most important part of this message: the holidays are a wonderful time of the year for personal reflection and counting our blessings. I especially want all of you to know that I sincerely feel blessed to continue my personal and professional relationships with all of you.

Happy Holidays and the Best of New Years to all,

Professor Pat McAllister
President SRHSB

2017 Symposium and Annual General Meeting

Instead of the usual format for next year's annual meeting, Ian Pople is hosting a one day symposium on **28th June 2018** at St Michaels Hospital Lecture Theatre, [Southwell Street, Bristol BS2 8EG](#) on '**Update on Perinatal Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida**' on behalf of the SRHSB. So far four eminent Professors have agreed to give talks on topics such as early treatment of tethered cords in children, in-utero spina bifida surgery, neonatal hydrocephalus and shunts - and also potentially a talk about endoscopic evacuation of clots and choroid plexus ablation in neonates. There will be an evening dinner at a nearby hotel after the meeting and some low cost accommodation will be available within walking distance of the venue. More details of the meeting will follow in the New Year but the proposed schedule for the day so far is as follows:

Morning – spina bifida and tethered spinal cords

- Professor Dachling Pang – Early management of spinal lipomas and complex dysraphism
- Mr Dominic Thomson – Towards in-utero repair of myelomeningocele in the UK
- Mr Mark Denbow – Uteroscopic patch techniques for repairing spina bifida defects
- Ms Maria Cartmill – Antenatal counselling of spina bifida and hydrocephalus
- Professor Jaleel Miyan - Latest advances in prevention of spina bifida (provisional)

Afternoon – neonatal hydrocephalus management

- Professor Roger Bayston – Moving towards zero shunt infection rate
- Professor Andrew Whitelaw – Advances in treatment of post-haemorrhagic hydrocephalus
- Endoscopic clot evacuation in premature infants
- Plus other talks on endoscopic choroid plexus ablation in neonates

Teatime (5-6pm) – AGM of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida

Evening Dinner to follow.

Mr Ian Pople
Honorary Treasurer of the SRHSB