

Dear Members,

This is my first newsletter as President so my first and most important duty is to thank the outgoing President, Prof John Pickard, for his excellent service and leadership through the past difficult years, particularly keeping us going through the pandemic. John remains on the SRHSB Executive along with Prof Pat M^cAllister, another Past President so I feel at ease with such experience beside me. Andy Wynd also remains on the Executive as Dr Jo Glazier takes over the reins of Hon Secretary.

At the time of writing this, we do have an exciting opportunity for a Publications and Publicity Secretary to take over from Prof Antonio Jimenez who, regrettably, has had to resign. The post requires getting the Society, its annual meeting and new research awards, out into the public domain and targeted to those people and places that are involved in hydrocephalus and spina bifida clinical and basic science, to increase awareness of our society, increase membership and involvement in our annual meetings. **This would be ideal for an enthusiastic member with some time to spare for the Society.** Please do contact me if you would like to discuss further.

We are extremely grateful to our webmaster, Talissa Gasser for her excellent ongoing work on the website. Please do take a look at our updated website and feedback with any comments for improvements, updates and inclusions. Please also send your news to add to our new twitter feed featured on the home page.

We are delighted to announce three new awards that align with our mission to “foster knowledge, understanding and research into prevention, treatment and management of hydrocephalus and spina bifida”.

Our new awards include:

1. Waite Hydrocephalus Research Student Bursaries for 10 week summer student projects.
2. Harry’s Hydrocephalus Awareness Trust student research bursary.
3. SRHSB-Integra Graduate Travelling Fellowship Program for researchers to visit other labs worldwide to learn new techniques and set up collaborations.

More details of all of these are on the SRHSB website. Please encourage applications from anyone you may know. The summer student projects and Integra awards can be applied for by anyone anywhere in the world interested in CSF biology, hydrocephalus and neural tube defects including spina bifida.

Harry’s Hydrocephalus Awareness Trust (Harry’s HAT) was set up by the parents of a child with hydrocephalus in 2018 and has gone from strength to strength, mainly through the non-stop efforts of mum Caroline whose fund-raising efforts and awards have been eye-catching. Have a look at their website for inspiring stories: <https://Harry-hat.org> We now have a partnership with this wonderful organisation in which they have provided annual funding for a summer research student bursary. I am also excited to inform you that Caroline will be presenting at this year’s annual meeting. An excellent reason to register and attend. In addition some of us have been invited to join a reception for their charity in the House of Commons on 15th June hosted by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP. I have been to similar events to promote folic acid fortification and this will be the first to raise awareness of hydrocephalus specifically with our MPs.

This year’s meeting of SRHSB will be hybrid, face-to-face and on-line, and we once again to have to thank Ian Pople for organising this together with colleagues in Sidra Medical in Doha, Qatar. This will be a very affordable meeting with generous local support. The meeting will be combined with Sidra Pediatric Neuroscience Conference who will have a main theme of “**Treatable Neurological Disorders**” in addition to our usual sessions on clinical and experimental approaches to these conditions. Check the details on our website which are being updated regularly. Abstract deadline for the meeting is May 23rd 2022 and the meeting will run from 29th September to 1st October 2022. Next year we go back to our traditional timing of end of June for a meeting return to Stirling, Scotland, hosted again by Andy Wynd and his team at SBH Scotland, so do keep the dates open for another exciting meeting in Scotland in 2023.

So this is a great time to re-engage with the Society and help push it forward into a new future, perhaps recapturing aspects of past exciting and interactive meetings. Whatever your interest in hydrocephalus and spina bifida, now would be the ideal time to contribute and increase the breadth of expertise the Society can apply to these conditions. Please spread the message and let's make the Society all it can be.

Jaleel Miyan