

Dear friends,

We held our first face-to-face meeting in Stirling this year, once again hosted by Andy Wynd and his team at SBH Scotland. It was a wonderful meeting reminding us of our previous visit there in 2016. It follows 3 years of online only meetings we held, hosted by Ian Pople and his team at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar, which were very successful and ran in association with local neonatology and paediatric associations. The lesson from these contrasted with our meetings in Tenerife in 2019 and Stirling in 2023, before and after, suggesting that such hybrid meetings with other societies with similar areas of interest may be the way forward to stem our membership from shrinking. Our meeting for 2024 will be held in Liverpool together with the Society of British Neurological Surgeons as well as the UK CSF research group. This should be an exciting meeting bringing together a lot of interest in spina bifida and hydrocephalus in all their aspects.

We are a unique and important society in both our multidisciplinary areas of interest and in the spirit that exists in the friendship and support we show each other. With our now established new look website and social media hubs, supported by our younger exec members, we have a chance to attract back membership from our wider community of professionals and researchers interested in the areas we cover. This is the job of all members to promote this society and its unique approach to spina bifida and hydrocephalus, not least the intense interaction between clinicians and scientists that has led to so many breakthroughs in our understanding. And don't forget the Norman Guthkelch award for early career investigators, the SRHSB/Integra Graduate Training Fellowship, The Waite Hydrocephalus Research Student Bursary and the Harry's Hydrocephalus Awareness Trust Student Research Bursary, mainly for summer student projects. We have a lot to offer, just need to get the SRHSB out there and in the forefront of people looking to engage with a group like ours.

For now then, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope 2024 brings great progress and happiness personally and professionally. I look forward to seeing you all in Liverpool in the summer for some great science, clinical insights, renewal of connections and friendships.

Sincerely

Jaleel Miyan