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Summary of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (63rd) Congress in

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 20th– 22nd, 2016

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Abstract

This is a review of the 63rd British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) annual conference which was held in July 2016 in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. This congress issue contains papers presented during the open sessions and transcripts based on invited lectures.

Keywords:

Surgical conference; Amsterdam, British Association of Paediatric Surgeons.

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For the second time, the first being in Rotterdam in 1994, the BAPS congress travelled across the North Sea to The Netherlands, and specifically to the wonderful historical artefact that is Amsterdam. The conference centre was the atmospheric Beurs van Berlage which was built in the opening years of the 20th century to house the Amsterdam Stock Exchange (Figure 1) and sited on the Damrak one of the main thoroughfares of the city.

Organisation and programme supervision were combined with a number of other surgical organisations from the host countries to ensure top quality science and a superb social programme. So particular thanks went to Jan Hulscher and Marc Miserez from the Netherlands Association of Paediatric Surgeons (NVKC) and Lucas Matthyssens in the Belgium and Luxembourg Association (BELAPS).

The joint meeting itself had over 350 delegates, and attracted over 250 submissions which were in turn marked by a panel of 40 BAPS members, and of these 79 were accepted and presented as oral papers and 55 as posters. The selection committee was policed by Simon Eaton and Paul Johnson. Commercial sponsorship is important and particular mention needs to be made of Dendrite Clinical Systems, Teleflex, Blue Surgical, LaproSurge and R&D Surgical. Karl Storz Endoscopy and Elsevier are also important sponsors for their continued support of the keynote lecturers.

Deliberate bias went into the choice of invited lecturers to illustrate the high standards operating in the Low Countries. So, the **Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture** was delivered by Dick Tibboel from Rotterdam. Although not a surgeon, he has contributed mightily to the surgical literature on intestinal atresia, diaphragmatic hernia and more latterly on the physiology surrounding the perception of pain. The **Karl Storz Lecture** was given by Prof. David van der Zee, the incoming president of IPEG, who is from Utrecht and entitled his talk “Endoscopic Surgery in Children – the challenge goes on”. David’s life illustrates so much about the links between the UK and the Netherlands as he has a Welsh mother and Dutch father who flew for the RAF in the 2nd World War. The **Karl Storz (Urology) Lecture** was given by Jean de la Rosette, a home-team urologist from Amsterdam, a real expert in stone disease and urological endoscopy. Finally, The **Hugh Greenwood Lecture** was given by Dr Nobhojit Roy from Mumbai, India on “Global Surgery – a View from the South. His talk is published in full in this edition of the journal and is a fascinating read not the least for its controversial views. The History of Medicine society also met under the umbrella of the BAPS and from this Ahmed Hadidi currently working at a hypospadias clinic in Germany has

produced a magisterial review of the history of hypospadias which is also published in this congress issue,

The **Denis Browne Medal** was awarded to Risto Rintalla from Helsinki, Finland. This was such a popular choice and to some extent acknowledges the key role and contribution that the Helsinki team beginning with Matti Sulaama, and continuing with Ilmo Louhimo and Harry Lindhal has made to our understanding of the long-term destiny of our patients. Nowhere else has such accurate outcome data of surgery performed in infancy with follow-up to adulthood and beyond. This is clearly the result of the long, dark winters in the Finnish forests with precious little to do but write.

Thirty-four papers were submitted based on oral and poster presentations and from this 21 were chosen. I give great thanks to the publishing committee of Ian Sugarman, Kokilla Lakhoo, Paul Johnson and Mike Stanton for their sterling work.

The **Peter Paul Rickham Prize (£1000)** for basic science was won by Stavros Loukogeorgakis (Institute of Child Health, London) on “Delivery of VEGF with Biocompatible Nanoparticles...” and the **President’s Prize** went to Anna Kerola (Helsinki, Finland) on “Differential Progression of Liver Fibrosis in Syndromic and Isolated Biliary Atresia”. Two prizes were awarded for the best poster: “The Adolescent Ward – a teenage dream “ by Jessica Ng and “Traumatic Bronchial Avulsion “ by Molly Gilmartin.

Symposia provide a nice focal point in today’s congresses. A chance to explore areas unfamiliar to most surgeons, or provide a different perspective to familiar themes. We had two: the first was very scientific and entitled “Genetics of Paediatric Surgical Conditions” with contributions from Iris van Rooji, Ivo de Blaauw, Sam Moore, Robert Hofstra and Annelies de Klein; the second, “Frontiers in NEC” was really warmly appreciated and contained contributions from Kokila Lakhoo, Ernst van Heurn, Jan Hulscher, Thomas Benkoe and even Neena Modi, President of the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health, who flew across the channel in her private jet to be here. Both symposia are represented in the Congress edition with erudite contributions from Sam Moore and Simon Eaton.

The social programme was eclectic with the attendees to the President’s reception being entertained by a formidable programme of Liszt and Chopin pieces played with extraordinary dexterity by Jan Hulscher who in his spare time is a paediatric surgeon from Groningen. The final event was held on the penthouse of the Heineken Brewery building with views of the city skyline and six different types of Dutch lager to ease the tensions, triumphs and tribulations of the previous week.

Next year BAPS is coming home, and to paraphrase The Clash – London is Calling! We hope to replicate the very successful joint venture of a couple of years ago with the cowboys, pointy heads and cybergeeks in IPEG. There will be joint ticketing allowing delegates to attend individual sessions of both IPEG and BAPS and joint sessions and symposia on themes common to both organisations. The Hilton Metropole Convention Centre, just to the north of Hyde Park and Oxford Street is booked. So if “Doing the Lambeth Walk”, while walking from “Baker Street” along “The Streets of London” to see the “Waterloo Sunset” with a “West End Girl” on your arm is your thing then next summer is sorted.

Figure Legend**Figure 1:**

Clockface on Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam – site of the 63rd BAPS meeting

