

## **Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations (FSSA)**

One of the roles of the President is to represent the association in this round-table of all presidents of all the surgical specialties (there are 10). It is often interesting to meet one's surgical peers particularly when they are from a more adult-orientated community. Hanging around with paediatricians is hopeless if you want tales of decadence, derring do or simply the name of a wild party to go to. Thus I give you some of the topics for debate which are circulating and which may impact upon you in the near future.

### **Royal College Relocation – 2020**

The grand Grade I listed building in Lincoln's Inn Fields is costing a fortune to run in maintenance costs and rather than persist the Council have come up with a wizard wheeze. Why not sell half of it – the Nuffield side- to the neighbouring, rapacious but financially secure London School of Economics and demolish and rebuild the rest with glass partitions, open-plan office space, hot-desking and really fast internet connections /smart new coffee machines. Now, although you may not be aware, the BAPS office is currently located within this warren. The staff (that's Kate and Shan) have quite a nice coffee machine in a little room (224 sq. ft.) that BAPS calls its own (and pays £6k for the privilege). It's stacked with memorabilia, old association ties that the charity shops rejected, and a couple of desks. This year they will have to quit, find a temporary niche in some London homeless shelter and manage for a few years until a bright new phoenix emerges. The idea is to return to the College, albeit in more modern, sleek format with open-plan space and no room for memories and at a higher cost of course.

There are alternatives that some societies are actively looking at and we need your views on. The Vascular Society is completely virtual for instance, has no actual office space and is run by a management company (Fitwise Management Ltd. if you are interested). Others, by contrast, would be quite happy to move back to a more modern serviced office block, independent of the Royal College. Some even put forward the daring suggestion to move out of Zone 1 London and move to somewhere more exciting, say..... ..Birmingham.

### **Insurance for Surgeons**

Do you need house insurance, car insurance for your Audi TT, Aston Martin DBS etc. or even personal accident insurance for those delicate digits of yours that weave magic and save so many little lives? Well around the corner maybe an insurance company set up specifically for surgeons. The insurance community (in the form of Resolution Partners) is very keen on targeting high-net worth individuals and families (potentially 12,000 members) who want to look beyond the Co-Op for their insurance needs. They would do this by setting up a discretionary mutual arrangement or protected cell company with the FSSA. The funds or profits from such a venture could be large but of course so could any losses.

## **Surgeons as a Trade Union**

The debacle last year over the BMA's renegotiation of the juniors' contract illustrates perhaps why the BMA may not be the best body to protect your specific interests as surgical employees. Hysteria, strikes and shroud-waving seemed to be the *modi operandi*; and that was only by Jeremy Hunt and the DoH. Surgeons account for perhaps 4% of all doctors and as that figure suggests we are well down in the pecking order of priorities at Tavistock Square. So is there an alternative? Well there might be in an application currently being made to governmental certification office for recognition of a "Confederation of Surgery" with full legal negotiating powers on behalf of its surgical members.

Feedback and thoughts on any of the above welcome....

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