

**ASPC**  
**September 2024**  
**Newsletter**

**Courses & Events**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Vasectomy Study Day**

19.10.24 (Birmingham)

Details in the newsletter how to register

**ASPC Annual Conference**

5/6<sup>th</sup> June

Details on how to buy tickets out very soon on our website!

**Joint Injections**

05.09.24 (Bournemouth)

26.09.24 (Derby)

27.09.24 (Solihull)

17.10.24 (Walsall)

07.10.24 (Ipswich)

16.11.24 (Manchester)

17.11.24 (Manchester)

28.11.24 (Norwich)

**Minor Surgery**

06.09.24 (Bournemouth)

08.10.24 (Ipswich)

10.10.24 (Oxford)

18.10.24 (Walsall)

29.10.24 (London)

Introducing our September 2024 newsletter!

Gain insights and ASPC updates. Stay ahead with our trusted content delivered straight to your inbox.

**For full details on these courses, please visit our website**



[admin@aspc-uk.net](mailto:admin@aspc-uk.net)



[www.aspc.co.uk](http://www.aspc.co.uk)



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WhatsApp - email for details

## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Hi all,  
Thank you to all our members and non-members who attended the highly successful ASPC Annual 2024 Conference at Sedgebrook Hall, Northamptonshire.  
The council members and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and interacting with you all, and we hope you found the event both educational and enjoyable.  
The feedback that resonated with me the most came from both delegates and sponsors, who remarked that they had never experienced a conference or study day with such positive vibes, where everyone was smiling and genuinely happy to be there.  
There were a lot of excellent suggestions from delegates to take on board, and I'm still committed to continuing to expand on what the ASPC can offer you, our members. But it must be a two-way street, and there are numerous requests in this newsletter to get you all more actively involved to help us increase our standing and become more influential, and I thank you in advance for your commitment to the ASPC cause!

Some conference delegates commented that they didn't know about our NEW ASPC WEBSITE, with its wealth of information, so as a reminder, check us out at [www.aspc-uk.net/](http://www.aspc-uk.net/)

Plans are under the way for our next Annual Conference, to be held in Leicester on 5/6th June 2025!  
We look forward to engaging with returnees and newbies!

Gareth James  
President and Audit lead  
[President@ASPC-uk.net](mailto:President@ASPC-uk.net)



## **ASPC COUNCIL NEWS**

### **New Vice-President**

Miles Scholar, our skin surgery lead, accepted the invitation to take on the VP role for the ASPC in May with great pleasure, aiming to provide support to the president and provide leadership and experience for the organisation and very much wishes to be a point of contact for any members to contact him with any suggestions/thoughts: [mrscholar@hotmail.com](mailto:mrscholar@hotmail.com)

### **New Council Member**

The ASPC council welcomes Dr Craig Barker, Plymouth, as our new Dermatology lead.  
Craig is very enthusiastic about becoming the key member in advancing the ASPC's dermatology initiatives and has loads of ideas to help achieve this!

### **Stepping down**

The ASPC would warmly like to thank both Mig Arbide (Vice-president and Dermatology lead) and Mel Atkinson (co-vas training lead) for all their hard work over the years serving on the ASPC Council.  
Their commitment, energy and wisdom will be sorely missed.

## **EVENTS**

### **ASPC 2024 Annual Conference**

As mentioned above the conference was a great success with the excellent feedback, apart from some niggles regarding the venue itself. Lectures throughout the two days included therapeutic circumcisions, CTR operations, ultrasound lump differentiation, non-surgical aesthetics, a day in a skin surgery session, the set up in southern Ireland, CQC updates, complaints shenanigans, too much Gareth, a grand quiz, but the highlight was the mercurial Michel Labrecque visiting from Canada.

Our workshops were as popular as ever, covering a multitude of topics, including vasectomy, hand procedures, setting up private clinics, CQC issues, varicose veins treatments, PoCUS, and our ever-popular hands-on skin surgery sessions.

Our inaugural annual golf competition for the Raj Dhumale cup (named after the founder of the ASPC) was won by... Raj Dhumale!

Friday night Gala dinner had nearly 100 attendees, and throughout enjoyable social night we all had, with the close-up magic show enthralling all.

Many thanks to our sponsors, without whom we couldn't run the event, check out their details at the end. We can't wait to do it all again and hope you'll either join or re-join us at the next.....talking of which...

### **ASPC 2025 Annual Conference**

Come and join us at our conference, Leicester Marriot, Leicester on 5th/6th June 2025.

Our conference will be held at the plush Leicester Marriot, our most stunning premises yet!

We are packing the days with loads of interesting and informative lectures plus numerous interactive workshops, whilst retaining enough time to chat and interact with your fellow peers.

Our sophomore Conference golf day will be held at Longcliffe Golf Club from 13:30 on Thursday 5th June, where we've secured a fantastic Green fee deal at just £50, so if you want to sign up to win Raj Dhumale Cup please email Prasun on [pkumar@nhs.net](mailto:pkumar@nhs.net)

Loads more details on the conference to follow, but you know already that it's going to be another excellent couple of days, what other conference/study day do attend that gives you such a great opportunity be revitalised?

Tickets will be available soon on our website – watch this space!!

### **Vasectomy Study Day 2024.**

Surgical Wellbeing. Oct 19th. Central Birmingham.

I know things.

I know that the Euromillions ticket you forgot to buy, on the trip to the newsagents, you did not take, on the half-day off you did not manage to take, even though it was in your diary for months, just did not work out. It was just not written in the stars, was not meant to be. Worse things happen at sea. Shit happens. We rise above it.

In preparing the introduction to this year's vasectomy study day, I found that since 2013, the first vas study day, we, as a group have faced many mountains, all of which have changed us and the way we do things. From Montgomery to Brexit, Covid to the bloody British Andrology Society (actually no, sod 'em) to .... AQPs, ICBs, state-funded indemnity and more, so much more - we have together, adapted and moved forward. What did not kill our service made it stronger

Why? It's in our DNA.

– that which surrounds us, penetrates us and binds us together (Kenobi)

– that which empowers us to resist the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune and take arms against a sea of troubles (Hamlet).

Vas. Together. Strong.

**Please visit the ASPC website for more information and registration details.**

<https://www.aspc-uk.net/courses/vasectomy-study-day-2024.aspx>

## **PCSA 13th Annual Scientific Meeting**

1st/2nd November 2024, Radisson Blu St Helens Hotel, Dublin

As you'll all hopefully know, ASPC membership gives you automatic membership to our sister association in Ireland the PCSA (Primary Care Surgical Association)

The PCSA conference in November will no doubt be educational, affirming and great craic! For more details, programme and tickets please visit <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/psca-13th-annual-scientific-meeting-tickets-981835114257>

## **Dermatology Study Day**

We hope to run a dermatology study day in February/March 2025, more details in our next newsletter.

If though you have topics that you would like to see discussed or presented, or would be interested in helping us organise his study day, please email our new Dermatology lead: Craig Barker at

[csbarker@doctors.org.uk](mailto:csbarker@doctors.org.uk)

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ASPC Vasectomy Lead**

With Tony Feltbower reducing his clinical commitment, we are seeking a new Vasectomy lead for the ASPC. We would hope the new lead will shadow Tony for at least a year before taking over.

You do not need to be a member of the ASPC to apply for the role, however, to join the council as the Vasectomy Lead, ASPC membership would be required.

Applicants would need to be an experienced Vasectomy surgeon AND a current vasectomy trainer.

The deadline for applications will be 3rd November 2024, which is a fortnight after the Vasectomy Study Day.

This is in case you would prefer to discuss the position face-to-face with Tony, myself, or other ASPC Council members at Vasectomy Study Day on 19th October in Birmingham (details above in the newsletter).

For more information regarding this prestigious role, please email me on [President@ASPC-uk.net](mailto:President@ASPC-uk.net)

### **ASPC Mentors**

The ASPC has a dream, one of legacy, of having made a difference, of having inspired others.

In a rapidly changing NHS, we need to preserve this ecosystem in which the ASPC was created and allowed to exist and expand.

**To do this we need to provide mentorship to our successors, otherwise all we have accomplished will wither and die.** We are worth more than that, surely?

The ASPC is still seeking more would be mentors to help offer advice and support (but not necessarily training) to our would-be community surgeons of the future, from GP VTS schemes, or surgical registrars. A mere 10% of the membership has signed up, so the ASPC urges you to reconsider and prevent the extinguishing of the surgical passion in our trainees

Add your name to our list to learn more about becoming an ASPC Mentor, to help nurture our trainee's wide-eyed enthusiasm. Remember, someone did it for you!

To those who have indicated they would be happy to mentor we will be reaching out to you very soon!

Please Email Paula on [admin@aspc-uk.net](mailto:admin@aspc-uk.net) if you are interested in securing our future

### **Interested in participating in a World Vasectomy Day Mission abroad?**

The ASPC, in conjunction with WVD are seeking 6-8 UK based vasectomy surgeons to join the WVD crew to help deliver vasectomy training and operate in countries where vasectomies are not freely available for 2 weeks in November 2025 and onwards. Those interested will be invited to a special WVD training day, led, in person (not online) by Michel Labrecque or Doug Stein we hope. For more information, please email the ASPC WVD representative Paul Fourie on: [pfourie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pfourie@hotmail.co.uk)

### **GP VTS Study Day Presentations**

The ASPC are due to present the nuts and bolts of community surgery to the Sutton Coldfield GP VTS trainees on 19th September. Please note though, should you be affiliated with a GP VTS scheme that wants the ASPC to run a half to whole day educational session, which is applicable to ALL GP's and not just those with a surgical bent, please email Sam at [samantha.chambers1@nhs.net](mailto:samantha.chambers1@nhs.net)

### **Interested in help develop an Online CBT for patient Vasectomy Anxiety?**

The ASPC, in conjunction with Professor Amanda Wilson at De Montford university, Leicester are seeking Vasectomy surgeon's insights to help create an Online CBT for patients suffering with Vasectomy Anxiety. 30-minute interview discussion (Time flexible) , Virtual over MS Teams or Zoom, Thank you of £50

Should you be interested, and not yet signed up then please email [Gtbvas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Gtbvas@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [https://dmupsy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bIWHO1mR31u9rds](https://dmupsy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIWHO1mR31u9rds)

### **Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Study – (applicable to all, not just CTS surgeons)**

ASPC close associate and stats guru Jeremy Bland is involved in a project which is attempting to standardise the way in which the neurophysiological severity of CTS is described in nerve conduction study reports, and is collecting views on what is useful from people in various disciplines who end up reading such reports.

Anyone who comes across a significant number of neurophysiological reports in the context of CTS and would like to help should please email him direct at [Jeremy.Bland@nhs.net](mailto:Jeremy.Bland@nhs.net).

### **Advertising on the ASPC website**

To all our members who organise courses, please remember that the ASPC are happy to advertise your courses/events on our website, provided they fit with the ASPC ethos.

Please email Paula with your requests: [admin@aspc-uk.net](mailto:admin@aspc-uk.net)

### **Job Opportunities**

The ASPC are considering having a new page for members to advertise their availability for potential agencies who are seeking community surgeons. Should you be interested in please email Paula for more details [admin@aspc-uk.net](mailto:admin@aspc-uk.net)

We also hope to advertise any upcoming or proposed surgical contracts coming up for procurement/renewal. Discovering this information can be difficult, so if you know of somewhere that is putting a contract out for tender, tell us and we can advertise it to all.

### **FSRH Committee Recruiting**

The FSRH are currently recruiting for a range of roles within two of their committees

- Training Delivery Committee
- Qualifications and Assessments Committee

If you are interested in steering the direction of current and future FSRH qualifications and assessment, or supporting their trainers, candidates and learners, or simply interested in working collaboratively with other FSRH members to aiming to have a lasting impact on SRH education then please visit our website for more details on the roles available and how to apply.

## **PUBLICATIONS FEATURING ASPC INVOLVEMENT SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER**

### **Complications of vasectomy: results from a prospective audit of 105,393 procedures**

British journal Urology International 11 July 2024 <https://doi.org/10.1111/bju.16463>

Over the 15-year study period, data from 105,393 vasectomies was collected from ASPC members. Early failure rates were available for 69,500 patients, occurring in 648 patients (0.93%). Of 99,124 patients, late failure occurred in 41 (0.04%).

Of 102,549 vasectomies, post-operative infection was reported in 1250 patients (1.22%), haematoma in 1599 patients (1.56%) and PVPS in 139 patients (0.14%).

This large, prospective audit provides accurate, contemporaneous complication rates which can inform future pre-vasectomy counselling.

### **FSRH new Vasectomy Standards document**

Tony Feltbower, ASPC Vasectomy Lead and FSRH Vasectomy guardian has been instrumental in writing this brand new FSRH Vasectomy Service Standard, with help from FSRH and ASPC colleagues, and is available to view in full on our website.

Ensure your service is up to the mark!

Please note this is not intended to provide clinical guidance but more about the whole service provision.

Both articles can be found, in full, on our website: <https://www.aspc-uk.net/>

### **New ASPC Vasectomy Consent checkbox**

This new document will be found in our members area in the vasectomy folder once Ross is back from holiday!

This checklist was created by Tony Feltbower, presented and discussed at the Vas Study day 2022, and revised again by ASPC council members during 2024.

This checklist covers all the topics that the ASPC suggests you should have on your vasectomy consent form.



# VASECTOMY STUDY DAY 2024

Saturday 19 Oct 2024 9-5

Malmaison Birmingham

## SURGICAL WELL-BEING



|               |                                     |  |       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------|
| 9.00 – 9.30   | Welcome                             |  | SL    |
| 9.30 – 10.00  | Training and medicolegal update     |  | SN+TF |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | Hand Problems in Vasectomy Surgeons |  | AN    |
| 11-11.30      | Break                               |  |       |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | Haemostasis in vasectomy            |  | MK    |
| 12.30 – 13.00 | Anticoagulants                      |  | SN    |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch                               |  |       |
| 14.00 – 14.40 | Chronic Pain                        |  | GJ    |
| 14:40 – 15.10 | Difficult Vasectomies               |  |       |
| 15:10 – 15:30 | Hyfrecator issues                   |  |       |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Break                               |  |       |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | Paperless Practice                  |  |       |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | Contracts and clauses               |  |       |
| 1700          | Finish                              |  |       |

Contact [doc.lim@icloud.com](mailto:doc.lim@icloud.com)

## **Few words from our 2024 Conference Sponsors**

**SurgiSol's** involvement with the ASPC began through its long-standing relationship with Soon and has since become a regular sponsor. Having seen positive changes to the organisation, makes it feel a worthwhile commitment. The organisers are very welcoming and a pleasure to work with. Surgisol started out as a specialist dermatology UK distributor for HEINE dermatoscopes, offering a range of diagnostic equipment, including ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes. SurgiSol is also excited about the new DELTA 30 PRO Dermatoscope, that was shown at the conference, offering incredibly high-resolution optics and unparalleled lesion detail. HEINE is a well-known and respected brand in the field of Dermoscopy, with a legacy that dates to the invention of the Dermatoscope. Their products have been trusted by primary care physicians for many years, providing them with the confidence they need to diagnose and treat skin conditions effectively, while also delivering high-quality care to their patients. Summer 2024 offers for the DELTA 30 PRO are available. Contact me via at [stephen@surgisol.com](mailto:stephen@surgisol.com). Or visit [surgisol.com](http://surgisol.com) for more information.

The Annual ASPC conference is one of the most important dates in **BlueKit's** event calendar. Not only is it an opportunity to make new connections, it's also, (and perhaps even more importantly), a chance to catch up with many of our wonderful, existing clients, in the relaxed setting of the rich Lincolnshire countryside.

The feedback and insight we gain from our customers is most valuable to aiding our development and growth as a small business, and the knowledge and expertise ASPC manage to pull together in such a small space is always commendable. BlueKit continues to grow from strength to strength, perfecting a portfolio of Surgical Instruments and Procedure Packs with our clients in mind.

The ASPC team are always highly professional and still manage to create a warm and welcoming event. We've been regular attendees for many years now and look forward to many more to come!

**Sapyen** presented its Mail-in PVSA (Post-Vasectomy Semen Analysis) Kit at the ASPC conference in May, which was excellent. The £99 kit uses patent-pending stabilisation technology to keep sperm samples viable for up to 3 days. **Cost includes shipping and analysis.**

**Cost-effective:** £99 for complete PVSA

**Accuracy:** Tests for rare motile sperm. Adhere to guidelines

**Compliance:** 90%+ completion rate for patients

**Convenience:** Home collection and mail-in to certified labs

**Enhanced Viability:** Kit extends sperm viability up to 72 hours. CE approved

**Full Service:** All logistics and patient comms are handled by Sapyen

**Results sent back to you or your patient**

**Wesleyan** Financial Services provide tailored financial planning at every stage of your professional life. Some of the areas we can help with include NHS pension advice and retirement planning; savings and investments options, financial protection for you and your family; plus finding the right mortgage. To find out more, email me at [neelam.alvi@wesleyan.co.uk](mailto:neelam.alvi@wesleyan.co.uk) quoting reference ASPC to book your no-obligation meeting.

**Mediguard** was very fortunate to attend the ASPC 2024 conference for the first time this year and I think it would be fair to say it was a thoroughly enjoyable event. Sedgebrook Hall Hotel was a great intimate setting, and I felt that this lent itself well to the Networking sessions. Mediguard is boutique broker who is able to source a contractual medical malpractice insurance offering to a vast range of Healthcare client across both the Primary and Secondary sector. With access to over twenty specialised Healthcare Insurers, we deliver a 'tailor made' risk solution to all our Healthcare clients.

**Provide Wellbeing Limited** offers specialised NHS and self-pay medical services, including non-scalpel vasectomy, minor skin, and carpal tunnel surgeries. We provide comprehensive administrative support to our GPwERs, managing tasks like appointment bookings, patient correspondence, follow-ups, record-keeping, and invoicing, allowing GPs to focus on the procedures.

Our accredited clinical training courses in vasectomy and carpal tunnel surgery, led by Dr. Alan Speers, Dr. Pritesh Morar, and Dr. Yen Lam, include theory and practical sessions. More details and booking options are available on our website. Committed to patient wellbeing, we ensure a supportive environment from consultation to recovery. We are expanding our services and seeking collaborations with clinicians nationwide. For more information or to join our network, contact Nikki Pockett, Business Development Manager, at [wellbeing.business@nhs.net](mailto:wellbeing.business@nhs.net)





**ASPC 2025**

**Annual**  
**Conference**

**More details to follow**

**Date :**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> & Saturday  
7th June 2025**

**Venue :**

**Marriott Hotel, Grove  
Park, Smith Way,  
Leicester, LE19 1SW**

**email : [admin@aspc-uk.net](mailto:admin@aspc-uk.net)**



**ASPC**  
ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS IN PRIMARY CARE



**Primary Care**  
**Surgical Association**  
**CONFERENCE** **20**  
**24**

Friday 1 &  
Saturday 2  
NOVEMBER



REGISTER HERE

**Radisson Blu**  
**St. Helen's Hotel**

Stillorgan Road  
Dublin



Also open to all UK ASPC Members

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 **Certificate of Dermoscopy** 18 Oct 2024 - 29 Nov 2024

- » Six weeks interactive, online learning with two Saturday webinars.
- » Explore dermoscopic algorithms and terminology.
- » Discover skin photographic techniques.
- » Learn how to conduct comprehensive skin examinations.



FIND OUT MORE



REGISTER HERE

The Skin Cancer College Australasia is delighted to be offering this course in conjunction with the Primary Care Surgical Association (PCSA) Ireland.

For more information, contact [education@skincancercollege.org](mailto:education@skincancercollege.org).



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