

## Annual Report 2023

### Introduction by CORESS Programme Director:

In 2023 CORESS has continued to focus on learning from near-miss events and incidents whilst increasing the visibility of the charity. The Advisory Board has a diverse membership with representation from almost every surgical speciality as well as anaesthetics and surgical trainees. Through quarterly meetings wide-ranging cases have been analysed with consideration from many angles. The links with the National Patient Safety Response Advisory Group, NHS England, Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) have been maintained and, through invited presentations, we continue to take every opportunity to increase awareness of CORESS 'no blame' reporting.

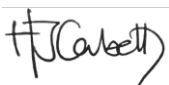
In my first year as Programme Director, I have endeavoured to engage trainees from a variety of backgrounds, a process which began at the ASiT Conference in Liverpool. The RCS England pre-conference reception provided a number of opportunities, the most productive of which was meeting the president of the Moynihan Academy. As a result, a team from the Moynihan Academy has been working through the CORESS case database in order to categorise the cases into a searchable format whilst undertaking a non-technical skills analysis. A categorised searchable database will significantly enhance the value of the CORESS archive and will improve the website experience. This is a 'work in progress' for the historic cases though I plan to apply the categories prospectively from 2024.

We held our third successful Safety in Surgery Symposium, in September. The speakers, Professor Damian Roland (National inpatient PEWS initiative), Dr John Burke (AXA Health), Saskia Fursland (HSSIB) and Dr Michael Devlin (The MDU), gave excellent thought-provoking talks. I am pleased to note that all of the speakers gave permission for their talks to be recorded and the link to the recording remains active on the CORESS website.

Our sponsors remain crucial to our progress and future development. The work and success of the last few years has been made possible by the funds provided, and we wholeheartedly thank all of our sponsors for your ongoing support. If you have any thoughts, comments or questions on our annual overview we would be happy to hear from you. If you would like more detailed information, it would be our pleasure to meet with you and share our vision in person.

Finally, having completed my first year as the Programme Director, I wish to extend my thanks to all those who have supported me in the role. Particular thanks must go to our administrator, Catherine Ralph, whose hard work, her knowledge of CORESS and her understanding of the inner workings of charities are vital. Lastly, on behalf of everyone at CORESS, I thank Lord Bernard Ribeiro who, after many years as Chair of the Board of Trustees stood down this year, we wish him many years of good health.

Best wishes and many thanks.



**Miss Harriet Corbett MD FRCS Paed.**  
**Consultant Paediatric Urologist, Alder Hey Children's Foundation NHS Trust**  
**British Association of Paediatrics Urologists**  
**CORESS Programme Director**

## CORESS Advisory Board:

- 2023 has seen stability within CORESS Advisory Board, specialty representation remains broad, attendance and input high as Zoom meetings facilitate members to join meetings.
- Mr Paul Rooney retired from the group in Q3 and is yet to be replaced, however, his specialty area remains covered by Mr Andrew Day. Work is in progress to find a replacement.
- Several Advisory Board members retired or left their original positions or organisations. All but Mr Rooney remain on the Advisory Board as 'independents', including Dr Mike Roddis (Pathologist), Mr Josh Burke (ex-ASiT) and Dr Neil McGuire.
- ASiT links remain strong, Ms Robert Garau joined the group as representative, ensuring cover when unable to attend. Mr Matthew Harris and Ms Emily Harris provided representation in September and December respectively increasing CORESS exposure within the ASiT group.
- We continue to extend invitations to other interest groups including the Association for Perioperative Practice (AfPP).
- Aiming to ensure inclusivity and recognising commitments differ, three Friday 10:00 meetings were held while the final meeting of the year was held on a Monday at 14:00.
- A focus in 2024 will be to develop links with the other twelve trainee organisations.

## CORESS Specialty Representation: YoY

	2022	2023	2024
Specialty	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 1
Anaesthesia	N	Y	Y
Cardiothoracic	Y	Y	Y
General Surgery	Y	Y	Y
Neurosurgery	Y	Y	Y
Oral & Maxillofacial	Y	Y	Y
Otolaryngology (ENT)	N	Y	Y
Paediatric Surgery	Y	Y	Y
Plastic Surgery	Y	Y	Y
Trauma and Orthopaedics	N	Y	Y
Urology	Y	Y	Y
Vascular Surgery	Y	Y	Y

## CORESS Representative Split across Specialties: YoY

Specialty	2021 Q1	2022 Q1	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	Sub-specialty areas
Anaesthesia	0	0	1	1	
Cardiothoracic	1	1	1	1	
General Surgery	3	3	3	2	Colorectal and Bariatric
Neurosurgery	1	1	2	2	
Oral & Maxillofacial	1	1	1	1	
Otolaryngology (ENT)	0	2	2	2	Adult and Paediatric
Paediatric Surgery	1	1	1	1	
Plastic Surgery	3	2	2	2	Breast, General and Reconstructive
Trauma and Orthopaedics	0	0	1	1	
Urology	0	1	1	1	Covered by Paediatric Surgery representative
Vascular Surgery	3	3	3	3	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	
Independent	0	0	3	5	
Other	6	8	7	6	Includes: ASiT, ODPs, Private Healthcare
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	

## Reporting & Publishing:

- Sixteen cases - were reviewed at Advisory Board meetings in 2023, providing the basis for educational articles generated through the year and the Case of the Month selected for the website.
- Four articles – published in RCS England Surgeons News throughout the year, copy provided for the first edition of 2024 and copy deadline dates received for the year.
- One article/ editorial – guest editorial piece placed in the RCS Annals following the change of the editor, ran in the final publication of the year.
- **2024 Reporting and Profile Project** - the App's development followed recognition that future reporting needed to be accessible to trainees in a user-friendly format for the demographic. Following an early burst of activity at via the new App at the beginning of the year, the case reporting tailed off. Word-of-mouth awareness is low. The Programme Director has received Board agreement in principle for an App use/awareness building project focussed on the Trainee organisations. Currently in development the project will advertise for trainee organisation representatives to use and test the App, submitting an agreed number of cases, providing feedback and generating word-of-mouth awareness, results will be outcome based. The project is likely to run across Qtrs 2-3, supported by Professor Kapur who will oversee the work.
- **2024 Publishing** - discussion is underway to publish in the RCS of England Trainee bulletin next year.

## Events:

- March, Moynihan Surgical Meeting, Barcelona – Presentation given by Professor Frank Smith, CORESS past-Programme Director.
- March, ASiT Conference – Presentation given by Miss Harriet Corbett, CORESS Programme Director at the annual conference. 2024 discussions underway with ASiT for an improved timeslot to maximise attendance at the 2025 meeting.
- May, AXA Patient Forum – attendance to the discussion group run by CORESS key sponsor AXA Health, by Miss Corbett.
- September, RSM Section Surgery – Presentation given by Professor Smith.
- **September, CORESS Symposium – Miss Corbett** - 2023 was the third annual CORESS Safety in Surgery Symposium, showcasing four guest speakers including: Professor Damien Roland, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine Heas of Service Children's Emergency Department, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust speaking on 'SPOT Programme: The National inpatient PEWS Chart'. Dr John Burke, Chief Medical Officer, AXA Health speaking on 'Championing Patient Safety Evidence Based Medicine-Robotically Assisted Surgery'. Ms Saskia Fursland, National Investigator at HSSIB on 'What's new at HSIB'. And Dr Michael Devlin, Head of Professional Standards and Liaison at the MDU on 'Patient Safety in a Medico-legal Context. Each speaker presented for approximately 15 minutes followed by a 5-minute Q&A session. 150+ registrations were received via Eventbrite with approximately 50% attendance on the day. The sessions were well received by those attending with good interaction during Q&As. All presentations are available on the website, with agreement of the speakers.
- ASiT Training Council Meeting – CORESS presentation given by Mr Josh Burke.
- **2024 Upcoming Events** - presentations arranged by the Programme Director for January include the Moynihan Academy and the Colorectal Programme, with discussions underway for a presentation at ASiT Conference in 2025. The CORESS 2024 Symposium will run towards the end of the year, the event has identified four speakers to approach, including two who were unable to speak in 2023.

## Coverage & Communication of note:

- AXA Health – article on home page, linked to news page, social media.
- RCS Human Factors online course – regular CORESS promotion by Professor Brennan.
- Case of the Month tweets – Professor Brennan and Dr Hunnigher.
- App information – circulated to ASiT – Mr Burke.
- Communications to SALG for noting – Professor Pandit.
- AXA Health interview with Hill Dickinson Health Litigation – Dr Bradshaw.

## Developments:

- Screensavers were developed, in response to an Advisory Board request and are available via the website [CORESS | Screensavers](#). Professor Narinder Kapur also created a CORESS screensaver for use.
- CORESS LinkedIn page set up to provide a presence and link with other patient safety organisations.

## Fundraising:

- AXA Health, active CORESS supporter, has provided sponsorship for a second year and remain active in CORESS events and meetings. AXA Health are proactive at including CORESS in their events while accessing CORESS knowledge and experience both in and outside the Advisory Board to support their own work.
- Sponsorship with WPA, MDU and Kirby Laing Foundation ended in line with each specific arrangement.
- An application for a second year of Hospital Saturday Funding was unsuccessful.

## Website/Email:

- **Published Cases** - can be found in the 'Resource Hub' area of the website. For the first time this area now includes articles published in the RCS Annals and Surgeon's News, providing additional resource to users. The body of work available better reflects CORESS long history of publishing, work continues to source historic materials and fill any gaps. Collation of materials is step one; the next step is to make the resource more accessible. The Programme Director is working with the Moynihan Academy to better catalogue the articles.
- **Case of the Month** – 12 cases have been highlighted on the website and promoted by active Twitter/X users. The Programme Director regularly asks the Advisory Board to select a preferred case to use the following month.
- **Access issue** – in the summer the charity was alerted to website access issues from NHS computers firewalls preventing CORESS email delivery. Emmantech, website provider, investigated and identified two issues, a McAfee blacklist issue for the website and a plug-in issue for email delivery. Email issue is resolved. Website issue was considered resolved however, at some Advisory Board members continue to report access issues via NHS system. A request for further information has been circulated to Advisory Board members in December and the web provider continues to work on any outstanding areas.

## Charity Management:

- Trustee Board – there have been three board meetings, April, June and December. Post changes in the Board include Lord Bernard Ribeiro who stood down as Chair in June; Baroness Judith Jolly was voted into the role at the same meeting, this was communicated at the subsequent AGM, also in June. New trustees during the year include Professor Frank Smith, CORESS past-Programme Director who joined the Board of Trustees in April and Mr Joshua Burke, ASiT past-President and CORESS Advisory Board Member, who was voted in at the December meeting.

- Executive Board – met seven times through the year, focussing on the daily running and project progress of the charity. The charity’s memorandum was reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and the charity is working within the scheme. Data Protection arrangements were reviewed and updated to reflect the launch of the App.
- AGM – held June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Chair’s Report, Programme Director’s Report and Financial Report and Accounts were reviewed at the meeting and the floor opened for questions. Lord Ribeiro demitted and was replaced by Baroness Jolly. Mr Nick Markham, Honorary Treasurer, Miss Harriet Corbett, Programme Director and all other trustees remain in post. Documents were circulated to all Advisory Board members and are available on request. Meeting minutes are available on the website [www.coress.org](http://www.coress.org), accounts on Companies House.

## **2024:**

Our priorities for the year include:

- Increasing case reporting and awareness building with surgical trainees, as outlined in our proposed project, while assessing the App.
- Creating and developing ongoing links with all surgical trainee organisations, thirteen organisations have been identified and will be approached to join the project, also the Advisory Board.
- Ensuring CORESS cases are more accessible, working with Moynihan Academy and ASiT to make web-based cases more searchable and user friendly.
- Seeking further sponsors to support the charity, activating all avenues to seek further support including trustee and Advisory Board contacts, funding applications and industry approaches.
- Searching for a charity Patron to promote the organisation, create awareness and facilitate links with other organisations.