

Dear Colleague,

**Section of Coloproctology, Royal Society of Medicine
2009/2010 Programme**

**President Prof Andrew Shorthouse
Secretary Mr Ciaran Walsh**

We are looking forward to hosting a really exciting scientific and social programme over the course of the 2009/2010 session.

The President's address will be on October 28th 2009 at 6pm. The title is "Conundrums or Conundra?" – those moments of professional, social and domestic decision which determine life's course as a surgeon. A wine reception for all in the ENT room and then the annual dinner in the Atrium (by invitation, black tie) will follow the address.

Half day symposia

Please book early for the two half day symposia, as places will be limited.

**"Inflammatory bowel disease - a hundred year explosion"
Wednesday November 25th 2009**

The first symposium celebrates the Centenary of the first ever symposium on ulcerative colitis held at the RSM in 1909, and will be a truly multidisciplinary occasion looking back to that first symposium, exploring current and future controversies. Jean-Frederik Colombel (Lille) will deliver a **Frederick Salmon Lecture** entitled "The 21st century – unanswered questions in inflammatory bowel disease". Simon Travis has been immensely helpful with suggestions for the programme; other speakers include Jon Rhodes, Richard Driscoll (Chairman NACC), Keith Leaper, Neil Shepherd, and Steve Halligan. Nick Carr will be discussing the pros and cons of regionalising pouch surgery.

**Joint meeting with the Section of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Wednesday 24th February**

The second symposium on includes debates on pelvic endometriosis (Alfred Cutner and Ian Adam), painful adhesions (Mike Parker and Adrian Lower) and rectocele management (David Jayne and Ash Monga). The **John Goligher Lecture** will be delivered by Brian Hancock "Obstetric fistula management in Africa". Brian will be sharing his huge experience of vesico-vaginal repair after obstructed labour.

Each of the two symposia will be preceded by **Council meetings at 12 noon**, followed by **Short Paper Presentations (6-8pm)** and **Council Dinner (8pm)** with speakers, including trainees, as our guests.

The Section meetings over the year are very much geared to their educational value for trainees. Topics are selected which are highly clinically relevant, and the short paper presentations are a wonderful opportunity to gain experience in formal presentation of original work. The trainee who delivers the best short paper judged over the two meetings will be awarded the prestigious John of Arderne medal, and £500 towards the overseas meeting in Cracow. Closing dates for the John of Arderne

Medal are 20th September 2009 (for the November meeting) and 29th November 2009 (for the February meeting).

The AGM will be held at 5.30pm on 24th February, immediately following the joint coloproctology/O&G meeting.

Teaching Days (Reading and Newcastle)

As usual, there are two Teaching Days in Reading (combined with the ACPGBI Oxford Chapter) and Newcastle/Gateshead (combined with the ACPGBI Northern and Yorkshire Chapters), and hosted by Riz Farouk and Paul Hainsworth respectively. The Reading Teaching Day will include presentations and discussion on haemorrhoids, fissure, ODS, incontinence, enhanced recovery, colonoscopy and screening. The Newcastle programme includes “What’s new in colorectal surgery?”, and management of early rectal cancer and IBD, revolving around new standards for provision and care, a “How I do it” session and debate. There will also be registrar research and audit presentations. Both teaching days will include a quiz for registrars, well worth entering, as there will be £500 awarded to the winner to attend the Cracow meeting.

President’s Day will be held in the MEC at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield on Wednesday 10th March. Topics will be interventional radiology and colonoscopy for GI haemorrhage, DNA colorectal cancer screening, anastomotic leak, updating Endosponge, sepsis and abdominal fistula management, abdomino-perineal resection and quality standards (Prof Phil Quirke), and a “how I do it” live theatre link for fissures and fistula, together with Cochrane evidence (Peer Wille Jorgensen).

Overseas meeting (Cracow, Poland) Tuesday 1st to Saturday 6th June 2010

Cracow, a world heritage site, is one of Europe’s best preserved and most beautiful medieval cities, ranking with Prague. The heart of the city is located in the Main Square, the largest market square of medieval Europe, with its remarkable 16th-century Sukiennice (Cloth Hall), an example of Gothic-Renaissance architecture.



Other notable sights are the Church of the Virgin Mary (Kosciol Mariacki), with one of the greatest Gothic altars in Europe, and the Wawel Hill with the Royal Castle and Cathedral.



Wawel Hill

The Sheraton will be the main conference hotel, facing the river and castle, and situated at the edge of the Old Town. This is an excellent hotel that we used for our site visit. Alternative nearby hotel options within the Old Town are available and will be included in the itinerary. Alternatively, delegates can make their own hotel and travel arrangements, but will need to complete the RSM booking form for registration, receptions, dinners and excursions. As many will be aware, access to Cracow is simple with many budget flights direct to Balice airport on the edge of Cracow.



Jagiellonian University, Old Town, Cracow



Collegium Novum

The scientific meeting will be all day on 2nd June at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow (established in the 14th century) in the Collegium Novum, and on the morning of 3rd June jointly with the Polish Coloproctology Club, at the more modern Auditorium Maximum conference centre. Our good friend Professor Adam Dziki is

President of the Polish Surgical Society 2009-11 and will be joining us at the meeting. Our local organizer is Professor Roman Herman, President of the Polish Coloproctology Club in 2010 and Professor of Surgery at the Jagiellonian University. Both have had a major input into the organisation of our visit.



Collegium Meius

The Council Dinner will be held on 1st June at 8pm in the Collegium Meius (with invited Polish guests) and there will be a pre-dinner drinks reception for the whole group in the adjacent Collegium Meius courtyard, which has a spectacular working 14th century mechanical clock, at 7.30pm.



The Jozef Mehoffer House

The conference dinner on Wednesday 3rd June will be shared with the Polish coloproctologists and their guests. The Poles have an awesome reputation for their hospitality, and you won't be disappointed with the quality of their food.

Lunch has been arranged after the scientific meeting closes at 12.45pm on Thursday 3rd June.

The afternoon will be free and delegates who are planning to stay longer will make their own dining arrangements in the evening. We are planning to hire a fleet of open buggies to ride around the Old Town later in the afternoon.

Optional excursions on Friday 3rd June for those staying on until the weekend will include The Salt Mine in Wieliczka or Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Salt Mine is 10km from Cracow and lies on nine levels, concealed under the town, and reaching a depth of over 300 metres. There are nearly 300 kilometres of corridors and 3,000 chambers. St. Kinga's Chapel is a breathtaking place – a church where everything is made of salt – crystal chandeliers, altars, sculptures and floor paving carved in the layer of salt. In 1976 the Wieliczka Salt Mine was entered in the

National Monuments Registry and in 1978 was included on UNESCO's First World List of Cultural and Natural Heritage. Those with claustrophobic tendencies may not enjoy the visit and should seek alternative entertainment!

Auschwitz-Birkenau was founded by the Nazis in 1940 as a concentration camp for Polish political prisoners, and later became the place where approximately 1.5 million Jews, Poles, Russians and people of other nationalities were exterminated. The visit is extremely evocative and well worth the experience.

If you would like to organise your own sightseeing, "Luxury tours", organises visits to the most beautiful and important places in Cracow and its surroundings, including Zakopane and the Tatra mountains (www.cracowluxurytours.pl). Alternatively, tours can be arranged directly from the hotels.

There will be an excursion on Saturday 4th June to the Dunajec River Gorge and Niedzica castle. A raft trip down the Dunajec River through the exquisitely beautiful Pieniny Gorge and along the Polish-Slovak border is one of the greatest tourist attractions in Poland. Czorsztyn Castle (13th c.) and Niedzica Castle (14th c.) were built as strategic strongholds high on the cliffs on each side of the Gorge. Czorsztyn Castle was destroyed in a peasant uprising, but has been partially restored. Niedzica Castle is in perfect condition, and is now a working hotel and museum. The trip begins on the raft. Lunch will be in the "Pieniny" inn, followed by a visit to Niedzica Castle and a 15th century wooden church in Debno.



Professor Herman has kindly invited the group to his home for drinks and refreshments after leaving the mountains on Saturday evening.



Overseas RSM visits are incredibly social and are a wonderful opportunity for consultants and trainees to get to know one another, and our Polish colleagues, and all enjoy the science and culture together. We will be joined by the Irish Travelling Fellow who will be presenting one of the short papers. I know he/she will be made very welcome.

The two daily excursions will be from Cracow by coach, staying on at the Sheraton (or other respective hotels) until the flights back to the UK on Sunday 6th June (or earlier as required).

Website links

Cracow Tourist Board: http://www.krakow.pl/en/turystyka/?id=city_points.html.

See Cracow on Wikipedia

www.cracow-guide.net

<http://www.tripadvisor.com/krakow>

www.cracowluxurytours.pl

It is vital that we get some fairly accurate idea of the numbers intending to travel to Cracow. Please return the accompanying questionnaire as soon as possible to Ruth Cloves at the Sections Office (coloproctology@rsm.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Shorthouse and Ciaran Walsh

For further information about the programme, please contact Ciaran Walsh (cwalsh@doctors.org.uk).

For details of meetings and prizes, please contact Ruth Cloves (coloproctology@rsm.ac.uk)

Disclaimer: some of the arrangements have not been totally finalised and may change