

## **Thursday 5th November – Saturday 7th November 2008**

The meeting was held in the congenial atmosphere of the Swan Hotel in the centre of Bedford.

Most members arrived in the afternoon of Thursday the 5th November and following the Annual General Meeting at 6 o'clock an informal dinner was held at the nearby Embankment Hotel. The new President Mike Simpson, who was inaugurated at the Annual General Meeting, welcomed members to the Scientific meeting the following morning.

**Mr Chi Hwa Chan (Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon)** gave a talk titled Orbital Grafting/The Study of BioGlass so Far. He began by pointing out the pathogenesis of traumatic enophthalmos in terms of an increased orbital volume scar, contracture of fat, and loss of ligamentous support. He explained how Bioglass formed new bone by promoting osteoprogenitor cells. He discussed the issues of quantitative volume replacement and the various prefabrication techniques including 3D CT planning. A series of excellent clinical results were shown. In the lively discussion that followed Navigation techniques were mooted as perhaps the way forward to enhance this technique.

**Mr Paul Tisi (Consultant Vascular Surgeon)** gave a very clear talk on some advances in vascular surgery. The benefits of screening for abdominal aneurysms with ultrasound were shown (a 42% 4-year reduction in mortality for a screened male group against controls). The reductions in operative mortality using aortic stents instead of open aneurysm repair were shown, and although few would consider the open operation preferable he pointed out this was £4.5K more expensive than the open procedure. With 40% of males and 32% of females suffering from varicose veins, it seemed entirely appropriate that he rounded off his talk discussing radiofrequency coagulation and laser ablation as the current treatments of this condition. Just prior to breaking for coffee members were treated to an extensive presentation on the use of artificial saliva and muco-protective agents by Mr Andrew Parkes of MedPharma, ensuring that members appreciated their coffee break.

**Dr Mohammed Nasir (Associate Specialist in Anaesthesia)** talked on the development of the IGel Laryngeal Mask (as an example of how to develop an idea in the NHS). This was an unusual presentation during which the speaker gave us a resume of his experience over the past 20 years in eventually successfully being able to turn his idea into a device used by millions throughout the world. This was illuminating on the areas of intellectual property and patent protection to say the least! The pathway from conception to manufacture of this device was fascinating and beautifully presented.

**Mr Peter Mahaffey (Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon)** gave a talk titled Laser Treatment of Head and Neck Lesions. Members were given an updated clear and comprehensive classification of vascular lesions in the head and neck. The use of both Nd Yag lasers and CO2 lasers was shown with excellent illustrations on head and neck lesions. Of particular interest was his discussing the highly efficacious use of propranolol in treating proliferative vascular lesions in children.

After an excellent lunch **Dr Katya Burova (Consultant Dermatologist)** gave a dermatological overview of head and neck lesions in her talk entitled "Allergic to Russians". Interesting cases included Leishmaniosis, sarcoidosis, allergic cheilitis

and dermatomyositis. This was a highly entertaining talk, which also included the allergenic potential of methacrylates in health care workers.

In his talk “Picking up the Pieces” (from bomb attacks in London) **Mr Philip Marsden (Forsensic Odontologist and General Dental Practitioner)** gave both a disturbing and fascinating insight into his work in criminal prosecutions, particularly child abuse. It was however, his account of his work in helping to identify the bodies and even the remains of those killed in the 2004 Tsunami and the July 2005 Terrorist outrage in London that made up the majority of his talk. The difficult conditions which the Tsunami investigations were carried out contrasted with those facilities that had been well planned for the London Bombing. The way tremendous work in aiding the rapid identification of victims is carried out is often taken for granted and this was exemplified by the 2005 press article shown, which castigated the investigators for taking too long to identify victims! A very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

After tea, **Professor Kinloch (Professor of Adhesives Imperial College – Fellow of the Royal Society)** gave a talk on the use of adhesives, largely in the aerospace industry in his talk entitled “Sticking Together”. A wonderful historical perspective on the use of adhesives was given using examples of the Mosquito bomber and Comet airliner to the modern day Airbus A380. The importance of surface treatment of glued materials with free radicals was shown. New adhesives containing nanoparticles were discussed. However, it was probably the information that superglue needs slight moisture to promote catalysation that was most helpful to members!

In the evening after a coach ride members were treated to a fantastic evening in the magnificent surroundings of Luton Hoo. At the initial reception members were given an insight into the interesting history of the building. The meal itself was taken in the glorious surroundings of what was obviously the Chapel with its impressive vaulted ceiling. During the meal, members were entertained by an extremely adept conjuror, and I still cannot work out how he got Clive’s £20 note into that lime!

The following day members were taken to see the Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection at Old Warden. Some of us were guided by Ken Hyde who works as a restorer of aircraft and his insight and knowledge of these aircraft and their restoration was very appreciated by those on the tour. At lunchtime members and wives were entertained at home by Mike and Ann rounding off what was a superb meeting.