Professor Peter Brennan

President

BAOMS

1st February 2021

Dear Peter,

We write to you, through FSSA, on behalf of the Confidential Reporting System for Surgery (CORESS) - www.CORESS.org.uk

It was very useful to meet many of the Presidents of the Surgical Specialty Associations in the virtual FSSA meeting on 10th December 2020.

**Background**

CORESS was set up by a group of surgeons, initially under the auspices of the ASGBI in 2006, as a result of initiatives directed by Denis Wilkins (past President ASGBI), with the support of Adam Lewis and Peter Tait, Chief Executive of CHIRP, the CAA's aviation confidential reporting service. CORESS became an independent charity in 2010, introduced at the House of Lords by Sir Bruce Keogh. Lord Bridgeman was the original Chair of the Board of Directors and was subsequently succeeded by Lord Ribeiro, Past President RCSEng, the current Chair.

The organisation is independent of the Royal Colleges but has had representation of all four Colleges at different times on its Advisory Board and has its administrative base at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

**Aims**

The aim of the organisation is to promote surgical safety by publishing anonymised educational vignettes, concerning near misses and adverse incidents, compiled for surgeons by the surgical community, with direct relevance to clinical practice. CORESS is a pan-specialty surgical reporting service.The organisation is currently seeking to raise its profile and develop links with the individual surgical specialties, and to attract reports with educational value from those specialties.

Anonymised reports are collated by the Program Director and reviewed by the pan-specialty Advisory Board who draw out the lessons and provide expert commentary and feedback prior to publication.

Reports are currently published in the Annals RCS England; Surgeons News (RCS Ed), the Journal of the ASGBI and surgical specialty newsletters. A summary of outputs is attached as an appendix to this letter.

**Current Situation**

The organisation, whose members work on a voluntary non-remunerated basis, was initially funded by ASGBI, but received basic funding through the FSSA during the last 2 years. This funding has enabled CORESS to employ administrative support to facilitate applications for independent charitable funding in order to modernise and extend its range of educational outputs. Examples include provision of a surgical safety webinar for RCSEd in 2020; development of a Surgical Safety App and extending the role of the organisation to work more closely with the 10 surgical specialties that make up FSSA. A funding programme is now in place for the next 3 years.

The CORESS development and modernisation plans are designed to make the outputs of the organisation more relevant and applicable to surgeons and trainees in all specialties.

CORESS already has strong links with BAOMS, through your personal representation and the support of Mr Patrick Magennis on the Board of Trustees, and wishes to strengthen these links with the following requests:

* Permission to provide links to the BAOMS website and logo on the CORESS website
* A request to the BAOMS to provide a link to the CORESS website on your website (www.CORESS.org.uk)
* The facility for CORESS to provide specialty relevant Safety Feedback to BAOMS, for publication in specialty newsletters where deemed appropriate by the editor.
* CORESS would also be happy to contribute a specialty-tailored safety lecture on an annual basis to the Association annual meeting, and to contribute to any Specialty Surgical Safety / Human Factors programmes.

This formalisation of links places no undue or material burden on BAOMS. It will strengthen CORESS’ role in surgical safety reporting, and in attracting charitable funding for development of its educational programme, which will increasingly involve trainee and undergraduate education.

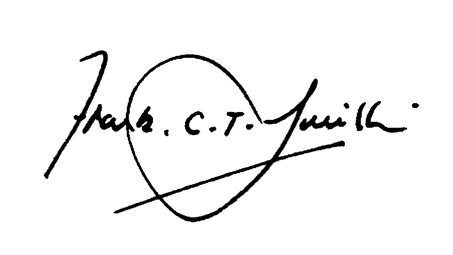
We would be very grateful for the continued support of BAOMS, which we take to be vital in underpinning the CORESS resolve to develop and modernise its services for surgical teams and surgeons.

Yours sincerely,

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The Lord Ribeiro CBE FRCS  
Past-president Royal College of Surgeons of England

Chair CORESS Board of Trustees



Professor Frank CT Smith BSc MSc MD FRCS FEBVS FHEA

Professor of Vascular Surgery & Surgical Education, University of Bristol

CORESS Programme Director

**Appendix - CORESS Outputs and links**

**Outputs**

* 100+ published safety bulletins.
* Other publications:

Surgical Quality Assurance Meetings – Developing the Morbidity & Mortality Conference. Wilkins DC, Smith FCT (Eds) *Issues in Professional Practice – Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland,* April 2015<http://www.publications.asgbi.org/iipp_sqameetings_04_15/sqa_meetings_iipp.html>

Confidential Reporting Systems in Surgical Practice. FCT Smith, AM Lewis, DC Wilkins. In *Recent Advances in Surgery 37* (Ed Irving Taylor) Jaypee Publishing. 2015: Chapter 2; 15-24

Contributory Factors in Surgical Incidents as Delineated by a Confidential Reporting System. Mushtaq F, O’Driscoll C, Smith FCT, Wilkins D, Kapur N, Lawton R. *Ann Roy Coll Surg Engl* 2018;100(5):1-5

**Official Reports**

**National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs)** (Chair of writing group on Key Surgical Issues) NHS England Patient Safety Domain and the National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures Group, September 2015 http://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2015/09/natssips-safety-standards.pdf

Written evidence of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) and the Confidential Reporting System for Surgery (CORESS) **Parliamentary Public Administration Select Committee: NHS Complaints and Clinical Failure in Hospitals Inquiry**, January 2015

**Report of NHS England Never Events Task Force.**

*Standardise Educate, Harmonise. Commissioning the Conditions for Safer Surgery.* Feb 2014

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/sur-nev-ev-tf-rep.pdf>

**Links**

* Member of NHS England Surgical Services Patient Safety Expert Group (2013-16)
* Member Steering Group for National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death ​(NCEPOD) (2011-18)
* Communication links with Keith Conradi (CEO) and Kevin Stewart (Medical Director) of the Healthcare Services Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB); Neil McGuire (Devices Director, MHRA), who sits on CORESS Advisory Board; Aidan Fowler (NHS Director of Patient Safety), and Joan Russell, (Associate Director of Patient Safety) at NHS England, Skipton House, London.