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## 1946

- 20th November 1946, the newly formed British Association of Plastic Surgeons are invited by the Council of Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) to hold their inaugural meeting at their premises. RCS president, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson is chairman. In attendance are 38 surgeons. By 1947 it is agreed to request an entrance fee of 3 guineas for membership, with an annual subscription of 2 guineas per year.

“ WALLY... I THINK YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON IN OUR ASSOCIATION TO START A JOURNAL. YOU ARE INDEPENDENT AND FAR REMOVED FROM THE INFLUENCES OF LONDON AND YOU DON'T BELONG TO ANY CAMP”

Gillies to Wallace, Edinburgh 1946/47



## 1947

- The first scientific session is held in November 1947. There is an afternoon of lectures and discussion at RCS. The meeting continues the next day at Hill End Plastic Surgery Unit, St Albans, moving to Rooksdown House in the afternoon. 56 Full Members and 18 Associates attended.

## 1948

- In March 1948 the British Journal of Plastic Surgery is first published. Its primary objective is to advance plastic surgery through enabling the publishing of research, clinical trials and experimental work. The Journal also aims to encourage friendly relations with plastic surgeons from across the world. The Journal has become integral in supporting surgical training and communicating ideas.

## 1950

- September 1950, Burns Sub-Committee of BAPS is established. The Committee has five members Battle, Clarkson, Mowlem, Osborne, Wallace and Colebrook. Colebrook had advocated its formation.

## 1952

- November 7th 1952, at a dinner attended by Furlong, James, McIndoe, Moore, Mowlem, Pulvertaft and Whillis the suggestion is made to form a 'Hand Club' to better encourage the study of surgery of the hand. Seddon (BOA president) and BAPS president (Battle in 1952) are invited to join. Over 12 years, membership increases to 12 members. The restricted membership led to the forming of 'the Second Hand Club' in 1956. Rivalry between the two clubs did not exist and on October 8th 1964 they are formally merged to form 'The British Club for Surgery of the Hand'. To enable a more formal standing for the specialty in the UK, Barron suggests the Club become an Association (BASH!). In November 1968, a name and constitution change sees The British Society for Surgery of the Hand formed.

## 1955

- Desire for a crest had been expressed in 1947 with the development of the BJPS, upon which a crest would sit. It was not until 1955 that a formal Grant of Arms is awarded. The Grant of Arms was originally sought in 1952. Presidents Battle, Barron, Matthews and Kilner all contributed. This award suggested the BAPS has reached maturity. Its significance is great in that it makes permanent the ideals for which the Association stands.

## 1957

- Gillies writes 'The Principles and Art of Plastic Surgery'.



## 1959

- It is agreed that BAPS will be responsible for organisation, membership and finance for The International Congress in 1959. As part of discussions and collaboration relating to this event the International Confederacy of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons is born. The cost of registration for full members is £15 and social membership just £10. The Congress is attended by 865 members, 538 being full members, hailing from 51 countries.

## 1961

- After Gillies' death in September 1960, a memorial lecture is established in his honour. Lecturers are invited to speak by the Association Council. T Pomfret Kilner is the first to lecture in 1961, his topic is 'The Birth of a Specialty'.

## 1962

- Owing to the decline in Senior Registrars in Dental Surgery, a Committee is formed to represent a dental section of the BAPS, membership is restricted to Associate members. Application for this to become a sub-section is declined by RCS who state that the BAPS is too small an organisation to be fragmented. By 1960 oral surgery had developed to such a level that an association should be formed. The inaugural meeting of the British Association of Oral Surgeons is held on April 14th 1962.
- In 1962 the RAF make a donation to RCS to cover the McIndoe Lecture. McIndoe died in April 1960. It is agreed by the BAPS and RCS that this lecture should relate to plastic surgery or an allied topic and must be based on the lecturers own experience. The lectureship is awarded on recommendation of the RCS president and the President and Honorary secretary of BAPRAS. GH Morely was the first to be awarded the McIndoe lecture, it was entitled 'Plastic Surgery in War and Peace'.
- 1962, T. Pomfret Kilner endowed a prize for the best published essay on a title set by the Association. Kilner dies in 1964, but the prize continued to be awarded up to 2004.

## 1963

- Championed by AB Wallace, who recognised the vital role nurses played in plastic surgery and burn care, the inaugural meeting of the British Association of Plastic Surgery Nurses takes place in 1963.

## 1964

- November 1964, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh becomes the first Patron of BAPS.
- Studies conducted in Burn Units in the UK highlight a lack of available treatment centres. This leads to the setting up of the first purpose-built centre in Wakefield in 1964, another is set up in East Grinstead in 1965. The Blond-McIndoe laboratories opened in March 1961.



## 1965

- Under presidency of Benjamin Rank, BAPS' first Summer meeting is held away from UK in Leiden, Netherlands.

## 1966

- Mr Barron takes on new role of Historian.

## 1968

- In April 1968 Mr JR Cobbett performs the first successful free toe to hand transfer. The operation is performed on a woodworker and takes place at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead. In 1966 Cobbett published a paper on microsurgical techniques, which was then in its infancy.
- In 1968, the British Burn Association is formed.



## 1969

- In 1969, the BAPS hosts the First European Congress of Plastic Surgery. Held in Brighton, the event takes place from 16th-19th June. 309 Members attend, from 19 European and 4 non-European countries. Over the course of the event, 57 papers are read, 37 films shown, 19 scientific exhibits viewed and 14 trade exhibits set up. The cost of the event was £12 for full membership.

## 1970


- The Senior Registrars Travelling Club (SRTC) is formed in 1970 to promote collaboration and share research. The first meeting was held in March 1972 at Canniesburn. A perfect balance of Social and Scientific;

What happens at the SRTC, stays at the SRTC!



## 1979

- A rise in the demand for private cosmetic clinics leads to discussion around the levels of training and experience in cosmetic clinics. The British Association of Aesthetic Surgeons is formed in November 1979.



*British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons*

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## 1981

- Anthony Wallace is appointed Honorary Archivist.
- September 1981, at a meeting at Mount Vernon Hospital, the British Microsurgical Society is formed. It became a more formal incarnation of the Microsurgery Travelling Club, which began in 1977.

## 1982

- Owing to a feeling that BAPS should be more active in training, an Educational Sub-Committee is established. It holds its first meeting in December 1982.
- A member specialising in burn treatment serves on hospital ship Uganda during Falkland conflict.



## 1986

- The first FRCS(Plast) examination is held in Glasgow, at its inception the examination is voluntary. It gained wide acceptance from the SRTC and was made mandatory in 1993. Plastic Surgery becomes the second surgical specialty to do so after orthopaedic surgery.

## 1987

- BAPS "The First Forty Years" is published. The book is edited by Mr Anthony Wallace and provides an insight into the early development of the Association.
- The Overseas Doctors Certification Scheme is started in July 1987. The Scheme offers international surgeons the opportunity to work in the UK as an SHO, then Registrar. They would return home with a BAPS Certificate of Training. This scheme is continued until 1998.

## 1987

- Miss Anne B Sutherland becomes president.

Miss Sutherland achieved diplomas in Household and Institutional Management, she registered as a dietician on the national register of medical auxiliary services. In 1945 she went to Glasgow University to study Botany and Zoology, but left after one year to attend Edinburgh University to study Medicine, graduating 1951. Her 1958 MD thesis was on thermal injury and its effects on nutrition. She achieved FRCSEd in 1963, became a BAPS council member in 1981 and BAPS' first female president in 1987. She was an internationally recognised leader in burn patient care.



- 18 November 1987, Kings Cross Fire. BAPS member, Michael Brough is praised for his treatment of burn victims. In the aftermath of this event, there is a recognition of the need for psychological support for those with lifelong scarring. This ultimately led to the creation of the Scar Free Foundation.

## 1988

- October 1988, BAPS trainee membership category is introduced. 1993 Ian Taggart became the first senior registrar to have an official seat on BAPS Council.

## 1989

- 'Working for Patients' White Paper establishes NHS trusts. The Trusts have more freedom in their activity, which enables them to appoint new consultants. As a result, consultant numbers grow from 100 in 1980, to 430 by 2015.

## 1990

- The joint secretariat with BOA, BAPS and BSSH is disbanded. BAPS and BSSH remain in joint secretariat until January 2021.
- Through the 1990s up to 2002, plastic surgeons are deployed to the Balkans during post-Tito conflicts. Plastic surgeons are deployed to general surgical posts.
- August 1990, plastic surgeons are deployed with armed forces to Kuwait and Iraq. A field hospital is established in Saudi Arabia, thankfully burn casualties are lower than expected.

## 1992

- Combined BAPS meeting with The Royal Belgian Society of Plastic Surgery, is held in Glasgow, July 1992

## 1993

- In 1993, the first suggestion of name change from BAPS to BAPRAS is made at the AGM. The suggestions is rejected.

## 1994

- In 1994, as part of a Government drive to reduce the size of the military, military hospitals are closed and begin to work more closely with the NHS. Derriford is the only plastic surgery military unit to remain.

## 1996

- 50th Anniversary Dinner is held at Merchant Taylor's Hall, on 5th December 1996. The guest speaker is Sir Rodney Sweetnam.





## 1996

- In December 1996, BAPS Overseas Aid Group meet in London to document work done by members abroad. At a meeting in January 1997 the name is changed to BAPS Overseas Interest Group (OIG). Discussions take place on how to provide assistance to surgeons and how a rapid response to disasters might be organised.

## 1998

- December 1998, Winter Meeting is held in association with The Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation of the USA. The meeting is held at RCS.

## 1999

- Forming in the aftermath of the Kings Cross Fire, The Healing foundation is established. In July 2016 they had a comprehensive rebrand, to become The Scar Free Foundation. BAPRAS continues to be one of its principle members.

## 2000

- In July 2000, BAPS holds the 3rd European Appointed Meeting for the European Section of the International Confederation of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery.

## 2002

- BAPRAS Patron HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh visits a scientific meeting at RCS.



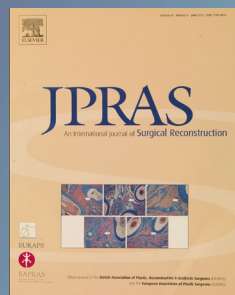
## 2003

- 'BAPS, The Way Forward' is published. Working with the NHS Modernisation Agency, BAPS provides an update on the manpower and resources required for the delivery of a plastic surgery service.

- In December 2003, PLASTA is formed. The new association has a wide scope which will represent trainees at all levels. At the time of its introduction it has 150 members. It was necessary to transition from SRTC to PLASTA due to the changing nature of plastic surgery training and the loss of the Senior Registrar training grade.
- Operation TELIC is active in Iraq. With potential for burn injuries anticipated, plastic surgeons are included in the medical support.

## 2006

- Aiming to modernise its agenda and lose the potential restraints of 'British' in the title, BJPS became JPRAS. The first edition, volume 59 of the Journal, is published in January 2006.



- 11th July 2006, BAPS becomes BAPRAS. Although there are some objections to the inclusion of 'Aesthetic', it is felt that the specialty can no longer ignore the fact that many surgeons are practising aesthetic surgery, and so the Association should become teachers of it. The Salamander is incorporated into the Association logo owing to its ability to regenerate its tail and limbs.

## 2007

- April 2006, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan generate high casualty rates. In 2007, an army plastic surgeon is deployed. It becomes understood that the ballistic injuries have a comparable systemic effect to a large burn and require similar expertise. Initial surgical debridement at Camp Bastion was challenging for those not used to dealing with large scale tissue destruction.

## 2007

- 2007 saw the formation of the Combined Services Plastic Surgery Society. Military plastic surgeons had been meeting regularly, these meetings became formal through the CSPSS and annual conferences are held.
- October 2007, BAPRAS host the 4th International Congress on Auricular Reconstruction, held at RCSEd.

## 2008

- To avoid plastic surgery disappearing from the curriculum, a series of undergraduate courses are established to increase the exposure of medical students to the speciality. A new series of advanced educational courses are introduced. These are held twice a year at Manchester Conference Centre for senior trainees and consultants.

## 2009

- The Association website undergoes a comprehensive redevelopment, integrating new BAPRAS branding and adopting a language style which is accessible to the public.
- Initial changes to the Constitution had been proposed in 2007. By the AGM of December 2009, it has been rewritten and agreed. The changes include an invitation to medical students to join, locally elected Council members and the introduction of a two year presidency. The new presidential format was implemented in 2013 with Mr A Graeme B Perks being the first to take up the mantle.
- Simon Heppell is deployed to Camp Bastion as first official plastic surgeon, followed others. They demonstrate the skills and abilities of the specialty in reconstruction and wound management. From October 2009, Consultants did 8 week tours of duty. 40% of casualties require a plastic surgeons to scrub in.



## 2011

- The PIP implant failure crisis reaches its full extent. The implants were first developed in 1999, but began using industrial grade, as opposed to medical grade, silicone filler in 2001. A report begun by Sir Bruce Keogh (NHS Medical Director), and supported by BAPRAS members, raises questions about cosmetic standards leading to recommendations being made to standardise cosmetic practice.
- In order to enable trainee access to online learning, eLPRAS is developed in 2011. It is now the largest online learning resource in plastic surgery in the world.

## 2012

- A new Code of Practice is introduced in 2012-2013, establishing a well-defined framework for practice, balancing the best interests of the public and members. The new code is introduced in response to growing tension among members regarding the advertising of procedures and commercial cosmetic organisations.
- The final year curriculum goes live in August 2012, followed by the intermediate years curriculum which goes live in August 2013. The curriculum effectively supports the FRCS(Plast) syllabus.
- BFIRST is founded in 2012 as an official overseas charity for BAPRAS. Working on an invitation basis, the curriculum is discerned from local need and training is consultant-led. BFIRST members have been included in emergency response teams for international disasters, such as earthquakes, conflict and major accidents.
- Winter Scientific Meeting is held in combination with The American Society of Plastic Surgeons. The meeting is held at RCS in December 2012.

## 2013

- Winter Scientific Meeting hosted by BAPRAS and the Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons. The meeting is held in Dublin, in November.

## 2014

- In 2014, BAPRAS wins the bid to host the 12th quadrennial ESPRAS Congress, held at RCSEd. With energy and organisation from so many involved, it becomes the biggest meeting ever hosted by BAPRAS. The event is attended by 865 delegates from 62 countries.
- Some of The BAPRAS Collection is displayed at Boston Convention and Exhibition Centre, in conjunction with the American Society of Plastic Surgery. The display is entitled 'a Strange New Art' and focusses on the development of the specialty as brought about by World War 1 and coincided with the centenary of the Great War.

## 2015

- BAPRAS holds a joint meeting with Belgian RSBPS in Bruges.
- A report by RCS in 2015 on major trauma workforce sustainability sees plastic surgeons as well placed to take on consultant roles in a major trauma. Since 2014 plastic surgeons have been deployed to Sierra Leone in response to Ebola, and to Pakistan.

## 2016

- In 2016 ICOPLAST is born enabling further international collaboration. BAPRAS' past president A Graeme B Perks is invited to be one of 2 European representatives on the inaugural ICOPLAST Board of Directors.
- November 2016, BAPRAS unveils their second publication, BAPS to BAPRAS. The book picks up where the previous history book left off and is edited by Honorary Archivist, Mr A Roger Green.
- The Plastic Surgery Trainee Study Day (in conjunction with BAPRAS) is first held in May 2016. The event provides a forum for trainees to receive help and advice on aspects of training.

## 2017

- Joint scientific meeting with Finnish Association of Plastic Surgeons is held in Helsinki, June.

## 2020

- Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, BAPRAS Meetings prevail. Events are held completely online, without loss of scientific content.



