

Clinical Surgery NEWS

Professor Steve Yule

Professor and Chair of Behavioural Sciences, University of Edinburgh



Professor Steve Yule

Professor Steve Yule is an academic psychologist with 20 years' experience studying team performance and non-technical skills in high risk/ high reliability industries including surgery, healthcare, energy, transportation, space exploration. Steve joined the Department of Clinical Surgery in 2020 from Harvard Medical School.

Here he talks to newsletter editor, Dr Katie Shaw, about his arrival in Edinburgh and current research plans.

Welcome to the Department of Clinical Surgery – can you introduce yourself and tell us about your time in Harvard?

Thanks for the warm welcome – it is exciting to be here! I had a great time in the US and worked at Harvard for 8 years and it is great to be back home. My wife, Jen is also an academic and on faculty at Edinburgh University Business School. We have actually published some work on patient perceptions of non-technical skills and survived it! We have 2 young boys who love the outdoors and I am looking forward to introducing them to Scottish culture, especially rugby!

How do non-technical skills relate to surgeons and surgery?

Non-technical skills are factors such as situation awareness, decision making, teamwork, leadership, and communication that we know impact surgical performance and patient safety. You can get better at these skills with training, deliberate practice and coaching in the operating theatre and simulation. I was really lucky to be involved earlier in my career in developing the NOTSS assessment tool and training course which focuses on non-technical skills for surgeons and is now used around the world for surgical education, assessment and research. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been a great advocate for this work.

Welcome to the End of Year 2021 Edition of The Department of Clinical Surgery Newsletter

In This Issue:

Steve Yule

Annual Research Report

School of Surgery Day 2021

News Round Up

Edinburgh Surgery Online Scholarship news

Recent Publications

Conference Dates

What is Surgical Sabermetrics?

Surgical sabermetrics is a new field we are establishing which utilizes sensors and digitally recorded surgical training and operative procedures to objectively measure non-technical skills and other 'intangibles' like cognitive load, situation awareness, and trust. Having objective performance data from sensors and video could enhance insight, support professional development, and optimize clinical and safety outcomes. The term comes from SABR (Society of Advanced Baseball Research) which is a whole science dedicated to optimizing performance in baseball. I think we can put those principles to work in surgery.

What research projects are you establishing in Edinburgh?

The aim of the Surgical Sabermetrics Research Group is to develop and implement tools to objectively and automatically measure performance in the operating theatre. We have a number of exciting projects on video-based coaching, measuring cognitive load in surgical teams, developing digital human factors training, understanding cognitive bias in cancer MDTs, and applying artificial intelligence to measure quality of care in cardiac surgery. We are also interested in how resource level impacts the performance of teams in diverse settings from operating theatres in sub-Saharan Africa to astronaut crews preparing for mission to Mars. I'm excited to work with new fellows Eilidh Gunn, Fiona Kerray and Emma Howie on these projects – and to collaborate with members of the department including Richard Skipworth, Andrew Tambyraja, Stephen Wigmore, Tom Weiser, and Ewen Harrison. There is a lot of opportunity and I am looking forward to meeting and working with more members of the department as we emerge from the global pandemic.

The Surgical Coaching for Operative Performance Enhancement (SCOPE) project sounds really interesting – is this something you hope to develop here in Scotland?

I think all surgeons deserve access to a coach to help achieve their aims to be better at technical skills, decision making, using new technology, whatever. It seems that all high performing professionals work with coaches to keep them at the top of the game; athletes and musicians rely on them to be better than yesterday, so why not surgeons? We developed a program for intraoperative peer coaching in surgery and involved over 50 Harvard surgeons - we found that surgeons could be trained to be coaches. Surprisingly for me the majority of surgeons wanted to focus on their non-technical skills including communication, teaching, dealing with conflict, and leadership. Eilidh Gunn is studying for a PhD with me in this area and has some great ideas on how we could implement coaching this side of the Atlantic.

We've never had a Space researcher in the department before! Can you tell us about this?



I have always been fascinated by humans in extreme environments so the chance to study astronaut crews and work with NASA was irresistible. We managed to get some research grants from NASA and other space agencies to build a space medicine simulator

in Boston, based on the Destiny module of the International Space station, and used it to study non-technical skills, autonomy, and telecommunications during simulated medical events in space.



We are currently creating an immersive virtual version of the simulations using holographic technology so astronauts can train for potential medical event management in flight to the Moon or Mars via a headset. My only regret is not calling our non-technical skills assessment tool 'ASTRONOTSS'! I was surprised that Edinburgh has a lively space research community and it will be great to continue that work here.

As well as research into non-technical skills field, Steve is also Programme Director for the MSc Patient Safety and Human Clinical factor launched as part of the Edinburgh Surgery Online programmes in 2018.

The MSc is crucial part of Edinburgh's reputation as a centre of excellence in non-technical skills and Human Factors – it is a 3 year programme with 2 years of online education and a full year to work on research or QI project. Students come from a mix of clinical and non-clinical backgrounds - the first class just graduated this summer which we are really proud of and there are now around 75 students enrolled. Dr Domenica Coxon is the deputy programme director and we just received accreditation

from the Chartered Institute for Ergonomics and Human Factors in the UK. This really is the vision of Simon Paterson-Brown, Nikki Maran, James Garden, and Tom Weiser – and it is exciting to see the programme take off.

It must have been strange arriving in Edinburgh just before the Covid19 lockdowns were imposed – what has been the biggest challenge for you during this time

We landed in Edinburgh and had a baby in late February 2020 so recent life has been a bit of a blur..

Key Publications

Yule, S., Janda, A., & Likosky, D. S. (2021). **Surgical sabermetrics: Applying athletics data science to enhance operative performance.** *Annals of Surgery Open*, 2(2):e054. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AS9.0000000000000054>

Dias, R. D., Zenati, M. A., Conboy, H. M., Clarke, L. A., Osterweil, L. J., Avrunin, G. S., & Yule, S. J. (2021). **Dissecting Cardiac Surgery: A Video-Based Recall Protocol to Elucidate Team Cognitive Processes in the Operating Room.** *Annals of Surgery*, 274(2):e181-e186 <https://doi.org/10.1097/SLA.0000000000003489>

Pradarelli, J. C., Gupta, A., Hermosura, A. H., Murayama, K. M., Delman, K. A., Shabahang, M. M., Havens, J. M., Lipsitz, S., Smink, D. S., & Yule, S. (2021). **Non-technical skill assessments across levels of US surgical training.** *Surgery*, 170(3):713-718 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surg.2021.02.058>

Robertson, J. M., Dias, R. D., Gupta, A., Marshburn, T., Lipsitz, S. R., Pozner, C. N., Doyle, T. E., Smink, D. S., Musson, D. M., & Yule, S. (2020). **Medical Event Management for Future Deep Space Exploration Missions to Mars.** *The Journal of Surgical Research*, 246:305–314. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2019.09.065>

Scott, J. W., Lin, Y., Ntakiyiruta, G., Mutabazi, Z., Davis, W. A., Morris, M. A., Smink, D. S., Riviello, R., & Yule, S. (2019). **Identification of the Critical Nontechnical Skills for Surgeons Needed for High Performance in a Variable-resource Context (NOTSS-VRC).** *Annals of Surgery*, 270(6): 1070–1078. <https://doi.org/10.1097/SLA.0000000000002828>

Annual Research Report 2021

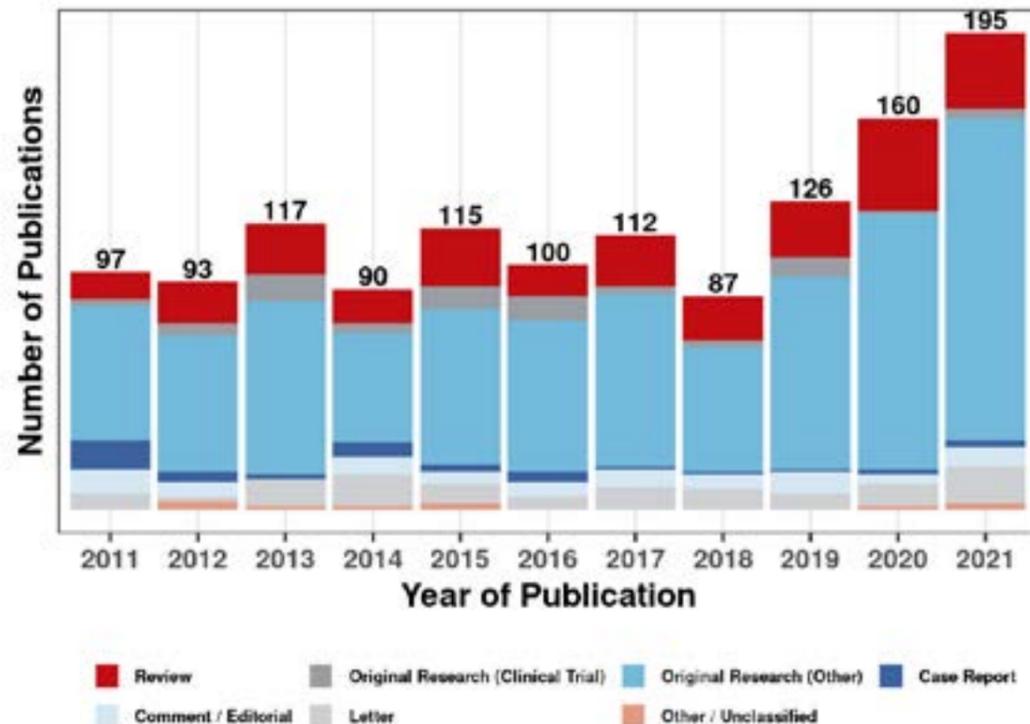
Professor Stephen Wigmore



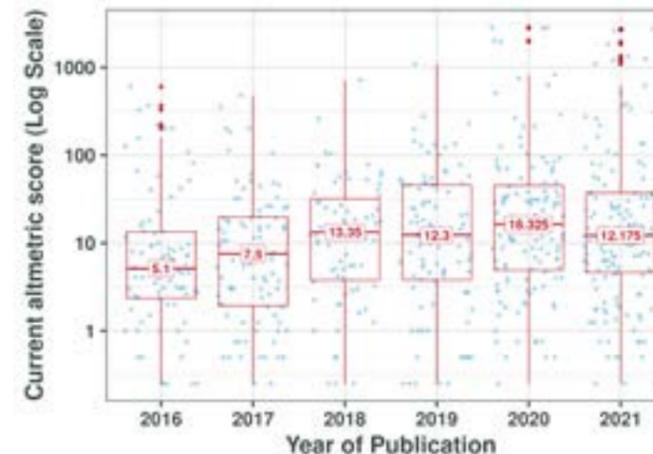
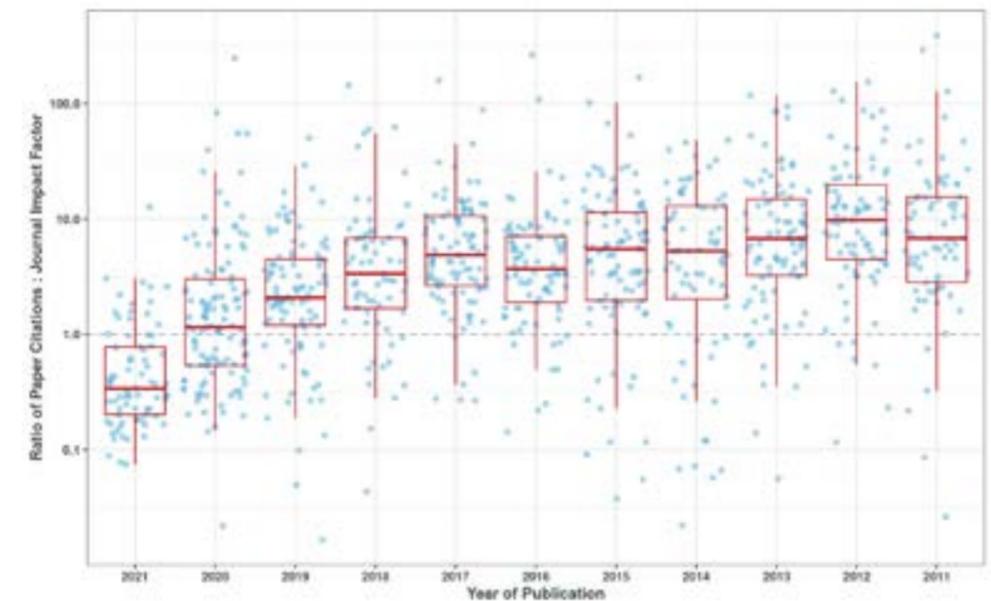
When I wrote the research report for the department newsletter last year it was rather in the hope that COVID would have subsided and things would be getting back to normal. Sadly that has not been the case and we are currently facing a new surge in cases and the prospect of further disruption to research work. Thankfully the research institutes did reopen earlier in the year and a “new normal” for laboratory research has been established in the institutes although many activities remain restricted. The department (excluding the Western General Hospital groups) has published 195 papers this year. The median impact factor of journals in which we have published remains a creditable 5.05 which is good given that many surgical journals have relatively low impact factors. An interesting metric that we have reported on in the past few years is the CIF ratio or citations to impact factor ratio. Generally speaking if the CIF ratio of a paper is 1 then the paper is being cited as many times

as would be expected for that journal. The publications from the department have however had an average CIF score of close to 10 with 90% of papers exceeding the expected citation rate for their journal of publication.

Clinical research and data science had been continuing at pace through the pandemic and the Surgical Informatics group have had a number



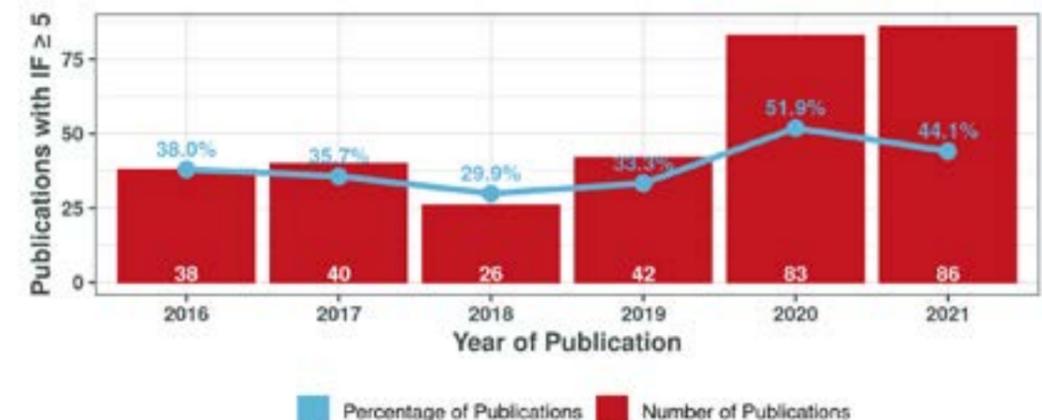
of major successes this year. The publication of the GlobalSurg 3 trial in the Lancet at the end of 2020 (online) beginning of 2021 (in print) is something that we should all celebrate. The trial was launched at an event attended by the Princess Royal in 2018 at the University and recruited an astonishing @16,000 patients in 8 months. This paper looked at disparities in provision of healthcare



and outcomes for 3 different cancers in a global context and has achieved the highest altmetric score of all the non-Covid publications. Recognition for Stephen Knight Ewen Harrison and the rest of the team came through the award of the Professor Fearon Medal for the best published paper in 2020 at this year's School of Surgery Day.

It was great to see the much-awaited TWIST trial from Kenny McLean published in Nature Digital Medicine which was a team effort from the Royal Infirmary and Western General surgical teams to explore the use of Smart phone technology in tracking wound infection.

COVID related publications from members of the Surgical Informatics group have also featured in the Lancet (3), BMJ, Lancet Respiratory Medicine (5) and have created stratospheric



downloads and altmetric scores reflecting the global thirst for good quality data on the pandemic.

Impact Table

measure	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Number of publications	195	160	126	87	112	100
Minimum Impact Factor	0.73	1.47	1.10	0.68	0.99	0.31
Quartile 1 Impact Factor	3.65	3.78	2.50	2.44	2.88	2.90
Median Impact Factor	5.05	5.95	4.26	3.53	3.96	4.26
Mean Impact Factor	9.19	10.02	7.32	6.19	5.83	7.33
Quartile 3 Impact Factor	8.09	9.07	5.68	5.57	6.10	7.72
Maximum Impact Factor	79.32	91.25	60.39	32.27	32.62	40.14
Interquartile Range of Impact Factors	4.44	5.29	3.18	3.13	3.22	4.82

Covid aside there has been a continued strong publication record from all parts of the department. Congratulations to **Gabriel Oniscu** for his senior author publication in *Nature Reviews Nephrology* and for contributions to number of other important transplantation papers. Congratulations also to **Katie Connor** who's PhD in a paper published in *JCI Insight* alongside a beautiful searchable Shiny web app to explore microRNA's in kidney injury was so well received.

Journal Impact Factor

Number of publications in journals (overall + over time)

journal_name_abbr	total	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Br J Surg	42	8	10	9	6	4	5
BMJ Open	27	5	2	10	3	3	4
HPB (Oxford)	24	7	1	3	5	5	3
Transplantation	23	4	5	6	2	5	1
Eur J Surg Oncol	20	8	1	1	1	5	4
World J Surg	19	3	3	7	1	4	1
Hernia	15	3	5	3	0	3	1
Ann Surg	14	3	8	2	0	1	0
Nephrol Dial Transplant	14	5	1	3	1	3	1
Clin Otolaryngol	11	6	3	1	1	0	0

It is gratifying to see the growth of quality research in areas such as neurosurgery, urology and ENT, which are affiliated with the main department of clinical surgery. Well done too to everyone else for your sterling efforts over what has been in so many ways another difficult year. We have a great deal to be proud of. I hope you all have an opportunity to rest recuperate and recharge over the festive period.

Thanks to **Katie Shaw** and **Kenny McLean** for curating the research publication data and producing such informative plots.

Edinburgh School of Surgery Day 2021

After Covid19 resulted in the 2020 Edinburgh School of Surgery day being held online, it was a real pleasure to be able to hold this year's meeting in the usual setting of the King Khalid Auditorium at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The morning saw the return of the Undergraduate Student Symposium, before the afternoon scientific programme hosted jointly by Professors Stephen Wigmore and Malcolm Dunlop. The standard of scientific papers presented was exceptionally high and covered a wide range of topics including practice-changing Covid19 research, global surgical outcomes and involvement of medical students in recruiting to clinical trials.

This year's guest speaker, **Professor John Buckels**, gave a moving presentation



sharing his lifetime of experience volunteering with Médecins Sans Frontières in Sub-Saharan Africa from his first trip to Ibadan, Nigeria for his student elective right up to being in South

Sudan during the Covid19 outbreak. Although now retired from his Personal Chair of Liver Transplant and HPB Surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, Professor

Buckels continues his humanitarian work with MSF.

Congratulations to this year's medal and prize winners:

Undergraduate Student Symposium Prize - Aya Riad



'The Effect of Malnutrition on Early Outcomes after Elective Cancer Surgery: An International Prospective Cohort Study in 82 Countries'

Chiene Medal - James Loan

'Regulation of protective myelomononuclear responses to intracerebral haemorrhage by the transcription factor NRF2'



Macleod Medal - Matthew Trail



'Evaluating the safety if performing flexible cystoscopy whn urinalysis suggests presence of 'infection': results of prospective clinical study in 2350 patients'

Professor KCH Fearon Memorial Medal - Stephen Knight



Congratulations to overall winner, **Miss Sarah Thomasset**, from the HPB/Transplant Unit at RIE, and runners up **Professor Malcolm Dunlop** (WGH) and **Mr John Robertson** (VHK)!



'Global variation in postoperative mortality and complications after cancer surgery: a multicentre, prospective cohort study in 82 countries.'

Lancet. 2021 Jan 30;397(10272):387-397

Teacher of Year Award 2021

The Teacher of Year Award is voted annually by the East of Scotland surgical trainees to recognise excellence in surgical training.

The nominees for 2021 were:

- Breast Unit (WGH) - Mr Ralha Saleem
- Colorectal Unit (WGH) – Prof Malcolm Dunlop
- Vascular Unit (RIE) – Mr Andrew Tambyraja
- Upper GI Unit (RIE) – Mr Bruce Tulloh
- Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy - Mr John Robertson



Thank you to organisers and technical support during the meeting, **Mrs Susan Keggie and Mr Murray Brittan**.
Convenor of School of Surgery Day: Professor Stephen Wigmore



News Round-Up

New Member of Staff Adam Chalmers

Adam joined Edinburgh Surgery Online in June 2021 as a Programme Administrator for the ChM in Trauma and Orthopaedics and the ChM in General Surgery programmes.



Programme Administrator,
Mr Adam Chalmers

He brings with him a wealth of experience having worked within in University since 2018; first with the Student Records Team, before being employed as a Support Assistant in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Research Fellows **Leo Brown, Judith Sayers** and **Emma Howie** have all recently joined the department - full profiles will feature in the end of year newsround up.

Prizes & Appointments

Mr Peter Vaughan-Shaw was named Trainee Coloproctologist of Year 2021 by Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain & Ireland (ACPGBI). Peter has also recently been appointed Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at the Western General Hospital

Dr Susan Morrow (ESO; MSc Surgical Sciences) has been awarded the Post Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PgCAP) and has become a fellow of the Higher Education Authority

Mr Cameron Fairfield was the winner of the Trainee Prize at the Moynihan Chirurgical Club Meeting for his presentation, *"Gallstones: A sentinel presentation of cardiometabolic disease"*. Royal College of Surgeons, Oct 2021.

Mr Richard Skipwoth has been promoted to Secretary of the Cancer Cachexia Society.

Dr Louise Buckley (ChM Urology) has been appointed Review Editor (Specialty section: Animal Behaviour & Welfare) for the open access journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Mr Gabriel Oniscu has been elected President-Elect of the European Society for Organ Transplantation (2021-2023). He will be the ESOT President 2023-2025.

Recent Grant Awards

Iain Nixon & Prof Tim Aitman have been awarded CSO funding (£300,000) to develop their project on liquid biopsy in head and neck cancer from a single site in NHS Lothian to Scotland wide. Recruitment is expected to begin in new centres in early 2022.

Mr Ewen Harrison, Dr Katie Shaw, Dr Ammemarie Docherty, *et al*

Predicting unplanned hospital readmission prior to discharge in patients with COVID-19: development, validation, and implementation of a machine-learning based risk prediction model.

HDRUK: £245,512.61 (Oct 2021 - Oct 2022)

Dr Olivia Swann, Dr Annemarie Docherty, Mr Ewen Harrison, Aziz Sheikl, Nazir Lone, Peter Hall & Sohan Seth.

What are the patterns of healthcare use in children and young people with SARS-CoV-2 in the 12 months following infection?

HDRUK: £185,408.14 (Oct 2021 - Sept 2022)

Edinburgh Surgery Online: A Scholarship Success Story

Since 2007, Edinburgh Surgery Online (ESO) has been innovating and widening access to surgical education through fully and partially funded scholarships for surgical trainees.

Part-time, online Masters degrees allow students to study in their home country without having to take a dedicated break in clinical training. Delivery is modular and flexible - adding value to surgical training globally, but particularly in those countries where working hours have been reduced or specialist educational support is limited.

From an initial UK base, 375 training surgeons from more than 38 countries have now benefited from financial support to study with us and our student cohorts have become truly global. We now count 175 scholarship recipients amongst our alumni, with a further 200 currently enrolled supported by one of scholarship schemes.

Applications and awards have been increasing year-on-year with 2022 being no exception; this year we received well over 100 eligible applications and are delighted to have been able to offer 73 of these applicants fully funded scholarships for entry to the University in September 2022.

As the demand for surgical education in LMICs has expanded, we have worked to secure additional external funding to widen access, specifically to support education and capacity building in some of the world's poorest countries.

Become an Edinburgh Surgery Online Scholarship Benefactor

If you would be interested in establishing a full or partial scholarship to support students wishing to join an Edinburgh Surgery Online programme, please contact Edinburgh Surgery Online Director, Professor James Garden (o.j.garden@ed.ac.uk).

If you are an Edinburgh Surgery Online tutor and would like to contribute to the ESO Tutor Scholarship award, please contact the programme administrator for the degree you tutor on.

Scholarship Awards 2021

33 ESO Global Scholarships for students from LMICs

3 ESO Scholarships for Patient Safety & Human Clinical Factors students

4 ESO Scholarships for Ophthalmology

12 Commonwealth Commission Scholarships

7 ASiT Bursaries

7 Merck Foundation Scholarships

6 David & Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships

1 Scottish Government Ophthalmology Scholarship



www.edinburghsurgeryonline.com/scholarships

PURE Publication Deposits In Clinical Surgery

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Recent Publications

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If you have any items of news you would like to feature in this newsletter or events you'd like to promote please contact, Dr Katie Shaw (katherine.shaw@ed.ac.uk). The next edition will be published in March 2022.

Future Conference Submission Deadlines

Conference	Date	Location	Abstract Submission & Registration
14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference https://academicsurgicalcongress.org	1st- 3rd Feb 2022	Orlando Florida	Abstract deadline: 20/08/21 11:59pm ET
ALPS HBP meeting http://www.alpshpbmeeting.org	2nd - 6th Feb 2022	Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy	Abstracts open 30/09/21 - 29/10/21
British Transplant Society (BTS) https://bts.org.uk	24th - 25th Feb 2021		Date for 2022 TBC
Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) http://surgicalresearch.org.uk	24th - 25th Mar 2021		Date for 2022 TBC
American Surgical Association (ASA) http://meeting.americansurgical.org	7th - 9th April 2022	Chicago, USA	
European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery (ESTES) https://www.estes-congress.org	24th - 26th April 2022	Oslo, Norway	Abstract deadline: 10/10/2021
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress https://asc.surgeons.org	2nd-6th May 2022	Brisbane, Australia	asc.registration@surgeons.org
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) http://www.asgbi.org.uk	4th- 8th May 2021	Virtual meeting	Date for 2022 TBC
Joint International Congress of ILTS, LICAGE & ELITA (https://2022.ilt.org)	4th - 7th May 2022	Istanbul, Turkey	Abstracts open 20/09/21 - 01/12/21
International Association of Medical Science Educators http://www.iamse.org/	4th - 7th June 2022	Denver, USA	Focus Session abstracts: 01/09/21 Poster/oral abstracts: 01/12/21
European Surgical Association (ESA) https://www.europeansurgicalassociation.org	13th - 15th May 2021	Cologne, Germany	Date for 2022 TBC
American Society of Transplane Surgeons (ASTS) (http://atcmeeting.org)	5th - 8th June 2022	Virtual meeting	Abstract deadline: 25/08/2021; 11:59pm PST
Behune Round Table https://bethuneroundtable.com	27th - 30th May 2021	Virtual meeting	Date for 2022 TBC
Association of Coloproctology Great Britain and Ireland https://www.acpghi.org.uk/events/2021-acpghi-annual-meeting/	3rd - 06th July 2022	Edinburgh, UK	Save the Date
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary-Association (AHPBA) https://www.ahpba.org/	30th March - 2nd April 2022	New York City, USA	Registration Open
Association for Medical Education (AMEE) https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2022	27th-31st August 2022	Hybrid meeting: Online & Lyon, France	Save the Date
European Society of Transplantation (ESOT) https://www.esotcongress.org	17th - 20th Sept 2023 (Biennial meeting)	Athens, Greece	Save the Date
European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA)	6th - 9th June 2023 (Biennial meeting)	Lyon, France	Save the Date
European Society of Coloproctology	21st -22nd September	Dublin, Ireland	Save the Date
Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS) http://www.augis.org	13th-15th October 2021	Belfast, UK	Date for 2022 TBC
American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress https://www.facs.org/education/clincon/future-clinical-congresses	24th - 28th Oct 2021	Washington, DC, USA	Date for 2022 TBC
British Hernia Society https://hernia2021.org	13th - 16th Oct 2021	Copenhagen, Denmark	Date for 2022 TBC
Society on Sarcopenia, Cachexia & wasting disorders http://society-scwd.org	10th -12th Dec 2021	Hybrid - online/ Ljubljana	Registration Open