

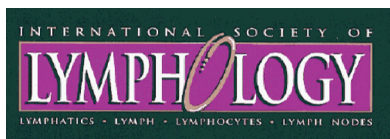
SOCIETY UPDATE



The BLS committee have been reviewing the aims and objectives of the society; and considering the planning priorities for the next three years. It was concluded that BLS should be: dynamic and growing; influential; in touch with members; and professional and transparent. The BLS will be organising itself to deliver against four key objectives: increasing membership and revenue; increasing awareness and understanding; increasing reputation and professional standing; and improving education and research. The Society has adopted a clear mission statement: 'promoting professional lymphoedema services' and BLS members will be able to use the letters MBLS after their names. The BLS Annual Conference which was held in Belfast on 5–7th October gave members an opportunity to discuss the new strategic approach. The BLS website (www.thebbs.com) also carries full information about the developments, and is being upgraded to provide a communications hub for members. Do log on to learn the latest about BLS plans and changes to the committee.



The Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) is the peak national lymphology body, which strives to improve the management of those with, and at risk of developing lymphoedema. The Association endeavours to enhance communication between health professionals, educators, relevant authorities and Government in regard to oedemas and lymphoedema. It advocates for equitable access to lymphoedema treatment in Australia and New Zealand. The ALA is pleased to assist in the organisation of the ISL Congress to be held in Sydney in September 2009. We look forward to the opportunity of sharing knowledge and expertise with national and international speakers and the presentation of new research in all areas of lymphology. A biennial conference is organised by the ALA to facilitate the development of research within Australia and to encourage research links internationally. The ALA welcomes international colleagues to its next conference in Melbourne in May 2010. ALA subcommittees are continuing to work towards a graduate certificate in lymphoedema management and the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (NLPR). Detailed information is available on the ALA website: www.lymphology.asn.au



The ISL has updated its Consensus Document on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Peripheral Lymphedema, which will be published in the December 2008 issue. A preliminary programme for the 2009 International Congress of Lymphology (ICL) can be found online at: www.lymphology2009.com. Registration for the Australian meeting is now open and currently favourable exchange rates and early registration discounts encourage prompt action. The deadline for ISL Presidential Prizes for young lymphologists to attend the conference is 1 March, 2009. Completed packets (nomination letter; submitted abstract(s), and abbreviated curriculum vitae) should be submitted online to: grace@surgery.arizona.edu. Proceedings from the 2007 ISL-Shanghai meeting are now available (liuningfei@126.com), but the ISL central office also has a small supply of 2005 proceedings available (grace@surgery.arizona.edu).



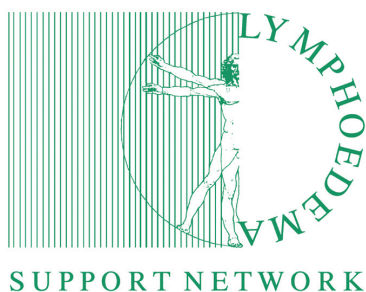
Since our last news update the Leg Club Foundation has become formally affiliated with iLegx, an organisation whose objective is to reduce the number of lower limb amputations in the UK. As partners we were pleased to be invited to exhibit and present the Leg Club model during the inaugural iLegx consensus summit held at Imperial College, London. The Medical Technology Group (MTG) held its annual Parliamentary Showcase in the Attlee Suite of Portcullis House on Monday, 23rd June. As a member of the MTG, the Leg Club Foundation was pleased to participate again this year, as this event offers an opportunity to engage with parliamentarians. The second national 'Healthy Legs for Life' was held during the week commencing 26th September and our eighth Leg Club conference and Gala dinner were held over two days at Worcester Rugby Club. Many members presenting at Leg Clubs with chronic oedema/lymphoedema are successfully managed in the social settings, by their community nursing team. Leg Club documentation provides an effective identification of individuals presenting with lower limb oedema/lymphoedema, which determines diagnosis and ensures appropriate management. However, a need for further education in the specialised area of lower limb oedema and lymphoedema has been clearly recognised. Foundation website: www.legclub.org

JAPANESE SOCIETY OF LYMPHOLOGY

The Japanese Society of Lymphology was established in 1988. It now has about 400 active members, involved in the disciplines of anatomy, histology, physiology, pharmacology, immunology, cardiovascular medicine, radiology and surgery. The current president is Professor Toshio Ohhashi, who is a chairman and professor in the Department of Physiology, Shinshu University School of Medicine. The main principle of the society is to develop the field of lymphology combined with cardiovascular medicine, oncology, and innate immunology. In particular, the society is encouraging clinical research into lymphoedema, sentinel lymph node navigation surgery, and lymphatic metastasis of carcinoma cells in Japan.



The National Lymphedema Network (NLN) is an internationally recognised, non-profit organisation founded in 1988 to provide education and guidance to lymphoedema patients, healthcare professionals and the general public by disseminating information on the prevention and management of primary and secondary lymphoedema. The NLN supports research into the causes and possible alternative treatments for this often incapacitating, long-neglected condition. It provides: a toll-free recorded information line: 1-800-541-3259; referrals to lymphoedema treatment centres, healthcare professionals, training programmes, and support groups; a quarterly newsletter (*LymphLink*); an extensive computer database with patient medical data; and a biennial international conference for healthcare professionals. The 9th International conference for professionals is scheduled for 22–26 September, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. The primary goal of the conference is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and to share the latest breakthroughs and up-to-date basic and clinical research in the field of lymphology. The conference is an opportunity for new practitioners and investigators to exchange treatment principles and philosophies with established experts to further the field's pioneering status as the discipline continues to press forward. For more information, go online to: www.lymphnet.org or email: nlm@lymphnet.org.



The LSN takes the lead role in educating and supporting patients with this condition. The charity is recognised as the largest information resource for lymphoedema in the UK, providing self-help videos/DVDs, an extensive range of fact sheets and other written information. The LSN is also committed to raising awareness of lymphoedema as a major health condition to health authorities, healthcare professionals and politicians and actively campaigns for improved national standards of care. The LSN is currently working in partnership with other organisations towards achieving a NICE guideline for the treatment of lymphoedema and chronic oedema in adults and the treatment of lymphoedema in children. The charity has gained influential support to this initiative from its members, MPs, industry and many of the major UK charities. The first International Lymphoedema Framework Conference will be held between 21–23 April, 2009 at Ascot. The LSN will be participating in the main conference and will also run a separate patient conference on the second day of the event. For more information visit: www.lymphoedema.org/lsn



The Israel Lymphedema Association (ILA) holds a national conference every two years and the next conference is scheduled for May 2009. During 2008, the association held two very successful local seminars for patients and healthcare professionals, one in northern Israel (in Haifa) and the other in southern Israel (in Beer Sheva). The seminars included lectures about 'Drugs and their effects on lymphoedema', 'The relationship of lymphoedema and pain', workshops and displays by leading Israeli suppliers of new and innovative lymphedema-related materials. Both local meetings were well attended and positive feedback was received from the participants and lecturers.