



BSPD President Mrs Sarah McKaig  
Valedictory Address  
October 2021

Thank you everyone and a huge thank you to the Liverpool conference organising committee, you have set a very high bar and moved BSPD well and truly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I recognise that the committee was incredibly disappointed by decisions made for 2020 and 2021 your commitment and passion to BSPD was evident and we are eternally grateful for the work that you have put in to make this BSPD's inaugural virtual conference. I am very certain everyone will agree it has been a fabulous day, incredibly well organised and we still have another day to go tomorrow, and a study day planned for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

In 2019 I stood in Birmingham Repertory theatre receiving the presidential medal, Liz 's final words were:

My final tip a year is not long.... Enjoy!

I am certain that Liz had no idea of how the year would unfold I am incredibly fortunate that I have had the honour of being your president for 2 years, the pandemic has proved to be challenging both professionally and personally.

BSPD have met those challenges head on, we have learnt a lot along the way and adapted. I thank you all for your support, kindness and most importantly having the faith in me to have continued in the role following the decision made in September 2020.

A massive thank you to my colleagues in Birmingham who have supported me throughout this additional year and of course my family.

Stepping into Liz s shoes was no mean feat, BSPD is growing rapidly and is seen as a major stakeholder on a number levels, NICE, Delivering better Oral Health, GIRFT, RCS England. We have contributed to the mental health wellness framework, clinical standards office chief dental officer. To name but a few

Exec no longer manages on two meetings a year, increasingly we have requests with very short timelines. I would like to thank exec for their flexibility and time as extra ordinary exec meetings have been required, and thanks to Neil for the endless invites and google polls that he was tasked with.

QIRC has supported BSPD in delivering those requests and provided the society with an evidence-based approach and guidance. In June Donald Chi Editor in chief of IJPD joined Exec securing the growing collaboration with IJPD and I thank Chris Vernazza for his part in this. I congratulate QIRC on their first commissioned National audit and I am sure we all look forward to their findings.

Despite the challenges we have still managed to award the outstanding innovation award, supported RCS England pump priming grants and awarded Max Horsnell travel and elective awards.

We have gone from strength to strength recently being allocated our own BSPD email addresses which has made the volume of business easier to manage.

The media team never cease to amaze me they have truly moved BSPD on, we are visual on many platforms. Claire, Caroline, Alice work tirelessly for BSPD 7 days a week. I thank you for your support

As you will know Caroline has announced that she wishes to step down and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the membership for her incredible enthusiasm and dedication to British Society of Paediatric Dentistry. On a personal level I would like to thank you for your support you are always there, and I know I am not very good at, all that is social media I do apologise for that! You have never shown your frustration and I am eternally grateful for that and thank you again for your support.

In my 2 years as president, there have been lots of firsts

- I have not chaired a council meeting in person
- And chaired only one face to face exec meeting way back in November 2019.

This obviously has its advantages in reducing our carbon foot print/ expenses and although catching up face to face is what we are longing for, this has also facilitated attendance at meetings.

On a personal level I have learned a lot about myself as a fulltime NHS consultant I can just about manage to juggle everything (well at least I hope I have) and adapt.

- I have learnt to use various online platforms which have facilitated the completion of my presidential tour from adobe in the Southeast to Collaborate in Wales and zoom in the northwest
- I have even shared the stage with my husband!

I started my tour in January 2020, I manage to get to the Northeast, West/East coast of Scotland and Northwest but by March the landscape had changed.

This has afforded me the opportunity to raise awareness of the need for a dental pathway for craniofacial patients, and explore challenges met when treating this group of children. As a result of this, at many different levels, and we are beginning to see some light on this front opening conversations and exploring what this would look like.

Unfortunately, as your president I have not had the opportunity to meet with you in person but what is evident is your commitment and passion as a society to advocate to improve oral health for children knows no bounds

To exec

I must thank Neil for his quiet council and guidance

I will miss my Friday morning what's app "are you phonable?" Thank you so much for your patience.

Thank you exec, for putting up with me for 2 years!

Oosh and previously Clare Ledingham for fielding everything, it has made all the difference.

Hannah, most of you will not know that despite being on maternity leave she has accessed council/exec and dealt with membership changes, definitely beyond the call of duty. Jenny your everlasting commitment to welfare of children, I know Marielle has stepped into your shoes but children are ever indebted to your compassion. Dave for your pragmatic responses and Chris for your attention to detail and calmness though out. I thank you all a true team.

I used a quote from Kate Richardson -Walsh in my inaugural address and I hope that

*I have been best version of myself: for myself, for definitely my team mates, and but also everyone that I have represented.*

And so to your president for 2021/22, I am unable to hand over the medal in a traditional fashion although when asking Sondos how did she want to do this her words were "lets meet somewhere and have a nice spa day I think we deserve it!" Sondos, you are a highly respected name in paediatric dentistry both in the UK and further afield you are a true inspiration and I am very proud and honoured to call you my friend. I am certain you will embrace every opportunity, enjoy!

I would like to invite you to accept the virtual medal and become president of BSPD and from this point complete AGM business.