

It is my first honour as BSPD President to thank Claire Stevens for the incredible work that you have done for the Society. I know that you will continue to support BSPD in your role as media spokesperson. On behalf of the society I have a small gift for you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Liz on a very successful year. I admire the openness you have shown during your presidential tour which will certainly have stimulated conversations that may previously have not taken place. In doing so I am very certain that you will have supported many on the road to recovery. I thank you for your support over the last year. We have had many difficult decisions to make and I welcomed our conversations. I know that you will continue to support me in the forthcoming year.

My dad would always say if you become a member of a society or committee just make sure you don't take on a position of responsibility or walk out of the room with a job.

I have to say he didn't practice what he preached and clearly I am not too good at that either!

I was first made aware of BSPD in the form of a chat with Victoria on the side of a hockey pitch at Blackpool hockey festival (Victoria you may not remember) I had been appointed to the registrar post in Birmingham and VC as she is affectionately known as suggested that I should be council rep for the Midlands branch I dutifully agreed not really having a clue what I was about to embark on. That was 21 years ago!

Over the years I have sat and listened to the inaugural addresses of presidents and as you would expect I have spent time reading through those given over the last 10 years. I am having to pinch myself that it is now me giving an address, I didn't really think I was old enough!

It is custom to talk about my pathway but I was also keen to acknowledge those that have influenced my pathway.

I graduated from Leeds university way back in December 1993, I was the last to do 4 years and a term and fortunate to have Maxine Pollard as my personal tutor.

Prof Duggal, Jack Tomba and Stephen Fayle were lecturers and I vividly remember a lecture on the impact of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on dental development in children (if nothing else at this point I stand here am likely to make Prof feel old.)

Ironically I dreaded children's clinic. It was challenging and I always felt as though I'd take 2 steps forward and about 10 back particularly when trying to get my Jackson prize presentation completed!

I stayed in Leeds to do a house job in prosthetics and perio with the intention to do perio, I am sure my trainees will not be too surprised to hear this. It was the first year vocational training was introduced although not compulsory so I continued my hospital experience as a Maxfax SHO in Nottingham, here I did my primary FDS and on

reflection most importantly created a pathway for those children attending A&E for dental trauma.

Newcastle upon Tyne was my next stop a 2 year rotational post as an SHO in 4 specialities, I was fortunate to develop my sedation and surgical perio experience.

What I was not ready for was the passion and drive that came from the paed team Professor Rugg Gunn, Professor Murray, June Nunn and Prof Welbury not to mention the legendary Christmas parties.

I was convinced by Prof Welbury that paediatric dentistry was for me and it would be a good idea to apply for a registrar post. I would like to thank the Newcastle team in particular Richard as this really wasn't on my radar.

Registrar posts were thin on the ground so off I went to do Vocational training whilst I awaited the next post to be advertised.

In July 1998 I embarked on specialist training in Birmingham, Dr Linda Shaw and Andrew Shaw spear headed the paed dental services at the Children's hospital and the dental hospital.

I have had lots of memorable conversations with Linda such as "this is not a 9-5" job "not sure research is your thing" Sarah and you'll make a great NHS consultant and colleague.

I guess this was resilience training at its best.

I was the first to do MPaed Dent (with Ben Cole) and one of the last rounds of ISFE that included cases. I was the last to do run through training how things go round in cycles!

I took up my appointment as an NHS consultant in paediatric Dentistry based at the dental hospital and Birmingham Children's hospital in November 2003.

On reflection it was a fabulous achievement given that mid-way through training I attended a trainees meeting in the basement of the Eastman Dental hospital to be informed that maybe we should consider another speciality as there was unlikely to be jobs at the end for us. I am sure Cate Brown & Sarah Dewhurst may recall that moment, in fact I think we were told to look around the room as many of us were female we may want to take a career break!

I too one of those new breeds of newly appointed consultants that VC talked about in her inaugural address juggling everything job, young family and a husband, but was fortunate to have Ian Saunders as a mentor as the consultant group recognised the need to support junior colleagues.

I guess you get to where you are by some of the choices you make, passing the odd exam along the way but you can only do it with support of colleagues, friends and most importantly family, at this point I should mention and thank the unconditional support

from my parents, Brian, Joseph and Molly although at some points over the weekend this support was somewhat fraught!

As a society we have a hugely varied target audience nursery nurses, child minders, teachers, HV and midwives and maybe dare I say it the GMC and the under graduate curriculum for medicine.

I am encouraged by the call for schools to be sugar free, Sure Start nurseries were given funding to provide children with fresh fruit and vegetables but unsurprisingly the got through more dried fruit.

How many of us have had first-hand experience discussing snacks, lunch choices, access to squash, biscuits tins and jam sandwiches, and is your child that only one that doesn't take treats or cake in on their birthdays?

What on earth do you do with the contents of a party bag!

Over the forth coming year I intend to continue to raise awareness and support this campaign with the guidance of exec and the media team.

Kate Richardson Walsh as captain of England hockey in her message to the team said

***Be the best version of yourself: for yourself, your team mates, and everyone you're representing.***

I will endeavour to do this over the forth coming year and thank you all for your support

**Mrs Sarah McKaig  
September 2019**