

Women in Surgery Annual Report



December 2007

Introduction

Welcome to the first Women in Surgery (WinS) annual report, which will set out WinS achievements since it launched and our plans for the coming year.

WinS formally launched on 5 November 2007. It replaced Women in Surgical Training (WIST) and will continue and develop The Royal College of Surgeons of England's work supporting women surgeons.

WinS now comprises the WinS committee as well as the longstanding network of members, which currently has over 2,000 members. WinS will continue to work with this network and will seek to support and represent its members throughout its endeavours.

The WinS committee was recruited in September 2007. It comprises eight members representing the whole profession, from medical student through to consultant. The committee will identify areas where women in surgery need support, and design and develop initiatives to tackle these.

WinS is a subcommittee of the Opportunities in Surgery committee and will report to the Council of The Royal College of Surgeons of England through this mechanism.

Committee members:

Name	Job title	Specialty
Helen Fernandes (chair)	Consultant	Neurosurgery
Scarlett McNally (deputy chair)	Consultant	Trauma and orthopaedics
Gillian Mobb	Consultant	Urology
Tamzin Cuming	SpR	General surgery
Beryl de Souza	SpR	Plastic surgery
Diane Adamson	ST1	
Mehtab Ahmed	ST1	
Kirsty Lloyd	Medical student	

Mission and aims

The WinS mission is:
'to encourage, enable and inspire women to fulfil their surgical ambitions'.

More specifically, our aims are:

1. to raise the profile of women in surgery;
2. to work towards understanding of the issues facing women in surgery;
3. to encourage attitudinal change ensuring women are seen as an integral part of the profession;
4. to provide advice, guidance and pastoral support for those women already in surgery or considering entering it; and
5. to support the WinS network.

In order to meet these aims, we have made contact with a wide range of other committees, organisations and policy makers. We will work with these to build reciprocal relationships to ensure that issues faced by women surgeons are considered in policy.

Furthermore, we are working with a team at the University of Exeter to undertake research into the careers of women surgeons and the barriers and opportunities they face. This work will inform WinS' work with surgeons at all levels. It will be used to develop our programmes of work, which will encompass school students, medical students, foundation and surgical trainees. These programmes will aim to raise the profile of surgery

as a career option for women and to provide the support women need throughout their careers. This will include ensuring relevant, current information on careers and working options is available on our website, as well as continuing to provide role models and support to women surgeons.

In addition, through the WinS network and our events, such as the annual WinS conference, we will facilitate contact between WinS members in order to provide peer support and guidance.

We look forward to developing all our areas of work over the coming year and reporting back to you on our achievements in 2008.



The Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London

WC2A 3PE

Registered charity no 212808