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## South Tyneside trainees lead the way at international surgical conference



Surgical trainees working at South Tyneside District Hospital have had no fewer than five scientific papers accepted for this year's prestigious International Surgical Congress of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI).

Trainees Dr Jessica Neilson and Dr Hamish Walker and Surgical Registrars Mr Jignesh Jatania, Mr Ahmed Nassar and Mr George Demetriou will travel to Liverpool for next week's conference (May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) to present their excellent academic work, along with Consultant Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgeon Mr Sriram Subramonia, who was the senior author of the papers.

The theme of the 2018 congress is "*Surgical Teams*", recognising that surgical services are now delivered by multi-disciplinary, multi-professional teams, and that collaborative teamwork has significant benefits in increasing efficiency, improving

clinical outcomes, fostering innovation and delivering phenomenal academic and research opportunities.

The South Tyneside academic papers relate to a variety of topics including gastrointestinal endoscopy (a procedure where the inside of the body is examined using an instrument called an endoscope) and emergency surgery for acute gallstone disease.

Another paper by Mr Demetriou and Mr Subramonia has won a highly regarded Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) International Travelling Fellowship Prize in relation to Coloproctology, which covers the treatment of both benign and cancerous disease of the colon, rectum and anus. Mr Demetriou will travel to Lisbon, Portugal, as a special invitee to present his work at the summer overseas meeting of the RSM, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Medical Director Dr Shaz Wahid said:

"These scientific papers are the product of truly admirable work that our Department of Surgery are involved in as part of their continuing professional development and this latest recognition is a strong reflection of the excellent training and support we offer to those starting out in their chosen surgical careers.

"Clinical research is an imperative part of continuing to advance what we are able to do in the NHS and it is commendable that our teams have delivered such in-depth research whilst delivering their normal clinical practice and caring for patients.

"The academic work of our Department of Surgery will, undoubtedly, further enhance the already excellent reputation of the department and provides invaluable learning for other team members not just here in South Tyneside but for our colleagues in Sunderland, too. Across our two Trusts we are already starting to work ever more closely together and, in line with the congress theme of 'collaborative teamwork', we are fully committed to sharing our expertise across both organisations for the benefit of patient care."

**ENDS**

*Photo caption: Consultant Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgeon Mr Sriram Subramonia, centre, with left to right, trainee doctor Hamish Walker and Surgical Registrars George Demetriou, Ahmed Nassar and Jignesh Jatania*

Issued by **Kay Jordan**

For press enquiries on this release, contact **0191 404 1128** or email

[kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk)