



ASGBI

Association of Surgeons of
Great Britain and Ireland

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Position / Function	Director of Scientific Programme
Date of Report	May 2026

Activity Summary	I am pleased to report on the recent ASGBI annual meetings, following the 2025 Congress in Edinburgh and the 2026 meeting held last week in Brighton. The 2025 Congress in Edinburgh was well attended and received strong delegate feedback. The programme sought to provide breadth across general surgery, combining core scientific content, subspecialty symposia, training opportunities and discussion of wider professional issues. New initiatives introduced included masterclass round-table sessions, which were positively received and are likely to remain part of future meetings. The Congress also strengthened educational links with colleagues in North America, particularly through engagement with the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), including the introduction of Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) activity within the meeting. The 2026 Congress built on this approach. Although a formal post-congress report is still in preparation, early indicators are encouraging. Attendance exceeded 800 delegates and initial verbal feedback from attendees, faculty and industry partners has been consistently enthusiastic. As in previous years, the aim was to ensure a programme with sufficient breadth to appeal to consultants, trainees, SAS/LED colleagues, allied professionals and medical students, whilst maintaining scientific quality and practical relevance. The programme combined keynote lectures, specialty symposia, abstract presentations, technical and professional development sessions, hands-on elements and opportunities for networking and collaboration. We continued to prioritise a balance between subspecialty content, emergency and elective surgery, surgical education, innovation, patient safety, leadership and wider professional themes. Feedback suggests that this breadth continues to be valued, although, as always, balancing competing interests within a finite programme remains a challenge. Relationships with partner organisations have continued to strengthen. Our collaboration with SAGES has developed further and has added meaningful international perspective to the programme. We have run FLS exams for the first time in the UK and are gathering the feedback from this. In addition, links with Behind The Knife have expanded, particularly around educational content and surgical video engagement, broadening opportunities for trainee and consultant participation. Our trainee village is well attended, and we have also had full bookings for a Bariatric Emergencies workshop. The concept of Innovation booths and treasure
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	hunts, as well as incorporating the trainee village to the exhibition space, has increased engagement with our industry sponsors. One development this year was a more deliberate effort to engage the membership earlier in programme planning. For the first time, members were directly invited to suggest ideas and themes for the Congress. The intention was to ensure that the programme remains responsive to the needs and interests of the membership while preserving the broad appeal expected of an ASGBI meeting. This process generated useful suggestions and will inform future planning. We have already planned a conference extending over a weekend for Manchester, based on delegate feedback. We are also interested in trialling a variation of the event with a two day condensed programme, associated with a one day of pre conference courses, masterclasses and paper presentations in 2028. We have also delivered three LSES courses in the last twelve months. That includes a preconference course in Edinburgh 2025, a course in Greece as we “exported” LSES for the first time outside the UK, and the most recent one only ten days ago. The feedback has been consistently overwhelmingly positive, with many delegates asking for this course to be expanded into a two day course. Overall, I believe the Congress continues to be in good health, with strong attendance, positive delegate experience and a programme that reflects both the scientific and professional diversity of modern general surgery and ASGBI. LSES remains a viable course and our partner in this, RCSEd, is happy to continue to support.
Acknowledgements	I remain grateful to colleagues on the Board, Council, the Scientific Committee, faculty and the Events Team whose support is essential to delivering meetings of this scale.

