

OTISIS is a mutual exclusively for orthopaedic surgeons, owned and governed by its members and supported by the MPI Group, a specialty specific medical defence organisation. Read on to discover exciting developments from 2018 including the launch of the “Refer a Friend” scheme and introduction of a Specialty Registrar’s insurance policy. Also included is an overview from your Clinical Board Chairman, Ian McDermott, and from Joel Melton, a Director on the Clinical Board, who describes developments in modern knee osteotomy.

• Juliette Mellman Jones
• Medico-Legal Director, The MPI Group

- “How quickly time flies when you’re having fun!
- My first year as Medico-legal Director of the
- MPI Group is now complete and I am excited
- that the team is going from strength to strength.
- We are working on a number of initiatives for 2019
- so watch this space”



Our approach is to work as “one team”. Unlike other providers, we have experienced medical indemnity advisers, insurance-broking professionals and medico-legal experts under one roof so we can swiftly pool our expertise for the benefit of our members.

We are also hugely assisted by direct input from a Clinical Board for OTSIS including practising doctors from within the specialty so we are genuinely “doctors for doctors”. Your current OTSIS Board comprises of Garth Allardice, Gavin de Kiewiet, Ian McDermott (Chairman), Joel Melton and Gerard Panting.

One of my key objectives for 2018 was to ensure the sustainability and long term viability of OTSIS. We are doing this in a number of ways. The most important is for all of us to work even harder to deliver the very best product, service and value for money to OTSIS members.

We are proud of what we do and we want you to recommend us to your consultant colleagues. We are therefore delighted to have launched a “Refer a Friend” programme where you can qualify for a contribution of up to £350 towards an approved CPD course if you successfully refer a consultant colleague to us who becomes a member of OTSIS.

Full details of how the programme operates are below.

1. As an existing consultant orthopaedic surgeon member of OTSIS, you tell your consultant orthopaedic colleagues about us.
2. When your consultant colleague applies for OTSIS membership and an associated individual policy of insurance, they name you as the referrer.
3. If your colleague is accepted as a member of OTSIS, we will verify from our records that you are a current member of OTSIS.
4. You will receive a contribution of up to £350 towards an approved CPD course.

5. To obtain the contribution you must supply the MPI Group with a receipted booking invoice for the CPD course.
6. You are entitled to a maximum of one contribution per year.

Another tangible way we are ensuring the sustainability of OTSIS is through investment in trainee doctors who are, of course, the consultants of the future. We have now launched our Specialty Registrar product, offering extremely competitive cover and the chance to become a trainee member of OTSIS.

You can find further information in relation to our Specialty Registrar product within this newsletter.

Do please share this newsletter with your trainees and encourage them to contact us at info@mpi.group.

“We have experienced medical indemnity advisers, insurance-broking professionals and medico-legal experts under one roof so we can swiftly pool our expertise for the benefit of our members.”

Not a member yet?

Call us on 0300 3033 531 or email us at info@mpi.group

Views from the Clinical Board Chairman, Ian McDermott



At the OTSYS AGM in June last year, the new members of the Clinical Board were elected and I was honoured to be elected as the Chairman of the Board. Since then the Board has met every couple of months and we have been working hard on trying to reshape and evolve OTSYS, and to ensure that we appropriately represent the interests of you, the members.

We all know how important medical professional indemnity Insurance is, but inevitably many of us simply treat it as 'an annoying, necessary evil', or perhaps as just another form of 'tax' for being 'allowed' to practise! It's all too easy for doctors to pay insufficient attention and to be wooed purely by offers of lower insurance premiums, without actually reading any of the small print or having a full and proper understanding of the consequences of what we're signing up to. The consequences of errors or omissions in medical indemnity cover can be huge and really quite catastrophic for an individual, and hence this is not something to be taken lightly.

The OTSYS Board is fully committed to ensuring that all of us, as policy holders, and hence members, get the best possible cover with the best possible terms and the highest quality legal advice and support, all at the most competitive price (but not at the expense of lowering quality or increasing risk).

MPI Group has just added a new product to its portfolio for OTSYS members, aimed specifically at Surgical Trainees, and this has just been launched at the recent BOTA Annual Meeting.

We are also in the process of revamping the OTSYS website, and we are now planning a series of educational newsletters, aimed at sharing stories of interest and issues of concern, which will contain important potential learning points for all of us. Given that orthopaedics is sub-specialty focused, we thought we would highlight a different sub-specialty in each newsletter. In this edition we hear from Joel Melton, a Director of OTSYS Clinical Board, on modern osteotomy.

If you have any particular queries or any suggestions for potential future topics that you'd like us to cover, then please get in touch! The aim of the OTSYS Board is to make OTSYS as 'fit for purpose' as possible. So, please do get in touch with us if you do have ideas, concerns, requests or suggestions — all will be gratefully received.

Broker update - what's new?



"We are always on hand to assist with any queries that you may have regarding your insurance policy or with the completion of your renewal process."

We work continuously with the primary Scheme Insurers, W/R/B Underwriting to improve and develop your Professional Medical Indemnity Policy to best suit your needs and provide you with the best cover available.

As you are aware, the latest developments to your OTSYS policy are the additional benefits for members provided by the new enhanced policy wording. Some of these benefits include a 'No Claims Bonus', 'Enhanced Run Off Cover' of 21 years, 'Personal Accident Insurance Cover' and an 'Annual Review and Renewal Provision'.

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A full summary of the key changes to your policy is included within the MPI Group Key Changes document sent to you at renewal.

We are always on hand to assist with any queries that you may have regarding your insurance policy or with the completion of your renewal process. In order to provide you with the best possible terms in a timely manner, we would like to remind you of the importance of responding to us with your renewal documents as early as possible. This is especially important if there have been any circumstances or potential claims in the previous 12 months, or if the scope of your private practice has changed significantly from the previous year. This will allow plenty of time for adequate review of your cover requirements and give us more time to discuss any changes with your Insurers.

Should you have any queries regarding your policy renewal process then please do not hesitate to contact the renewal team at otsis@mpi.group or on **0300 3033 531** so we can ensure a smooth as possible turnaround for your renewal.

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Joel Melton is one of the Clinical Board Directors for OTSYS. Here he explains why Osteotomy of the knee is no longer what it once was.

With ever increasing numbers of active patients living into middle and old age, the incidence of symptomatic degeneration of the knee (and the demand for intervention) is set to increase. Resulting mal-alignment of the lower limb can have a further detrimental effect on the loading patterns across the knee joint.

Mal-alignment can lead to increased loading in damaged areas of the joint and increase the symptoms experienced from an arthritic knee joint. Knee arthroplasty is still not at the stage where we see positive resolution of symptoms in all cases and with increasing life expectancies for patients, joint replacement should be considered a last resort, only to be considered when the joint is severely affected and all other options have been exhausted.

Alternative strategies to try and preserve the native knee joint for as long as possible and to defer the need for knee replacement for as long as possible with 'biological', non-replacement options have been attempted with renewed enthusiasm in the last 10-15 years.

Osteotomy is a surgical procedure to cut or divide bone. Around the knee joint, an osteotomy can be used to correct mal-alignment of the lower limb in order to improve the biomechanical loading patterns within the joint, with the potential to reduce symptoms from arthritis. The tibia or femur is partially cut and progressively, the foot is moved in relation to the hip so that deformity is made straight, off-loading the medial or lateral compartment and preferentially loading the preserved cartilage in an unaffected compartment.

We have seen high failure rates of traditional osteotomy in years gone by and with modern arthroplasty achieving better and better results, osteotomy became a less favourable option.



Intra-operative and post-operative complications including infection, vascular injury, non-union and loss of angular correction were not considered tolerable by the orthopaedic community so by the 1980's and early 1990's, peri-articular osteotomy around the knee was less commonly performed. The advent of minimally invasive surgery and of angle stable fixation constructs from fracture fixation surgery have dramatically affected our ability to perform osteotomy safely around the knee and with predictable outcome without high rates of the complications listed above.

Recent literature supports a low complication rate, predictable outcomes and low conversion rates to total knee arthroplasty. Modern implants and fixation techniques make peri-articular osteotomy of the knee a more predictable procedure with encouraging clinical and radiographic results. In combination with modern cartilage repair and ligament reconstruction techniques, unstable degenerate knees can be optimized (rather than excised) with the potential for an osteotomy to defer the need for knee replacement. Modern peri-genicular osteotomy is clearly not, what it once was.

“Ever increasing sophistication of the techniques available to us as surgeons leads to an increasing range of options available for our patients.”

Ever increasing sophistication of the techniques available to us as surgeons leads to an increasing range of options available for our patients. Options for chondral repair, meniscal repair, scaffolding and grafting all have an increasingly developed evidence base but underpinning all 'biological' interventions, the mechanical environment must be optimized.

Corrective osteotomy to optimize the mechanical environment must be considered alongside all biological options. These options are all focused on improving functional outcome in a degenerate joint and, when successful, have the ability to delay the need for arthroplasty.

Mr Joel Melton

- BM, MRCS, MA Cantab, MSc (Orth Eng), FRCS (Trauma and Orth)
- Clinical Board Member, OTSYS
- Consultant Knee Surgeon, Cambridge University Hospitals
- Clinical Director, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Cambridge University Hospitals
- Associate Lecturer, Cambridge University
- Regional Clinical Co-ordinator, National Joint Registry

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Insurer Update – W/R/B Underwriting

W/R/B Underwriting has been the primary insurer for the OTSYS scheme for over three years. As well as providing Medical Malpractice insurance to new and existing members, we continually work with the MPI Group to ensure that our product is market leading and up to date with current legislation.

In addition, we continue to develop new initiatives with the MPI Group and have just launched a new insurance product for Specialty Registrars training in our core specialties.

To assist with the launch of this new product the MPI Group, with sponsorship from W/R/B Underwriting, have attended the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (UKISCRS) Annual Congress and the British Orthopaedic Trainees Association (BOTA) Educational Congress.

There have also been some internal changes within the Medical Malpractice team here at W/R/B Underwriting and we are delighted to announce the arrival of our new Medical Malpractice Underwriting Manager, Nick Conway. Nick has 16 years of lead Medical Malpractice underwriting experience, bringing a wealth of knowledge that will be invaluable in developing the international component of our portfolio.



Medico-legal update - CONSENT



What is consent? It is one of the vital components of a successful doctor/patient relationship and is when your patient provides valid legal and ethical authority for you to administer any examination, investigation or treatment. Much publicity and discussion has been generated following the 2015 case of Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board. The law now requires that when seeking consent to treatment, you need to advise your patient of any risks which are material to them (or a reasonable person in the patient's position) and you need to advise of any reasonable alternative or variant treatment options. So each consent conversation is personalised to your individual patient, not a generic script which you explain to every patient.

The GMC is currently consulting on revising its guidance on consent. The current guidance outlines what doctors should consider when discussing treatment with patients. Ethical guidance was first published 10 years ago and since then there have been many changes to legislation, policy and the workplace. Furthermore, patients now have more access to medical information outside the consulting room and expect detailed discussions with their doctors prior to making decisions about their care.

The GMC is therefore reviewing its consent guidance and has launched a consultation on the draft of its updated consent guidance. The guidance has been drafted in response to feedback from the profession and the aim of it is to assist doctors to work more effectively with patients when making decisions about their care. Advice is included for doctors facing difficult situations, such as treating patients who lack capacity to make decisions.

The revised consent guidance “focuses on the importance of communication, personalised conversations, and doctors and patients making decisions about treatment and care together.” Elements of the guidance have been restructured and clarified so that it is easier for doctors to apply to everyday practice.

The GMC's consultation is open until 23 January 2019 and you can provide input by **completing a survey here**. You can also access the **draft consent guidance here**.

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Specialty Registrar Policy

We are delighted to announce the launch of our specialty registrars insurance policy specifically designed for the benefit of trainee orthopaedic surgeons.

In order to meet your trainees' needs, the MPI Group has worked closely in partnership with the OTSIS Clinical Board and our dedicated insurers, W/R/B Underwriting. We are committed to helping to develop the best cover tailored to consultants and specialty registrars in your specialty.

The OTSIS Clinical Board provided invaluable insights into the relevant requirements for the profession to protect you and your specialty registrars.

Our policy provides cover up to £1 million and has a competitive premium of **£499**, inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax. The premium is not related to ST Training level.

Some key aspects of cover include:

- Cover for clinical negligence claims against you where you are assisting in the private sector under direct supervision. Our policy allows you to earn up to £20,000 per year for this work.
- Good Samaritan Acts.
- GMC investigations arising from clinical allegations in relation to private patients.
- GMC investigations arising from clinical allegations in relation to NHS patients or allegations concerning your health or probity.
- Inquest representation.
- Interview under caution.
- Criminal prosecution.

If your trainees would like to join OTSIS and benefit from an individual policy of insurance coupled with expert in-house medico-legal advice and assistance, please contact us on **0300 3033 531** or **info@mpi.group** for a conversation with one of our medical indemnity advisers.

Not a member yet? Talk to us

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