What is ASiT?

The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) is the representative body of trainees from all surgical disciplines. ASiT is a registered charity (No. 274841) and was established in 1976 as a forum for senior registrars to meet socially and discuss matters relating to training.

ASiT has grown in size and stature over the past 30 years and is now the second largest surgical specialty association in the UK with a membership of over 2200 trainees.

ASiT’s membership is comprised of trainees from all nine Specialty Advisory Committee-derived surgical specialties and is the only UK body that represents trainees from all surgical specialties. Membership of ASiT is voluntary and subject to a small membership fee.

ASiT has a current membership of over 2200 trainees

The structure of ASiT closely follows that of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI), with representation to ASiT Council by trainees from each specialty trainee body and region (Fig. 1). ASiT has developed particularly strong links with the ASGBI and our offices are now housed within ASGBI.

In addition to our membership, ASiT also reaches many other trainees through regional meetings and our website. We have gained wide popularity and established ourselves as a provider of high quality low cost courses and stimulating regional meetings.

As a result of this concerted effort, the membership of ASiT is the fastest growing of any surgical specialty association in the UK.

ASiT is the fastest growing surgical specialty organisation in the UK

ASiT seek to represent the views of members and all trainees through representation on the councils of the Surgical Royal Colleges, JCHST, and numerous other working parties and committees (Fig. 2). The role of ASiT is fully appreciated by the Surgical Royal Colleges and other professional bodies in the UK. Many of the current office bearers of these organisations are past-members and office bearers of ASiT.

ASiT is independent of the Surgical Royal Colleges, and is run by trainees, for trainees
Figure 1. **Structure of ASiT Council.** ASiT has close relationships with all the surgical specialty trainee groups

("Smaller surgical specialty groups: ENT, maxillofacial, cardiothoracic, and plastic surgery; BAUS, British Association of Urological Surgeons; SARS, Society of Academic and Research Surgery; BTS, British Transplantation Society; AUGIS, Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland; VSGBI, Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland; BASO, British Association of Surgical Oncology; ACPGBI, The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland; ALSGBI, Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland; SBNS, Society of British Neurological Surgeons)

Figure 2. **Relationship of ASiT to other professional bodies.**

(UEMS, European Union of Medical Specialists; BOTA, British Orthopaedic Trainees’ Association)
What do ASiT provide?

ASiT seeks to provide its membership with many benefits in order to help them through the training period. Examples of such membership benefits include:

- Informative website with downloadable educational material and discussion forums
- Participation in a popular e-group discussion network, which also reaches non-members, with over 1200 participants
- Monthly e-mail newsletters to members of the ASiT e-group
- Low cost courses for ASiT members, including:
  - ASiT Advanced Trauma Surgical Care Course
  - ASiT Laparoscopic Skills Course
  - Manchester MRCS Viva Preparation course (ASiT affiliated)
  - Alpine Part 3 FRCS Viva Preparation Course (ASiT affiliated)
- Forthcoming courses in development by ASiT include:
  - ASiT Selection and Interview Skills for Surgery Course
  - ASiT Careers in Surgery Symposium (for Medical Students and F1 Doctors)
- Two, competitive, annually appointed traveling fellowships worth up to £2500
- Specially negotiated book deals, with prominent medical literature publishers, with up to 30% reduction for ASiT members
- Reduced subscription rates for top surgical journals, with more than 50% off the standard subscription rate
- Free places on laparoscopic surgery training courses
- Reduced rates for conference poster planning and preparation
- Up to 30% off surgical loupes
- Up to 30% off shirts for ASiT members through website links
- The opportunity to attend and participate in the Association’s Annual Conference and Gala Dinner
The development of the ASiT website continues and are pleased to announce the launch of our new site in Summer 2007. This will introduce a number of new features including blogs, image and video galleries and podcasts. It will also allow site maintenance to be performed by individuals with no prior training in website design, guaranteeing the future of the site. We are now at the forefront of web technology developing novel and wide-ranging internet services for our members and the general public. The spirit of the site is to engender a community of surgical trainees, allowing them to control the website content rather than the Association.

Companies associated with ASiT are guaranteed prominent exposure on the website

The website now includes interactive discussion forums which attract members to view and contribute to topical debates. Within the discussion forums, there is a wealth of educational material, presentations, and images which may be used by trainees. Also included are links to specially negotiated book deals and other discounts, which are only available through the website links. These factors attract members to the website on a frequent basis and we suggest to trainees that they use it as homepage at home and work.

Regional and specialty pages are also featured, attracting a wide audience. Trainees now use the website to inform each other of regional and specialty developments, including teaching, meetings, and notices from the surgical training committee.
ASiT’s role in providing educational resources and support has become even more essential, given the current pressures and demands on the more traditional providers as well as within the NHS. Through web-based resources, organised courses and the provision of fellowships, our education remit has grown significantly in recent years.

ASiT has been instrumental in the development of targeted courses for trainees and has created the Manchester MRCS Viva preparation course (formerly ASiT MRCS Course) and the Alpine FRCS Part3 Viva course (formerly ASiT Alpine FRCS Part3 Viva course). These courses continue to have a strong link with ASiT and all participants are ASiT members. We have also developed the Advanced Trauma Surgical Care course, held at the ASiT Conference 2007 and the Laparoscopic Skills Course, which was run as part of the ASiT Conference 2006.

ASiT’s Educational Programme is an excellent way for industry to make contact with the surgeons of the future.

ASiT are keen to continue expanding the provision of educational support and welcome approaches which encourage this ethos. We are currently developing additional courses designed to deliver training information to trainees in the early stage of their career. We are also eager to purchase additional training resources for the benefit of our members.

In addition, ASiT has affiliated itself with numerous other externally provided courses which are run at discounted rates for ASiT members.
ASiT holds an annual conference each year providing excellent oral and poster sessions for its membership, as well as stimulating debate on a range of training and medico-political orientated topics.

The ASiT Conference 2007 took place at Belfast Waterfront Hall and attracted over 250 delegates. It holds the record for the greatest number of abstracts submitted with over 100 being accepted for presentation orally or as posters. This year saw the introduction of the very successful Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS)/ASiT Scientific Prize and the SARS/ASiT Short-paper session. The standard of presentation was very high and the judges had a hard time deciding the eventual winners. Competition for the ASiT Medal was similarly tough and the ASiT Poster Prize was awarded to the best oral poster presentation.

The conference in 2007 saw a very successful trade exhibit with plenty of interaction between the delegates and exhibitors.

Delegates were treated to an excellent mix of scientific, educational, medico-political and training method talks over the two days. There were interesting presentations from Mr Bernard Ribeiro (President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England), Mr John Orr (President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) and Dr Brian Williams (President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow). One of the most successful sessions was ‘Learning to fly’ where experts discussed lessons the surgeons could learn from the airline industry.

The ASiT Silver Scalpel Award was presented to Mr Iain Gunn, in recognition of excellence in training, and underpinning the training ethos of ASiT. Mr Jason Smith was awarded the Distinguished Individual Award, for his contribution to ASiT in the provision of an online abstract submission system used for all our recent meeitngs.
ASiT will hold its next Annual Conference in Birmingham from 7th March – 9th March 2008. ASiT boasts a large and active membership in this region promising an exciting meeting. High profile speakers provisionally attending include Lord Darzi, Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri and Professor Sir David Carter.

This conference shall be hosted at the award-winning Wolfson Centre for Medical Education, University of Birmingham.

Excellent opportunity for trade displays and interaction with delegates will be provided by this world-class venue.

ASiT Conference 2008 will also feature a Pre-Conference Workshop on Friday 7th March which will address some additional educational needs of our members. ASiT are joining forces with the British Orthopaedic Trainee Association to provide the first Foundation Skills for Surgery Course. Aimed at senior trainees, we will also be hosting a Laparoscopic Stapling, Suturing and Energised Dissection Course.

A number of social events are planned including a reception in the University of Birmingham. An interesting accompanying persons programme has been put together with the aid of the Birmingham Visitor and Convention Bureau.
ASiT is pleased to announce its packages for corporate sponsorship for 2007 – 2008. Acting on feedback from previous corporate partners, this year, we are introducing 3 levels of sponsorship:

- **Platinum**
- **Gold**
- **Silver**

In addition, several opportunities exist for corporate sponsorship associated with exciting developments by ASiT.

### Platinum Sponsorship

Two opportunities have been created for Platinum Sponsorship which will provide a range of advertising, marketing, and promotional initiatives, to include:

- Display of company logo, with a link to company website, in a prominent position on the homepage of the ASiT website
- Company information to be circulated twice per year to members by e-mail Newsletter
- Inclusion of company logo on monthly ASiT e-mail Newsletters
- Provision of premier position and enlarged exhibition space at the ASiT Conference 2007
- Platinum sponsors will be allocated a one single-side A4 page advert in the ASiT Conference 2007 final programme
- Company logo to be displayed on a slide, on the stage, at the ASiT Conference 2007 with acknowledgement as a Platinum Sponsor
- Named sponsorship of a lecture at the ASiT Conference 2007 with full acknowledgement in both provisional and final programmes
- Acknowledgement in the final programme, and on the ASiT website, as a Platinum Sponsor
- Four complimentary tickets to the ASiT Conference 2007 Dinner
- Provision of a list of delegates 1 week prior to, and after the Annual Meeting
- Inclusion of company literature, pens, and/or writing pads in ASiT Conference 2007 Delegate bags
Gold Sponsorship

5 opportunities have been created for Gold Sponsorship which will provide a range of advertising, marketing, and promotional initiatives, to include:

- Display of company logo, with a link to company website, on a sponsors page on the ASiT website, and highlighted link from the ASiT homepage
- Inclusion of company name as Gold Sponsor on monthly ASiT e-mail Newsletters
- Company information to be circulated once per year by e-mail Newsletter to ASiT members
- Provision of premier exhibition space at the ASiT Conference 2007
- Company logo to be displayed on a slide, on the stage, at the ASiT Conference 2007 with acknowledgement as a Gold Sponsor
- Acknowledgement in the final programme, and on the ASiT website, as a Gold Sponsor of the ASiT Conference 2007
- Two complimentary tickets to the ASiT Conference 2007 Dinner
- Provision of a list of delegates after the ASiT Conference 2007

Silver Sponsorship

Several opportunities have been created for Silver Sponsorship which will provide a range of advertising, marketing, and promotional initiatives, to include:

- Display of company logo, with a link to company website, on a sponsors page on the ASiT website, and highlighted link from the ASiT homepage
- Inclusion of company name as Silver Sponsor on monthly ASiT e-mail Newsletters
- Provision of choice of standard exhibition space at the Association Annual Meeting
- Company logo to be displayed on a slide, on the stage, at the ASiT Conference 2007 with acknowledgement as a Silver Sponsor
- Acknowledgement in the final programme, and on the ASiT website, as a Silver Sponsor of the ASiT Conference 2007
- Two complimentary tickets to the ASiT Conference 2007 Dinner
- Provision of a list of delegates after the ASiT Conference 2007
Other Sponsorship Opportunities

Several other high-profile sponsorship opportunities exist which may be taken up in association with Platinum, Gold, or Silver Sponsorship, or in isolation.

ASiT Medal

- Company name to be intimately associated with the ASiT Medal for the best oral scientific presentation at the ASiT Conference 2007.
- Company logo to be associated with the ASiT Medal sessions on provisional and final ASiT Conference 2007 programmes.

ASiT Poster Prize

- Company name to be intimately associated with the ASiT Poster Prize for the best oral poster presentation at the ASiT Conference 2007.
- Company logo to be associated with the ASiT Poster Prize sessions on provisional and final ASiT Conference 2007 programmes.

Pre-Conference Workshop

Several Sponsorship opportunities exist for sponsorship of Pre-Conference Workshop

- Company logo to be associated with the Pre-Conference Workshop on the ASiT website workshop advertisement.
- Company logo to be included on the workshop programme and reading material
- Company logo to be displayed, on a slide, on screen during the Pre-Conference Workshop
- Company information, pens, and/or writing pads to be included with Pre-Conference Workshop delegate material
- Opportunity for 2 Company representatives to attend the Pre-Conference Workshop
- Company to receive a list of delegates prior to the Pre-Conference Workshop
**ASiT Courses**

- Company logo to be associated with their choice of ASiT course, on the ASiT website course advertisement.
- Company logo to be included on the course programme and reading material
- Company logo to be displayed, on a slide, on screen during the course
- Company information, pens, and/or writing pads to be included with course delegate material
- Opportunity for 2 Company representatives to attend the course
- Company to receive a list of delegates prior to the course

**Sponsorship Package Rates (March 2007 – March 2008)**

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<td>ASiT Pre-Conference Workshop</td>
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<td>ASiT Courses</td>
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*sole sponsorship may be negotiated

Sponsorship Agreements for periods of greater than one year may be negotiated to remain at the rate quoted above for the duration of the agreement period without annual increases.
Feedback for the ASiT Conference

“It was quite clear that the whole event was extremely well organised and proved most valuable to all the participants including the College Presidents!”

Mr John Orr PRCSEd

“I must congratulate ASiT and the Council for what was the best ASiT Conference I have ever attended. I travelled back with trainees and medical students who had never been to a meeting before. They were seriously impressed and are committed to attending in the future!”

Mr David O’Regan Founder Silver Scalpel Award & Past-ASiT President

“We recently attended the ASiT Conference as exhibitors. I just wanted to pass on our comments on what was an excellent meeting both in terms of delegate attendance/interest in our products and the general organisation of the meeting ... once again, congratulations on a splendid meeting and I look forward to hearing from you soon.”

Ethicon

“Thanks very much for the opportunity to attend the ASiT conference. The programme was excellent - I know this is an unusual year in terms of discussion points, but the conference really does get better every year and it was a real pleasure to see how well Belfast is doing. Next time I’ll be bringing my other half so we can take advantage of the fantastic dining opportunities!”

Medical Protection Society

“Congratulations on a absolutely brilliant conference. Was on plane to Edinburgh with many of the participants and they were raving about it.”

Mr Richard Brady - Conference Delegate

Further information

To find out more about sponsorship packages and opportunities please contact Suzy Mercer:

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