Although sad to be concluding my term as President, I am also immensely proud of what has been achieved by the association in the past two years. This has only been possible through the support and hard work of council and our many associates, for which I am enormously grateful. It is fitting that the fruits of their labours are summarised here.

Our past two annual scientific meetings have provided excellent scientific content, ideal social networking opportunities and have attracted record numbers of abstract submissions. Despite the unfavourable economic climate, delegate numbers have remained high and we have enjoyed fantastic levels of trade support to help make the meetings financially viable. Thank you in particular to all of the delegates for the interest and warmth you always show our trade partners.

To supplement the annual conferences, we have held nine regional meetings in association with a wide range of partners, including the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, the Scottish and Irish Governments, Health Service Journal, Circle and, most recently, Healthcare Conferences. In addition, the views of BADS have been represented at 20 other meetings by a wide variety of individuals. All of these events help to disseminate the ethos of the association to a wider audience. We have also continued to run interactive courses on local anaesthetic hernia repair, preoperative assessment and laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

The association has produced a number of useful publications, not least the Day Case Surgery textbook from Oxford University Press. Anna Lipp’s team have produced six handbooks in the past two years, the latest three being “Teamwork and staffing in day surgery”, “Day case surgery under local anaesthesia” and “The pathway to success — management of the day surgical patient”. Individual council members have also contributed to a further two book chapters and a series of articles in the Bulletin of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. The BADS Directory has just been updated to the fourth edition and is now accompanied by a national dataset which highlights current performance against the targets and a revised edition of the commissioning guide which reiterates the principles of high quality care. The principles of the Directory are now used for national benchmarking through the better care, better value indicators, while the intellectual property of the Directory has been licensed to a number of commercial companies. This means that the BADS Directory is now the definitive day surgery benchmark. License has also been granted to translate five of our handbooks for sale in Poland, further spreading the BADS brand.

BADS has continued to work positively with a number of other organisations to highlight the value of day and short stay surgery. We are represented on both the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain (AAGBI) and Ireland and the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland. BADS was a major contributor to AAGBI day surgery guidelines, as well as collaborating with NHS Diabetes and the NHS Atlas of Variation. We continue to be consulted by the Department of Health and are delighted that day surgery is now recognised and rewarded as best practice for several procedures.

Throughout my presidency, we have been supported by our strategic alliance partners Abbott, Anetic Aid, Ethicon and Ethicon Endo-Surgery. Arizant and Storz provided support for some of this time and we have now been joined by Eido and Vanguard. All of these partners have a portfolio of non-competing products and benefit from website links and professional advice, lectures and teaching from BADS Council members.

Underpinning all of the influence and activities of BADS are you, the members of the association. In these harsh financial times, our membership remains healthy, although our aim of 500 members remains tantalisingly just out of reach. We are constantly striving to increase the value of your membership and this year for the first time offered additional member discounts during our conference. My successor, Mark Skues, has already expressed a desire for greater involvement of the membership in BADS activities and will set out how he hopes to achieve this separately. In the meantime, one obvious way is to ensure that you exercise your democratic rights by voting in the upcoming council election.
As I hand over to Mark, I am happy that BADS is a healthy, vibrant and influential organisation with a brand which is well respected and increasingly recognised as a marker of quality. This has been achieved by the hard work and dedication of many, many people, of whom Mark Skues has already made numerous valuable contributions. I am confident that he will continue to lead BADS into an even more successful future.

IAN SMITH

The British Association of Day Surgery
President’s Award

The President’s Prize is awarded each year to someone who, while not an elected member of council, has nonetheless made an outstanding contribution to day surgery and to the association. None of the activities in which BADS engages could be sustained without the association being on a firm financial footing, so this year the prize was awarded to our Exhibition Manager, Janet Mills. Despite enormous economic pressures and declining global trade support, Janet has consistently managed to fill all of the available exhibition space year on year, attracting as many exhibitors as meetings with three or four times the number of delegates. By maintaining excellent working relationships, Janet has ensured that many trade partners return regularly, but she has also worked tirelessly to attract new exhibitors into the fold, thereby helping to disseminate the day surgery ethos even further. Janet has been instrumental in developing trade relationships which have culminated in strategic alliance partnerships and additional advertising revenue and we therefore take great pleasure in awarding her the President’s Prize.

IAN SMITH