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It is very disappointing that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Annual Conference cannot be held as planned at the Cardiff City Hall on 25th and 26th June. However, you will probably be aware that instead, it will now be taking place on 18th-19th March 2021 at the same venue. The good news is that gives you more time to prepare your abstracts for submission with a new deadline of Friday 8th January 2021. Any abstracts already submitted for the original date are valid for the new date. This may seem a long time away but what better opportunity to catch up with audit /research work whilst elective NHS activity is reduced and submit your abstracts. With that in mind, I encourage you to put the new dates into your academic diaries and book study leave with your trust in advance if possible. This is the link to abstract submission:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/login?redirect=/stages/1625/submissions/new>

This year BADS again plans to co-host several national and regional meetings in association with external organisations such as Health Care Conferences UK (HCUK) pending the lifting of social distancing restrictions. These are the conferences currently planned for later in the year:

- BADS/HCUK Conference on Developing your Daycase General Surgery Service will be held on Thursday 17th September at the De Vere West One Conference Centre, London
- BADS/HCUK Conference on Day Case Total Hip Replacement will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at the Studio Conference Centre, Birmingham
- BADS/HCUK Conference on Day Surgery in Gynaecology will be held on Thursday 19th November at the De Vere W1 Conference Centre, London
- BADS/HCUK Conference on Breast Surgery as Day Surgery will be held on Tuesday 1st December at the Studio Conference Centre, Manchester
- BADS/HCUK Conference on Day Case Major Knee Surgery will be held on Monday 5th October at the De Vere W1 Conference Centre, London.

Further details of all the above conferences can be found in this edition of JODS.

Original papers in this edition of JODS include a summary of the recently published Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) Society guidelines on Perioperative Care in Hip and Knee Arthroplasty; a report on the benefits of a dedicated Day Surgery Unit from Torbay, Devon and an evaluation of ambulatory emergency pathways looking at whether the 75% overall daycase target could be extended to emergency surgery.

Please keep your submissions to the Journal coming in and remember – JODS still offers citable peer-reviewed publication with no author processing fees.

With the Covid-19 prevalence falling, day surgery units offer great opportunity to facilitate restarting elective operating. They use established (and often telephone-based) pre-operative assessment pathways. They are often based in stand-alone units, physically distanced from other hospital departments, with their own entrances and exits and a natural separation from emergency departments and inpatient wards. Therefore, they are often ideally equipped to manage Covid-negative patients in so called 'Green' zones.

Most importantly, in these difficult times – stay safe, look after yourselves and your patients.