

# WELCOME FROM THE LOCAL ORGANISERS

## Dear Association Members & Potential Delegates

We are delighted to welcome the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons to Cardiff for the 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting. Cardiff is a city rich in history and tradition and has been a long-standing supporter of the ALSGBI in various guises from its inception. This relationship was started through the Welsh Institute of Minimal Access Therapy (WIMAT), one of the original training centres with Leeds, London and Guildford and of course through Mr Brian Rees OBE, former council member of the Association and one of the early pioneers of laparoscopic surgery.

As always there are lots of people without whom this meeting would not be possible. We would like to thank Dr Graham Shortland our Medical Director, Mr David Scott-Coombes for speaking at the dinner, all the surgeons and anaesthetists who will operate for you on Thursday and perhaps most of all, the theatre staff who, after initially shaking their heads at yet another lunatic suggestion, have rolled up their sleeves and got on with it with great professionalism, as they always do.

Those of you who will attend the WIMAT for the training day will not be disappointed and it is thanks to Dr Neil Warren, Mr Stuart Goddard and all the WIMAT team that we can confidently predict a wonderful day and great curry!

Finally a special thank you to Jenny and Sarah at the ALSGBI who have kept us in check and all of our sponsors without whom surgery in Britain and Ireland would still be in the dark ages.

Welcome to Cardiff and to steal the words of Lord Reith, founder of the BBC *prepare to be informed, educated and entertained!*

### **Professor Jared Torkington & Mr James Horwood**

ALSGBI Local Organisers – University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff



Professor Jared Torkington  
ALSGBI Local Organiser –  
University Hospital of Wales,  
Cardiff



Mr James Horwood  
ALSGBI Local Organiser –  
University Hospital of Wales,  
Cardiff