

BAHNO Newsletter Autumn 2019

Letter from the President Mr Cyrus Kerawala



It was a great honour to start my tenure as President at our annual scientific meeting back in May. After a night of celebration with my family (as evidenced by the photograph above!) the day-to-day business of the Association took over.

One of our main focuses in the year ahead is in updating the BAHNO standards document which was first published in 2009. Despite it being over a decade old it is still widely referred to in arenas as diverse as local Trusts and Royal College Invited Reviews. The practice of head and neck oncology has, not surprisingly, progressed over the time period and an update is long overdue. The project is being ably led by Stuart Winter and Andrew Schache whose enthusiasm knows no bounds! We are, of course, adopting a multidisciplinary approach with input from experts in all of the medical and surgical disciplines involved in head and neck cancer care along with our AHP and Restorative Dentistry colleagues.

You yourselves have also been invited to comment by email and my thanks to those of you who took time to respond. A first formal meeting has already taken place and we hope to have the project all but completed by next year's annual scientific meeting, at which stage I hope to be able to update you further.

Our Committees continue to do sterling work and I must thank all of the chairs and members. A re-designed BAHNO website has been launched and, through the On-line and Communications Committee, our social media presence is improving (please join us on Twitter). If you have any content you would like to see publicised on the website please contact Laura.

- The Research Committee continues to be involved in assessing applications for around £6000 per annum in grants. Any member of our association is eligible to apply so please do so. Our funding of the NCRI clinical trials fellowship continues.
- The International Collaborations Committee is developing a fellowship for an overseas applicant with the aim of them spending up to six weeks at a number of UK units and then attending our annual scientific meeting. In collaboration with the African Head and Neck Society we hope to engender interests in applications.
- The Education Committee has developed a framework for web-based material which will be populated in the months ahead.

- The Guidelines Committee has established a protocol for reviewing externally-sourced material which then becomes available on our website as appropriate. It is, likewise, the focus of approaches for our members to take part in surveys.
- The Public Engagement Committee has engaged with schools to raise awareness of the role of HPV in cancer and, in line with the 'make sense' campaign, has held a number of early diagnosis drop-in clinics.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting goes from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Ceri Hughes. The involvement of Aesculap Academia has helped increase its profitability, in part related to increasing number of attendees.

The running of the Association could not take place without the continued enthusiasm and input of Council members. I would particularly like to thank Peter Brennan and James O'Hara who you will hear from later in the newsletter who, along with Ceri, toil tirelessly behind the scenes. Laura works equally hard with extreme efficiency and keeps us all in check! As a result of all these endeavours our finances continue to strengthen and we become more of a force within public and professional arenas.

I would finally like to thank you all for your continuing support both for the Association and its activities. Your response to membership initiatives and willingness to partake in the work of all our Committees has in no small way led to the recent successes. If any of you have any ideas or require support from the Association in any way please feel free to get in contact.

Report from the Honorary Administrative Secretary – Professor Peter Brennan

It has been a steep learning curve taking over as Honorary Secretary from Nick Roland and I would like to thank Hisham Mehanna, Immediate Past President and Laura Manning



for their help and support to enable a very smooth transition.

The new website was launched at the end of 2018, which has been well received and attracted many new members.

While the majority of browsers who look at the BAHNO website are from the UK, we also have received interest from Europe, USA and beyond.

The Association currently has 472 members:

Full Members	304
Associate Members	59
Affiliate Members	43
Overseas Members	23
Honorary Member	14
Senior Members	29

It was hoped that we could move membership details to a LightMedia system which will enable ease of collection of annual subscriptions. However, this has taken more time than expected and unfortunately will not be completed by the time of subscription payments are due in January 2020. The system should be up and running by April 2020.

For the first time, abstracts from the BAHNO Annual Conference have now been published in a scientific Journal (the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine). I am grateful to Wiley, the journal publishers for allowing us to include abstracts free of charge. The abstracts will be cited on PubMed – great for authors- as they can be included in CVs as a formal publication. Wiley have agreed to kindly continue this arrangement for the 2020 conference.

The 2020 ACCEA round is likely to open on Feb 6th 2020, with a closing date of 3rd April. Members are reminded that as a Specialty Association with over 250 consultant members, BAHNO is able to support and write citations for up to 7 bronze, 3 silver and 2 gold applications. There is no limit to the number of renewal applications that can be supported and these are treated separately to new applicants and not scored by BAHNO. We will post further details on the website at the beginning of 2020. With the current pension situation, members are advised to seek independent financial advice on receipt of a national CEA as this is likely to have a significant effect on pension tax liability.

We will be calling for nominations for Council before the end of the year. Professor Chris Nutting (Clinical Oncology) will have completed two terms of office by the time of the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Professor Jarrod Homer (Clinical Oncology) and Mr Omar Ahmed (Plastic Surgery) will have completed their first term and are therefore eligible to stand for election for a further 3 years.

Finally, in this modern era of social media, we are increasing our presence on Twitter with regular tweets on things of interest in head and neck cancer as well as BAHNO news. If you have a Twitter account, please follow us @BAHNOOfficial

Report from the Honorary Treasurer Mr James O'Hara

The BAHNO finances remain in a healthy position with gradual increases in our assets. Hence, we have no plans to alter the



membership fees or attendance fees for the annual conference for members. The annual conference has been extremely well attended in recent years, and this is our major source of income. The popularity of the annual conference has allowed us to make significant investments in our membership services. We hope this will modernise the association and enable us to improve our communication with members. We are also better-placed to support the various activities of our Committees.

Honorary Conference Secretary Mr Ceri Hughes



Now a veteran of two conferences I feel safe to pass judgment. I am pleased to say that last year's conference was another great success.

The conference ran back-to-back with the very successful 'Controversies' meeting of which Hisham should be proud. The 'Controversies' meeting was very well attended and certainly added

depth to the conference by offering a three-day feast of excellent speakers and panel discussion. The number of members and non-members attending our meeting was an impressive 308. The submission level for abstracts was up by 46% with 24 oral presentations and 77 posters on the day.

Once again, we had great support from Sam Womack and her team at Aesculap Academia. We achieved significant levels of industry support for which we are again grateful. This will be used in part to fund the much-needed modernization of our association membership management system. I would encourage anyone with industry contacts to suggest to them that they may gain valuable exposure at our conference. Contact is best made through Laura Manning. Of course, I also have to thank Laura, in particular for her attention to detail and calmness on the day of the conference. We have made great progress in the on-line registration, which allows Laura to be free to answer queries and promote the benefits of membership on the day. We have significantly reduced the unpredictable 'on-day' registrations which really helps catering and crowd control.

Avoid hassle by registering on-line prior to the conference this year

<https://www.bahnomeeting.com/bahno-conference/registration/>

I thought it was noticeable that the conference continues to feel tighter and better organized. Your feedback is listened to and I would encourage any suggestions for change to be passed on. The format of the day was changed a little, some small tweaks but hopefully we managed to pack enough in without too much rush between sessions. The afternoon session was deliberately planned to accommodate an increasing number of AHP's who support the conference and I would encourage all units to push their team's valuable contribution in future years.

Next year the conference will be held on May 15th. It will be a single day which feedback suggests is still our best format. The Theme is 'Complications in the Management of Head and Neck Cancers'. I am hopeful that this theme will bring in areas of our practice such as the increase in late effects of ORN and Dysphagia and entice a few newcomers to the meeting. Our Blair Hesketh speaker is Dr Bryan Bell, a Head & Neck Surgeon from Portland, Oregon with a wealth of experience in ablative and reconstructive surgery. Dr Bell's main research interest is immunotherapy.

For the debate this year, continuing our somewhat 'edgy' new style. The motion will be "This house believes that radiotherapy is the gift that keeps giving". I am sure a few hackles will be raised and following on from last year's success we will then raise a glass at a Cheese and Wine catch-up session to close all half-finished conversations before the conference closes.

Remember to preregister online and save the late fee.

NCIP news

The National Clinical Improvement Programme (NCIP) is a digital service for consultant surgeons in England to review their personal and unit-level outcomes data in the context of local and national benchmarks. Part of the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme, the NCIP Portal is a quality improvement resource that aims to support clinicians to identify and reduce unwarranted variation in practice with a view to improving patient care.

The NCIP Portal has been developed over the last year with direction from the surgical Specialty Associations and will be rolled-out to five early adopter Trusts this autumn:- Salford Royal, Alder-Hey, Kingston, UCLH and The Royal Free.

Consultant surgeons from BAHNO, BAOMS, ENT UK and BAPRAS have worked with a team of analysts and clinical coders from NCIP to develop and validate a series of metrics arranged across a set of procedure-specific dashboards that cover the range of our surgical practice. BAHNO would be grateful if members in the early adopter Trusts (noted above) would engage with the NCIP team and provide feedback in order that they and we can test the content and further develop the Portal prior to a national roll-out next financial year.

The BAHNO council are very optimistic that the NCIP programme will provide much needed head and neck cancer data. We recognise that oncology treatment outcomes are not included at this stage, with the emphasis on surgical therapies. There has been a lack of high-quality national head and neck outcomes data since the final DAHNO report in 2015. Through our members' enthusiasm to engage with the NCIP portal we hope that high quality data will flourish in the future, allowing us all to improve the services we offer. The current NCIP system has the ability to stratify surgical therapies by complexities, thereby allowing all clinicians work to be appropriately reviewed. We hope the NCIP team will be present to present their exciting work at the annual conference in May 2020.

Council vacancies

There are vacancies on Council from AGM 2020.

One representative from ONCOLOGY specialty required from AGM 2020 – AGM 2024. Professor Christopher Nutting has completed his terms of office as oncology rep on BAHNO Council and nominations are now sought for a replacement.

One representative from ENT specialty required. **Professor Jarrod Homer** has completed one term of office as an ENT rep on BAHNO Council and is willing to stand for a further 3 years. In the result of no further nominations being submitted, Professor Jarrod will continue on Council until AGM 2023.

One representative from Plastic Surgery specialty is required. **Mr Omar Ahmed** has completed one term of office as plastic surgery rep on BAHNO Council and is willing to stand for a further 3 years. In the result of no further nominations being submitted, Mr Omar will continue on Council until AGM 2023

Nomination forms available on the BAHNO website.

The closing date is 13th December 2019.

BAHNO 2020 – call for abstracts

Abstracts invited for BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting 2020

<https://bahno2020.exordo.com>

Prizes will be awarded for best oral and poster presentations.

BAHNO 2020 meeting website

<https://www.bahnomeeting.com/bahno-conference/>

Volunteers needed!

The Public Engagement Committee, under the leadership of Professor Tas Kanatas, has been visiting schools around the country with a presentation about the introduction of the HPV vaccination for boys. The response from the schools has been very enthusiastic. In order to keep pace with school requests it would be useful to have a register of members who are willing to visit schools in their locality (armed with the BAHNO PowerPoint presentation). Please let Laura in the Secretariat know if you are willing to take part.

BAHNO Research Grants

Up to £6,000 is available to fund research that contributes significantly to the body of knowledge in head and neck cancer or thyroid cancer and its management. **A proposal and a CV should be submitted to BAHNO secretariat before 21st January 2020.** Decisions will be made in the early part of 2020 and announced at the AGM.

https://www.bahno.org.uk/clinicians_area/travel_research_grants.aspx

BAHNO Travel Grants

Trainee members wishing to embark on career-enhancing study, either in the UK or abroad, should consider applying for a travel grant towards the costs.

The deadline for applications is 21st January 2020.

https://www.bahno.org.uk/clinicians_area/travel_research_grants.aspx

Membership fees

Invoices will be issued in early January 2020 – annual fees will remain at £80 for Full Members, £40 for Associate and Overseas Members, £25 for Affiliate Members.

Unfortunately, there are still a number of members who have Standing Order Instructions in place with their bank for an incorrect amount. Please note, Standing Order instructions are YOUR instruction to YOUR bank – only YOU can amend them. Please check!

For those of you who pay by Direct Debit, the payments will be requested at or around 20th January and notification will be given. Direct Debit mandate forms are available on the BAHNO website.