



BRITISH ASSOCIATION *of* HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGISTS

Newsletter – Winter 2015

Letter from the President

Mike Fardy



This year seems to be dominated once again by data retrieval and databases. The major talking point has been the provision of the Head and Neck cancer audit.

For over 10 years, the Health and Social Care Information Centre has hosted the collection of data and DAHNO has been collecting this data. Richard Wight and Graham Putnam are to be congratulated for their sterling work in driving this forward. In fact this year for the first time, an overview of case mix variance was provided which hopefully helped in risk modelling.

As the contract was up for renewal, bids were requested to take up the mantle, but at the last minute HSCIC withdrew and the only bid on the table was from Saving Faces and Dendrite, supported by BAHNO. After a robust presentation by our representatives – Mr Paul Pracy, President and Professor Iain Hutchison – Founder of Saving Faces followed by an in depth questioning session, the bid was accepted in July 2015. The new database is to be called **HANA**.

The new dataset will use most of the DAHNO data fields but there will be additional fields on radiotherapy, chemotherapy and outcomes. Some fields will be mandatory but following advice from some cancer managers we have tried to keep these to an absolute minimum. The great advantage of these is that if some fields are not completed the data can still be entered and HQIP will be satisfied because their separate “core” has still been completed.

We hope that many clinicians will take up the opportunity to complete their relevant data only in real time. This data could be completed online directly using hospital-based systems. Alternatively, where hospital-based systems are unreliable or slow, clinicians can use real time “tablet” entry with later transfer when web access is available.

It is envisaged that this later transfer of data would go in 3 directions:-

1. *The MDT which would only abstract the clinical mandatory fields;*
2. *The consultant's secretary who could use the hospital data management system to convert the fields into clinic letter or discharge summary;*
3. *Dendrite who would provide the facility for immediate download of each clinician's datasets 24/7.*

This data will still be valuable for research because linkage can then be made to other pre-existing datasets e.g. the Pathology dataset through the National Cancer Registry and outcomes through the GP database.

There will be no duplication of effort by the clinician as data will only be completed once in a combined “case report form” by the clinician. It is proposed that BAHNO and NFORC will hold large prospective cohort datasets on treatment given and outcomes in Head and Neck cancer.

A steering committee has been set up with the task of creating this dataset so that it is clinically relevant; to have datasets that are ready for research and publication; utilising patient and clinician friendly entry systems and to enable easy access by data enterers for their personal research.

These are exciting times but it does rely on total engagement by the MDT's and so to this end, there will be visits to all MDT's by the senior representatives of HANA / BAHNO with

Dendrite to discuss the database and allay any concerns. The visits are being co-ordinated at present.

At the same time The UK National Flap Registry [UKNFR] has been set up. This a National registry for all pedicled and free flaps in the Head & Neck, Breast, Upper & Lower limb, Perineum and Trunk and after Sarcoma resection.

UKNFR has the official participation agreement from:-

1. *BAPRAS (British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons),*
2. *BAOMS (British Association of Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons)*
3. *BAHNO (British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists) and*
4. *ABS (Association of Breast Surgery)*

Terms & Conditions, User Policy, Patient information sheet and Consent form are uploaded in the documents section of UKNFR.

The link to the live registry is:-

<https://uknfr.e-dendrite.com/>

Surgeons, once they have enough cases, can download / export their own data and generate funnel plots and graphs for presentation in appraisals and for revalidation. I would urge you to take part in this data base. I would urge you to participate.

You may have noticed that the date for the annual meeting has been changed. For as long as I have been involved with BAHNO, the meeting was always in the last Friday in April, but over the last few years as the European Head and Neck Society introduced their meetings, there was always the potential for clashes. You will remember the highly successful Joint meeting of EHNS / BAHNO held in Liverpool in 2014 which also acted as our meeting. In 2016, EHNS had planned their meeting in Istanbul and it again clashed with our meeting. Council debated this problem and it then came to light that our April date actually conflicted with the Oncology examinations, so therefore it was decided that to prevent future clashes with EHNS and exams, we would change our meeting to May – it will be planned for the third week but due to booking issues for **2016 only** it will be on the 13th. I accept this is a break from tradition and has caused some consternation but it will potentially allow more people to attend as well as allowing us to participate in the EHNS meeting. I hope you agree it is for the best.

I have been aware that a section of our Head and Neck community are not represented on council. Council debated the position of our allied health professionals and we have agreed to co-opt a dietetic and speech and language representative onto council and, from next year, they will be voted on in the normal way. I hope you agree this is an important step forward in ensuring that all sections of our team have a voice.

On the subject of having a voice, I am discussing with our website designers how we can update our website. I would like it to be more interactive with the ability to put on videos of lectures – similar to that of the American Head and Neck Society web; also to have a password protected forum for those difficult cases that need an outside opinion. Please use our website and interact and as always, your comments and thoughts on this are always welcome.

Finally, if you have any other ideas to improve overall interaction then please get in touch and I hope to send around a survey monkey soon so as to inform Council what we need to do to help you.

To paraphrase a famous saying – “don’t ask what we can do for you, but what can you do to help us to help you?”

BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting 2016
Hisham Mehanna, Honorary Conference Secretary
Joint meeting with Allied Health Professionals:

Royal College of Physicians – Friday 13th May 2016

This year’s BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting will be on the topic of ‘Head and neck cancer treatment at what cost?’.

We are running a new format for the meeting this year in conjunction with our allied health professional colleagues. The programme will include some joint sessions, as well as some parallel sessions for the AHPs aimed at increasing the participation of the different disciplines involved in the management of head and neck cancer.

We are lucky to have a very distinguished speaker Professor Joseph Helman from the University of Michigan - to deliver the Blair Hesketh Lecture. The debate is going to be on the topic of ‘this house believes that the NHS can afford transoral robotic surgery². We

have an excellent line up of speakers, whom we have pitted against their usual stances on this topic, hopefully leading to a very interesting debate.

We hope you will like the new format and I would very much welcome your thoughts on how we can improve it, as well as ideas for future meetings.

See you all on the 13th May!

BAHNO Research Update **Vin Paleri, Chair of Research Committee**

The BAHNO offers research bursaries between £1000 and £2000 open to the membership. This is awarded following a rigorous peer review process and in exceptional circumstances, will be up to £4000. The fund can be used towards a new piece of work or to supplement an ongoing project where the award from BAHNO will be used for a defined phase of the research work. Further details and the application form can be found at <http://bahno.org.uk/travel-research-grants>

BAHNO Research Grant Report **Oliver Dale MRCS DOHNS**

Targeting the insulin-like growth factor receptor in head and neck cancer.

Background:

The type 1 insulin-like growth factor receptor (IGF-1R) is overexpressed in several types of cancer. Activation of IGF-1R causes cellular proliferation, reduces apoptosis and increases cell survival. Despite promising results from in-vitro studies, IGF-1R inhibition has shown limited activity in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (HNSCC), suggesting that biomarkers are urgently required.

Methods/Results:

IGF-1R expression in a tissue microarray containing cores from 357 HNSCCs was determined by immunohistochemistry. This demonstrated that IGF-1R was over-expressed in HNSCC tissue compared to matched epithelial control tissue. High levels of IGF-1R were associated with reduced survival, HPV negative status and increased tumour T stage.

The effect of IGF-1R inhibition was tested in-vitro in HNSCC cell lines. IGF-1R inhibition reduced cell survival to a variable degree in seven cell lines tested. IGF-1R inhibition also increased the sensitivity of cells to ionising radiation. Analysis of protein expression in HNSCC cell lines suggested that the RAS signalling pathway may mediate resistance to IGF-1R inhibition. HNSCC cells were therefore transfected with mutant HRAS and the effect on sensitivity to IGF-1R inhibition tested. HRAS mutation was associated with significant resistance to IGF-1R inhibition in-vitro.

Conclusion:

These results indicate the IGF-1R biology plays a significant role in HNSCC, and that IGF-1R represents an attractive therapeutic target in this context. The presence of HRAS mutation has been identified as a biomarker of resistance to IGF-1R inhibition in HNSCC, which may be of significance in the design of future clinical trials.

ACCEA update **Nick Roland, Honorary Administrative Secretary**

ACCEA 2016

For 2016 news please visit - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-clinical-excellence-awards>

We offer support to our members and will keep you informed on the 2016 round when it is announced. However interested members should keep a watch on the ACCEA website for further information.

The National ACCEA round for 2015 closed on the 15th June. The results are awaited and anticipated in the early New year.

Approximately 2000 new and renewal applications were received. New awards will be backdated to 1 April 2015. Renewals renewed from 1 April 2016. Unsuccessful renewals will cease on 31 March 2016. For the first time, and in the interest of transparency, the full application for both successful new and successful renewal applicants will be published.

The Head & Neck Consensus Guidelines **Nick Roland, Honorary Administrative Secretary**

Publication of the next edition of the U.K. Head & Neck Consensus Guidelines is keenly awaited. They have been produced by experts encompassing all of the multidisciplinary team involved in head and neck cancer care. The guidelines will be available through BAHNO as a PDF and will be published as a supplement in the UK Journal of Laryngology and Otology. The Council extends its thanks to Professor Vin Paleri who has worked tirelessly in their production.

BAHNO Treasurer's message **Cyrus Kerawala**

Although the finances of the organisation have always been healthy over the last few years we have seen their gradual erosion as a result of increasing external costs such as conference venues. It remains important to retain a robust balance so that we can continue to fund activities such as research and travel grants. Many of the costs to the membership remain modest in relation to other organisations e.g. the cost of attendance at the annual meeting has not increased for almost a decade. As a Council we have decided that there needs to be an increase in the income of the Association and this would be most effectively obtained through an increase in fees for elements such as annual subscriptions and conference attendance. The intention would be to ensure as small an increase as possible compatible with securing our finances. The proposed alternatives will be discussed with the membership at the AGM.

BAHNO Research Grants

Research grants are awarded by BAHNO to fund research proposals that are judged by the BAHNO adjudication panel to show promise and to substantially contribute to the body of knowledge in head and neck or thyroid cancer and its management.

Don't forget the Travelling Scholarship!

For many years BAHNO has offered one or more generous travel grants of the order of £1000 to help trainees visit a leading head and neck unit at home or abroad. The application procedure has recently been updated - details

are available on the website. Applications must be received by 1st December in order to be considered by BAHNO Council in March, and the successful applicant(s) will be announced at the AGM

Council:

<u>President</u>	Mr Mike Fardy
<u>Past President</u>	Mr Paul Pracy
<u>Admin. Sec.</u>	Mr Nick Roland
<u>Conference Sec.</u>	Prof Hisham Mehanna
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr Cyrus Kerawala

Elected members:

<u>Clinical oncology</u>	<u>Otolaryngology</u>
Prof Chris Nutting	Prof Vin Paleri (Chair Education Com)
	Prof Hisham Mehanna

Dr Bernadette Foran

Maxillofacial Surgery

Mr Sat Parmar

Prof James McCaul

Additional specialties

Pathology

Dr Selvam Thavaraj

Affiliate

Mrs Sally-Anne Philpott

Plastic surgery

Mr Bill Townley

Trainee Rep

Miss Paula Bradley

For your diary :-

BAHNO ANNUAL MEETING & AGM

Date: 13th May 2016

Venue: Royal College of Physicians London

IFHNOS and EHNS

BAHNO is a fully paid up member of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) and the European Head and Neck Society.

<http://www.ifhnos.org/home.asp>

Any questions?

Please contact the Secretariat: Jill McFarland at: secretariat@bahno.org.uk

Please let Jill have your e-mail address and any change in contact details if you have not already done so, otherwise you may miss out on important news and information such as the ACCEA process!

...and finally!

Remember that full details of all membership categories, how to join BAHNO, application forms for research grants and the travelling fellowship, full programme for the Annual Scientific Conference, abstract forms etc. and much more can be found on our website at: -

www.bahno.org.uk