



# BRITISH ASSOCIATION *of* HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGISTS

## Newsletter – Winter 2016

### Letter from the President Mike Fardy



Since the last newsletter, the new dataset HANA run by BAHNO and Saving faces has been constructed. The data that DAHNO / Somerset / Infoflex and CANISC had previously collected was sent through for evaluation. Unfortunately, this data was not robust enough to provide meaningful information.

The data covered a period of 3 years and had some 15,000 operations recorded of which 100% had a provider Trust or a Hospital code attached. However, less than half had a GMC number (and of these a small proportion had invalid GMC numbers). As the data had been provided to us on a per tumour basis, there were conflicts for those patients that had more than one tumour and more than one operation. Also, if a patient had chemoradiotherapy before surgery, there was no record of surgery; there was also no record of recurrences.

There were issues of a surgeon name being recorded. There may be up to seven surgeons recorded against each procedure which makes attributing an operation to a single surgeon rather difficult. Therefore the recommendation was to run with a COP analysis that was actually a "TOP" analysis i.e. "Trust outcomes". This has now been accepted.

The steering committee which was set up with the task of creating this dataset has worked tirelessly to ensure 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. The Council is eternally grateful for their efforts.

Professor Iain Hutchison who is currently the lead for HANA has personally visited 50 MDTs to outline the plans for HANA and to present on its

development. The dataset is built on the more relevant patient treatment and outcomes, rather than the less meaningful data from DAHNO which was built on tumour registration. It also differs from DAHNO having further radiotherapy and chemotherapy fields and more clinical outcome fields. Once registered on Dendrite the clinician can access and download their data at any time.

BAHNO Council are extremely grateful for all the hard work and dedication that Professor Hutchison has put into this project – we would not be where we are today without his passion. Let us not forget, that we only get out of this database what we put in. The President will take over the mantle of Lead of HANA in January and we will need all your help and efforts to make this project work. To make it successful it will require diligence from everyone to either put in the data themselves or ensure that the data entry is accurate. We intend monthly upload, so it is vital that treating clinicians register with dendrite so that they can view and download their own data for appraisal, research and local audit - 24/7.

The UK National Flap Registry [UKNFR] has also been launched and has been very successful. Thanks, must be given to Anita Hazari, Consultant Plastic Surgeon from East Grinstead. She has put an enormous amount of effort into producing this database. As stated previously, this is 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 agreement from official participation

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)*

The link to the live registry is:- <https://uknfr.e-dendrite.com/>

We urge all clinicians who perform Head and Neck reconstruction to enter their patients into this database.

The training of Head and Neck Surgeons has been under the control of the Training Interface Groups and unfortunately in the past BAHNO has been ignored as a contributor to the process. BAHNO Council has worked hard to raise the profile of the Association, in particular at the Cancer Services Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons. I am pleased to report that BAHNO is now recognised in the Training Interface Groups and will be involved in future discussions. Please contact us with any views you have regarding the training; do you have any concerns and what you would like us to concentrate on.

We have worked hard to create a BAHNO Journal Club – a selection of articles which I hope will be of interest to you all – please let us know your thoughts on whether it is worthwhile and if you do agree it is something of use – PLEASE CONTRIBUTE – a title; author and if possible a few lines about the paper.

I have now updated our website. If you now log onto the password protected forum you can upload videos and difficult cases for discussion. Once again please use our website and interact and as always, your comments and thoughts on this are always welcome.

We are always looking to improve our profile and a simple way is to have lapel badges with our emblem. We have commissioned specially made lapel badges for BAHNO and I would encourage you to purchase one to wear to promote us. They will be available at the Annual meeting, but can be purchased from Jill via the BAHNO office for £20 plus postage and packing.

We have received an invitation to be a part of the 6th World Oral Cancer Congress of the International Academy of Oral Oncology (IAOO) to be held in Bangalore, India May 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Theme of the conference is “Frontiers in Oral Oncology”. This will be unique forum for clinicians and scientist to review and discuss advances in early detection, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of oral cancer. The program is carried out in partnership with 45 national and international organizations of various countries.

IAOO is a multi-disciplinary international organization that brings together clinicians and scientist, working on issues relating to the aetiopathogenesis, epidemiology, prevention and management of oral cancer.

The three days of program will consist of six keynote presentations, fifteen symposia, six panel discussions, six debates and nine instructional courses and four lunch-time symposia. In addition, there will be ten society symposia. The preconference program will consist of head and neck cancer science symposium, AOCMF

Advanced symposium on maxillofacial reconstruction, flap harvesting cadaver course, symposia on oral potentially malignant lesions, early detection and prevention of oral cancer, and live surgical workshop of digital planning of mandibular reconstruction.

Our symposium will be entitled - **The challenges of reconstruction**. There will be three 15 minute presentations, followed by case presentations for 45 minutes.

Bangalore at that time of the year will be lovely and we would encourage anyone and everyone who has an interest in Head and Neck cancer to attend. As a special benefit for the partnering academic associations 20% reduction in the registration fee will be given to group registration of more than 25 members. This offer can only be availed along with First Call registration rate so please notify Jill McFarland by the **23rd November** as this will not be possible through online registration.

Financially, we could be in a better position, so I would urge you all to ensure that you pay your annual fee and when you meet representatives from medical companies – please try your best to persuade them to come to our annual meeting – please put them in touch with Jill in the BAHNO office so that we can get their sponsorship. As the annual meeting is very full – what are your thoughts about a one day meeting outside London later in the year? We would be interested in your views – please tell us.

This will be my final newsletter as President of BAHNO – it has been a great honour to act in this capacity and humbling when you look back at who has held this mantle – giants in the development of Head and Neck Surgery in the UK. I would like to thank all of you who have contributed and especially the help and support of BAHNO Council but in particular, a few thanks go to - Nick Roland who is the power behind the throne and his advice and solidity has been a real godsend and I am eternally grateful for his help. Sat Parmar and now Cyrus Kerawala have guided us forward financially so that we are in a better position now than previously and I am personally very grateful for their efforts. Hisham Mehanna has been a stalwart in his role as conference secretary and certainly has promoted us worldwide. My grateful thanks go to him.

The research group – chaired by Vin Paleri really has improved our standing scientifically so again, I am personally really grateful to him and his team for all their efforts.

Jill McFarland – I have been involved with BAHNO council in one capacity or other for over 10 years and in that time, the organisation has grown immeasurably. A lot of this occurred when Jill came on board and I had the privilege to work with her in my position as conference secretary which was transformed when she joined us and certainly

the day to day running of our organisation is a dream with her now running the show. She is a consummate professional who works tirelessly for us, always going the extra mile. I cannot thank her enough for everything she has done to help me as well as BAHNO.

Finally, if you have any other ideas to improve overall interaction and promote BAHNO then please get in touch. 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?”

*Diolch yn fawr*

## **BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting 2017 Hisham Mehanna, Honorary Conference Secretary**

Our 2016 Annual Meeting was by all accounts very successful, judging by the formal feedback that we received.

For the 2017 Annual Meeting we plan to continue developing the joint programmes with our allied health professional colleagues. This year our keynote Blair Hesketh Memorial Lecturer will be Professor Kate Hutcherson, Speech and Language Pathologist from MD Anderson. Kate has undertaken remarkable research into the causes of speech and language deficits following head and neck treatment and into interventions to improve these.

This will then be followed by a multidisciplinary case discussion panel on different aspects of functional deficits and ways of improving them including surgical and reconstructive techniques, radiotherapy aspects, and speech and language rehabilitative interventions. For the presentations sections we will, as last year, run two parallel sessions in the morning and two parallel sessions in the afternoon. Unlike last year, there will be more mixing of the presentations and we will aim to arrange them by topic so that delegates can decide which of the sessions they attend according to their interests ahead of time.

Our debate is entitled ‘Immunotherapy will replace chemotherapy as the standard of care in head and neck cancer’ and we have a stellar array of speakers, for the motion:

Professor Christian Ottensmeier, Southampton and Mr J-P Jeannon, London, and against the motion, Professor Kevin Harrington, London, and Professor J-P Machiels Belgium.

Please note that for administrative purposes, we have had to increase the ‘on-the-day’ registration fee significantly. Therefore I would encourage you to register for the meeting well in advance to avoid the additional fee. Also there is a discount if you are a registered BAHNO member, so I would encourage you to register as a member as well as register for the meeting, as that way you get the

benefits of BAHNO membership, as well as attending the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you and having another successful annual meeting.

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

BAHNO supports research bursaries and travel grants. The bursaries are usually up to £2000, and exceptionally a maximum award of £4000 may be given. The travel grants are for a maximum of £1000. Further details of this can be found at <http://bahno.org.uk/travel-research-grants/>

Competition is fierce, but the award is prestigious and I would encourage you to apply.

## **BAHNO Research Grant Report Detection of Circulating Biomarker in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)**

Over the last three decades the Human papillomavirus (HPV) has been implicated as the causative factor for HNSCC, especially of the oropharynx. While treatment of the HPV-associated tumours results in much better survival compared to HPV-negative cases, tumours with both HPV and tobacco exposure appear to be associated with an intermediate prognosis. Trials involving de-intensification of therapy in HPV-positive tumours are on-going, but an optimal method to risk-stratify patients remains unclear.

Detection of circulating biomarkers such as circulating tumour cells (CTC) and messenger RNA (mRNA) has the potential to play an important role in risk-stratification in order to identify patients who are likely to suffer treatment failure as well as providing a strategy for post-treatment surveillance.

We have used the BAHNO grant to optimise Real-Time Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-qPCR) to detect circulating mRNA for the following tumour markers associated with HNSCC: KRT-19, EGFR, LY6D, CDH2, MMP3, and Twist. We demonstrated that RT-qPCR is sensitive enough to detect ten tumour cells in 10<sup>6</sup> blood cells. We have also optimised a flow cytometry protocol, to detect actual tumour cells in blood samples, using the same markers. We are currently developing clones of keratinocyte HNSCC cell lines transfected with and without HPV oncoproteins E6 and E7 in order to delineate their impact on expression profile, invasiveness and proliferation.

Our ultimate aim is to use these techniques to interrogate our cohort of blood samples from 400 HNSCC patients and study how these biomarkers are correlated to the clinical behaviour.

**Andrew Harris / Woo-Young Yang**

## ACCEA update

**Nick Roland, Honorary Administrative Secretary**

### ACCEA 2017

For 2017 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 2017 round when it is announced. However, interested members should keep a watch on the ACCEA website for further information.

## The Head & Neck Consensus Guidelines

**Nick Roland, Honorary Administrative Secretary**

The Association is pleased to announce that the UK Guidelines are available through our website as a PDF download. We are grateful to all the contributors and particularly the effort and expertise of Vinidh Paleri in its production.

## BAHNO Treasurer's message

**Cyrus Kerawala**

Following agreement at this year's AGM to increase subscription fees we have also chosen to move towards a system of direct debit payments. Accordingly, in the near future you will be receiving a mandate form prompt completion of which would help matters considerably.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> December in order to be considered by BAHNO Council in March, and the successful applicant(s) will be announced at the AGM*

## Council:

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

### Elected members:

*Clinical oncology:  
Prof Chris Nutting  
Dr Bernadette Foran*

*Otolaryngology:  
Prof Vin Paleri  
Prof Jarrod Homer*

*Maxillofacial Surgery:  
Mr Sat Parmar  
Prof James McCaul*

*Plastic surgery:  
Mr Bill Townley  
Mr Omar Ahmed*

*Additional specialties:  
Pathology  
Dr Selvam Thavaraj*

*Trainee Rep:  
Mrs Lisa Fraser*

### Affiliate:

*Mrs Sally-Anne Philpott*

## For your diary :-

### BAHNO ANNUAL MEETING & AGM

**Date:** 12th May 2017

**Venue:** Royal College of Physicians London

**Title:** *Functional Rehabilitation in Head and Neck Cancer Patients*

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.bahno.org.uk)