

## Minutes of the BAHNO AGM

held 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 3.35pm

### 1. Apologies

These had been received from Professor Martin Ashley.

### 2. Minutes of the last AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

These were approved.

### 3. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Mr James O'Hara reported that BAHNO had a very healthy bank balance with around £105,000 available (up from £65,000 last year). Money had been spent wisely to enable the 2023 conference registration fees to remain at 2022 prices. There was also a Hardship Fund. The new website was an investment and he encouraged members to log-on and pay their membership fees through this portal.

### 4. Honorary Conference Secretary's Report

Professor Stuart Winter thanked Sam Womack from Aesculap Academia and Laura Manning in the BAHNO secretariat for help in preparing this year's Conference. He thanked delegates for attending – this year has broken attendance records.

### 5. Honorary Administrative Secretary's Report

Professor Andrew Schache gave details of the membership – 474 fully paid-up members including more than forty new members this calendar year, so far. Fifty members remain suspended for non-payment of fees – these people were encouraged to make payment. Approximately a quarter of the membership are ENT and OMFS surgeons; 10% are from Oncology. BAHNO has only a disparate knowledge of the membership demographics – members were encouraged to log-on and update their details so that the balance of gender / ethnicity etc can be monitored.

### 6. Adoption of amendments to Constitution

Members were notified in advance about proposals to change the Constitution. Professor Schache summarised the changes and a vote was taken. There was a unanimous vote in favour of the adoption of the proposed changes.

### 7. Elections to Council

Mr Ceri Hughes to succeed as President from Professor Vinidh Paleri. Mr David Hamilton will take over the Treasurer post from Mr James O'Hara. Ms Monica Fawzy is a new Plastic Surgery representative, Mr Omar Ahmed having served two terms; Mr Paul Nankivell is a new ENT representative as Professor Jarrod Homer has served two terms. Mr Michael Nugent will continue as OMFS representative for an unopposed second term. Ms Ashleigh Ivy joined Council as the trainee representative during the year.

## 8. Grants and Awards

Professor Schache reported that four applications were received for Research funding, all of which were of excellent or very high quality. Funding has been offered to Dr Karl Payne for his project, "Genetic polymorphisms as predictive biomarkers of immune-related adverse events in head and neck cancer patients undergoing immune checkpoint therapy".

A Travel Award was made to Mr Taka Sato to support an unpaid Fellowship in Taiwan.

## 9. Outgoing President's Address

Professor Vinidh Paleri announced that it had been a pleasure to work with such talented members of Council. He was delighted that there were so many delegates at this year's meeting – showing that the BAHNO meeting is an integral part of the academic calendar. He pointed out that an increasing workforce would lead to an increasing membership – obviously not the reason, in this case.

Professor Paleri highlighted some of the successes of the last couple of years:

- Equality and equity are now at the front and centre of BAHNO; there is a Council member for this specific brief
- Equity of voting rights for AHPs
- Code of conduct for members
- Diversity and specialty datasets now in operation
- Access to the conference widened by availability of a Hardship Fund and provision for childcare
- Improved visibility of women surgeons via a speakers' bureau
- Raising the bar for EDI with other organisations
- ACEIS audit

Professor Paleri emphasised that diversity makes us all stronger and called for continuance of this direction.

He outlined the progress in setting-up a national audit: still a lot of work to do on this but the coalition of head and neck charities means that some vital funding is in place.

Professor Paleri thanked Council and members for their support then gave a short and amusing introduction to his successor.

## 10. Incoming President's Address

Mr Ceri Hughes thanked Professor Paleri for his introduction and thanked BAHNO members for placing their trust in him for the next two years. He requested help from members to achieve progress in projects such as new fellowship opportunities: "Please return survey requests!".

## 11. AOB

Professor Schache paid credit to the work and support provided by Laura Manning in the BAHNO secretariat.

## 12. Date of next AGM

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 during BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting.