Autumn Newsletter 2026

President's message



Chris Nutting

The summer months have been a busy time for BAHNO, with members representing the Association at international meetings, contributing to national educational events and advancing our clinical guidance.

In August, BAHNO members travelled to Brisbane for the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) World Congress, Australia's largest ever head and neck cancer meeting, with over 1,100 attendees. BAHNO hosted a symposium entitled *'Delivering Optimal Head and Neck Cancer Management'*, represented by an expert panel of 5 speakers.



The BAHNO panel and moderators following the society session at IFHNOS 2026, August 2026.

Together, the presentations reflected BAHNO's multidisciplinary strengths and showed how evidence, training, innovation and rehabilitation must remain connected across the patient pathway. The session represented BAHNO strongly within the international programme and shared relevant UK experience with colleagues from other health systems.

Speakers were selected through a competitive, open-call application process to the entire BAHNO membership, with submissions assessed by BAHNO Council. This approach reflects BAHNO's commitment to its Equity and Inclusion framework, with similar opportunities offered to members for the forthcoming BAHNO symposia at the ECHNO Congress in Berlin in March 2027 and the IAOO World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in May 2027

In September, many BAHNO members attended the Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Oncology Meeting in York, marking the second year of BAHNO's support for this national meeting, which attracted over 100 delegates.

The programme included a dedicated BAHNO session on transoral robotic surgery and case-based discussions on adjuvant treatment following surgery, led by BAHNO members from the Liverpool Head and Neck Centre.





The wider programme also covered use of perioperative immunotherapy, palliative radiotherapy and developments in systemic treatment.

Another important development this year has been the publication of BAHNO's guidance on neoadjuvant and adjuvant immunotherapy for patients undergoing surgery for head and neck cancer. Developed with multidisciplinary input from colleagues across the UK, the guidelines have been endorsed by ENT-UK and BAOMS. I encourage members to read and make use of this important resource (BAHNO Guidelines).

Looking ahead, I look forward to welcoming members to our Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday 14 May 2027 at the Business Design Centre, Islington. This year's meeting will focus on salivary gland cancer management and promises an excellent opportunity for multidisciplinary learning and discussion. Please save the date and I hope to see many of you there.

Follow BAHNO on LinkedIn and Instagram.

Membership opportunities and invitations

BAHNO Honorary Secretary update



Somiah Siddiq

Help shape the future of BAHNO – Council nominations open

Nominations open on Monday 23 November 2026 for six positions on BAHNO Council. We encourage members across eligible specialties and career stages to consider standing for Council. We welcome a diverse field of candidates, reflecting the breadth of expertise and experience across our multidisciplinary membership. Nominations close **17:00 Mon 4 Jan 2027**. Council positions available are:

- Honorary Treasurer (Trustee position)
- ENT Surgery Representative
- Plastic Surgery Representative
- Oncology Representative
- Radiology Representative
- Associate Members (trainee) Representative

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION HERE

SUPPORT2 – Supporting Surgeons After Adverse Events

The Royal College of Surgeons of England launched SUPPORT2 on 17 September 2026, a national initiative to strengthen peer support for surgeons following adverse events.

The launch explored how wider inequities within surgery can shape the experiences of different surgeon groups, including how supported surgeons feel, their ability to seek help and the potential for heightened vigilance in navigating the workplace. Several Head and Neck Consultants from participating sites in Portsmouth, London, Leeds, Newcastle and East Grinstead were among the wider group of surgeons attending the launch. **Further information via:** SUPPORT2 – RCS England



BAHNO Research Grants – Apply Now

BAHNO offers annual research grants of up to £6,000 to support research in head and neck or thyroid cancer.

Applications are invited from UK-employed BAHNO members, with priority given to trainees, early-career researchers and those without significant existing research funding. Applications from non-medical allied health professionals (NMAHPs) are particularly encouraged.

Application closing date: 28 January annually.

Download the application form and find further information on the BAHNO website.

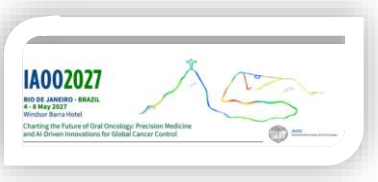


BAHNO is seeking a trainee or early-career Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional (NMAHP) to join its multidisciplinary Research Committee for a two-year term.

Working alongside senior researchers and clinicians from across the head and neck cancer community, you will contribute to reviewing BAHNO research grant applications and help shape future funding initiatives. The role offers valuable insight into research funding, peer review and research leadership, while supporting research opportunities for early-career researchers across all disciplines. The time commitment is modest and flexible.

Interested in getting involved? Please send a one-page CV and a statement (maximum 250 words) outlining why you would like to be considered to secretariat@bahno.org.uk. Informal discussions are welcome. **Closing date: Mon 21st Dec 2026**

BAHNO symposium
IAOO 2027 Brazil
6-8 May 2027



We invite expressions of interest to present evidence, emerging data, service innovation, and research relevant to improving outcomes in Oral Oncology. Representation from across the MDT is strongly encouraged.

5 selected speakers will be allocated 15–20-min presentations.
BAHNO will support up to £1000 towards expenses per speaker. Please submit abstracts (250 words max.) to secretariat@bahno.org.uk by closing date **Mon 30th November 2026**.

Membership updates

Conference secretary



Clare Schilling

Please save the date for the BAHNO 2027 Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday 14 May 2027 at the Business Design Centre, London, with a special focus on salivary gland cancer. The meeting will bring together the multidisciplinary head and neck community to discuss advances in diagnosis, treatment and research, alongside the wider challenges of delivering care for rare cancers.

Abstract submissions are anticipated to open in Nov 2026, and we encourage colleagues across all disciplines and career stages to share their research, clinical innovations and service improvement work across head and neck oncology and especially in relation to salivary cancer.

Follow BAHNO on LinkedIn and Instagram for updates on early bird registration, abstract submissions and programme announcements. We look forward to welcoming you to BAHNO 2027!



BAHNO Membership Renewal- New Payment System from Jan 2027

BAHNO membership subscriptions will move to Stripe, a secure online payment platform. Members will be able to choose between manual annual payments and automatic renewals, retaining control over their payment preferences.

No action is required until your next renewal is due. Members will receive an email with a direct payment link or can renew through the Members' Area of the BAHNO website.

Please ensure your membership category accurately reflects your current status.

READ THE FULL GUIDANCE: HOW TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

