

**Minutes of the BAHNO AGM
held 14th May 2021 at 3.40pm
(virtual platform)**

Present (on screen):

Professor Cyrus Kerawala – outgoing President
Mr James O’Hara – Honorary Treasurer
Mr Ceri Hughes – Honorary Conference Secretary
Professor Vindh Paleri – incoming President

Minutes: Ms Laura Manning

The meeting was opened and Chaired by Mr James O’Hara.

1. Apologies

These had been received from Professor Peter Brennan.

2. Honorary Treasurer’s Report

Mr O’ Hara reported that the association is in a very good position with over £85,000 in funds available – up from £70,000 last year. Council, therefore had sufficient funds to plan for this year’s virtual meeting without confirmation that the event would be supported. He confirmed that there are sufficient funds available to support membership activities. Mr O’Hara mentioned and recommended the BAHNO Amazon Smile scheme: by buying through this scheme, a small percentage of the price comes to BAHNO (at no extra cost to the purchaser). Details are available on the BAHNO website and members are encouraged to take advantage of this scheme when buying through Amazon.

3. Honorary Conference Secretary’s Report

Mr Ceri Hughes was delighted that Council gave the go-ahead to hold a virtual meeting this year: many thanks to Samantha Womack of Aesculap Academia and the team at the RCP. He reported that 338 clinicians had registered for the event and, along with the sponsors, there were close to 400 attending today’s meeting – the biggest number, to date. The organising committee were impressed with the standard of the 216 abstract submissions received. The virtual platform has meant that there are twice as many oral presentations than usual (38) and 86 posters. Mr Hughes thanked Council for their help.

4. **Honorary Administrative Secretary's Report**

Professor Peter Brennan's pre-recorded presentation was then shown. In it, he reported that membership of the association is at an all-time high with nearly 500 members; 116 new members since January 2020. The results of the elections returned Professor Vindh Paleri as President, Dr Claire Paterson as Oncology Representative and Mr Rob Isaac as Associate Representative. Following on from the decision to allow a Restorative Dentist Representative onto Council, he was pleased to be able to welcome Ms Lorna McCaul in this capacity. Mr Ceri Hughes was elected, unopposed, as Honorary Conference Secretary and Dr Adam Jones will continue as Pathology Representative (also unopposed). Thanks were made to the Council members who had stood down after their terms of office: Dr Bernie Foran and Mr Arun Takhar. Also huge thanks to Professor Kerawala who has led the association through such a difficult time.

BAHNO now has a good relationship with the JOPM and abstracts from the Annual Meeting will, again, be published in the journal. The new BAHNO Standards have also been published in the Journal and are available, for free download, by special arrangement.

Professor Brennan thanked everyone on Council for their hard work and thanked Ms Laura Manning in the Secretariat office. Samantha Womack at Aesculap Academia was also thanked for facilitating this meeting.

Professor Brennan looked forward to seeing everyone in person at next year's meeting.

5. **Grants and Awards**

Mr O'Hara encouraged members to visit the BAHNO website for information about grants and awards available. He reported that, of the three applications for a travel grant submitted this year, Council decided to award only one: to Mr Karan Jolly. Mr Jolly was applying for support for an unpaid Fellowship and Council will give priority to these types of projects in future. In consequence of only one award (of £1,000) being made available this year there will be up to five grants available next year.

There were two research grant applications and the Research Committee recommended that both should receive £3,000. The successful applicants were Dr Justin Roe for a qualitative study to explore the views of ENT and GI Specialists on SLT-led clinics as a pathway for patients triaged as 'low risk' referred on the 2WW Head and Neck/ Upper GI cancer referral pathway; Dr Artysa Tailor for a project to compare PD-L1 combined positive scores between a cohort of oral squamous cell carcinoma primary and recurrent specimens.

6. Elections to Council

These had already been reported in Professor Brennan's presentation.

7. Outgoing President's Address

Professor Kerawala spoke of the huge honour he had had in serving as BAHNO President. Many of his plans had been scuppered by the pandemic but he was proud to have been able to oversee the updating of the BAHNO Standards and to, finally, be able to invite Dr Bell to speak at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Despite not being able to have a face-to-face meeting last year, BAHNO had initiated a well-received series of webinars. BAHNO also produced national collaborative guidelines for working in a Covid-19 scenario – these will be updated, as required for future pandemics.

Professor Kerawala then gave a light-hearted introduction to his successor, Professor Vindh Paleri who he commended as a 'safe pair of hands'.

8. New President

Professor Vindh Paleri assured members that he considered it a huge honour to be voted in as the new President; he was somewhat surprised as his competitor was Professor Chris Nutting, an esteemed colleague. Professor Paleri welcomed the new members of Council to his team and paid thanks to Professor Kerawala for his steady hand in keeping BAHNO afloat in the last two years. He also spoke of the challenges ahead – as the only truly multi-specialty organisation for head and neck cancer, BAHNO will need to be at the forefront of preparing guidelines for the recovery of the service post-Covid. Guidance will also be needed on how to cope with the immense problem of the huge backlog of patients and the way to protect the service from future pandemics.

9. Any Other Business

There was none.

10. Date of next AGM

This will be during the BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the RCP on 13th May 2022.