

BAHNO Newsletter Autumn 2020



The President's Letter

Professor Cyrus Kerawala

Well that was a strange year to be President. I suspect none of us saw COVID-19 coming and even if we had none of us would have believed the changes it would have made to our professional and private lives.

The day-to-day business of the Association has continued unabated but had to react to an ever-changing landscape. In an attempt to support our working lives throughout the pandemic there has been much focus on guidelines and I am grateful to the large number of our members who have worked tirelessly to help produce them, either as stand-alone BAHNO documents or in collaboration with other societies such as ENT-UK and BAOMS. Like many other associations we also branched into the field of webinars (producing arguably one of the most memorable events of 2020!) and I would like to thank those of you who contributed to that environment.

Before COVID struck one of our main focuses during the year was updating the BAHNO standards document which was first published in 2009. Despite it being over a decade old it was still widely referred to in arenas as diverse as local Trusts and Royal College invited reviews. Since the practice of head and neck oncology has progressed dramatically over those ten years an update was long overdue and I remain indebted to the enthusiasm and rigor of Stuart Winter and Andrew Schache without whom the project might have floundered. We have produced a multidisciplinary document with input from a total of 20 experts in all of the medical and surgical disciplines involved in head and neck cancer care along with our AHP colleagues and representatives from a host of other specialties with whom we collaborate on a daily basis. The final document will be circulated through the website and also available as an open access publication in the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine.

Our Sub-committees continue to do sterling work and I must thank all of the respective chairs and members. Given the pandemic their efforts have of necessity been hampered by the rigors of professional life but as we emerge into 2021 I have no doubt that they will pick up the reins again.

The highlight of the year for me was the BAHNO challenge (hence the picture!). During COVID an international research collaboration (CovidSurg Cancer) was set up to evaluate 30-day infection rates in elective surgery but it seemed to be too good an opportunity to miss not to support research into the long-term impact on the 2000 or so head and neck cancer patients included. So on a sunny day in August over 60 participants completed a virtual run or cycle along the 1400 kilometre route from Land's End to John O'Groats.



There was a wonderfully inclusive feel as the momentum grew before the event and BAHNO members were joined by physiotherapists, GPs and medical students to name but a few. In all we have

raised an impressive £21,801.36, helped in no part by the marathon feats of James Douglas and Angela Hancock. In particular the success of the event reflects the organisational efforts of Andrew Schache and Jason Fleming.



Many of us branched into Twitter for the first time (@CKerawala...you know you want to follow me!) which in itself was an education but I have no doubt helped spread the word. I am sure that if another worthy cause came along in the future some similar formula might prove equally fruitful.

The running of the Association could not take place without the continued enthusiasm and input of Council members. I would particularly like to thank the tireless efforts of Peter Brennan, James O'Hara and Ceri Hughes from whom you will hear later in the newsletter. Laura works equally hard with extreme efficiency and keeps us all on the straight and narrow! As a result of all these endeavours our finances continue to strengthen and we become more of a force within public and professional arenas.

I would finally like to thank you all for your continuing support both for the Association and its activities. Your response to membership initiatives and willingness to partake has in no small way led to the success of BAHNO in this most tumultuous of years. If any of you have any ideas or require support from the Association in any way please feel free to get in contact.

I hope that all of you get a well-deserved break over the Christmas period and I wish you and your families a very safe and healthy 2021.



Report from
**Professor
Peter
Brennan**
Honorary
Secretary

BAHNO membership has increased to 491 (up by over 40 on the previous year) and hopefully will reach the milestone of 500 before too long. Secure migration of

member details to a new platform called LightMedia has been completed which will make the collection of direct debits and invoicing much easier.

Several positions on BAHNO Council including 2022 President were advertised recently. A ballot will now take place for the post of President and Associate Representative - details to follow.

The BAHNO guidelines, updated for 2020 will be published before the end of the year. Through my position as Editor in Chief of the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine, I have been able to negotiate having these published in the Journal for wider dissemination to colleagues around the world. It is likely that BAHNO will pay the journal publishers for the guidelines to be made Open Access for all to access, worldwide, free of charge.

There was no National Clinical Excellence Award (ACCEA) round in 2020 due to the pandemic. Colleagues who were due to renew their awards in 2021 have been given a year extension if they applied by the closing date. It is likely that a new awards and renewal round will open before the end of the year – please watch out for announcements from the ACCEA website. BAHNO will also inform members and is able to support up to 9 bronze, 7 silver and 3 gold applications. It is possible that there will be two new awards rounds this time (for 2020 and 2021). Of note is that the ACCEA scheme is going to change in 2022. The details have not been finalised but I attended the discussion groups over

the summer and it is likely that domains 1 and 2 (delivering and developing a high-quality service) may be combined. It is also likely that new awards will not be pensionable, thereby following the local CEA scheme. No other information is available present of how this might affect existing award holders.



Report from
**Mr James
O'Hara**
Honorary
Treasurer

Thanks to our growing membership, BAHNO remains in a healthy financial position. However, a well-attended annual scientific meeting potentially brings in significant profits for the council to invest into other projects. The loss of this year's meeting and the change in format proposed for 2021 is a cause of some financial concern. But we are all learning through the current environment – council meetings held over videoconference have proven very effective and save on significant travel costs! Following the success of the charity bike ride, BAHNO has broadened its methods of attracting charity donations. Our website now contains a PayPal donation option, and we would encourage all members to purchase their Amazon orders through smile.amazon.co.uk as BAHNO will receive a donation on each transaction. (Other on-line tech giants are available to buy your

essentials through....but we won't receive anything from them!).

Please can we ask all members to ensure you are paying the correct subscription rates and can we encourage all members to switch to direct debit payments? Our financial viability ensures we can invest in important areas such as educational events, research awards and travel grants. We would encourage all members to look at these funding opportunities.



Report from
**Mr Ceri
Hughes**
Conference
Secretary

It has been a unsettling time for us all and it was a great disappointment that our annual meeting could not take place this year. We had record numbers of submissions of a very high standard and hope this continues in the future.

We considered publishing the accepted papers but decided that this would be complicated if delegates were unable to submit work to other journals due to dual publication rules but had not had a chance to present in front of our national forum. Please continue your work and submit next year.

At our recent council meeting we discussed the many ways of holding our Annual

meeting next year. We have listened carefully to the experiences of other organisations and whilst we cannot predict the course of the current pandemic, we felt it was likely to disrupt a traditional conference in some way. A hybrid meeting was discussed but we have decided to make the meeting entirely web based. With our partners 'Aesculap Academia', we are currently exploring novel IT platforms that allow a 'virtual conference' experience. These look really promising and as near the BAHNO day as we can hope for. We will have a similar format but hope to have a more interactive experience. From a delegate's point of view, we would like everyone to set the BAHNO Annual meeting date in their diary and to prepare manuscripts and posters as always. The submission deadlines are likely to be the same and we will use the same system as the previous two years. We look forward to having you 'virtually there'.....

BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting Friday 14th May 2021

Abstracts are invited for next year's meeting – please submit in the usual way through the website: <https://bahno2021.exordo.com>.

Elections

There have been two nominations for the post of President: Professor Chris Nutting and Professor Vin Paleri. Statements from these two candidates are available on the BAHNO website.

There have also been two nominations for the Associate Members' Representative: Robert Isaac and Rupali Sawant. Details of these candidates may be found on the website, too.

Ballot papers will be issued shortly.

BAHNO Travel Grants

Members wishing to embark on career-enhancing study, either in the UK or abroad, are invited to apply for a travel grant towards the costs.

The deadline for applications is 21st January 2021.

https://www.bahno.org.uk/clinicians_are_a/travel_research_grants.aspx

Lost members

There are number of members of BAHNO who have 'fallen off' the list because their contact details are no longer current. We would very much like to keep in contact with these people – if you know anyone on this list, please could you ask them to contact the secretariat?

Mr P J Anderson
Mr A R Birzgalis
Mr L Cascarini
Mr St J Crean
Mr J C Devine
Dr Karen Dyker
Dr D D Errington
R W R Farrell
Mr P Gurr

Mr A W Hilger
Mr D J Houghton
Mr J B Kinsella
Mr S G Langton
Mr E B Larkin
Mr P Martinez
Mr R H Phillips
Mr D P Pierse
Mr B D Swinson
Mss L Thomas
Mr P C Weaver
LHLC Ltd

Please let the secretariat know of changes of address – particularly of emails and mobile phone numbers.

Membership fees

These will be due in January. Invoices will be issued and for those of you who pay by Direct Debit (thank you!) notification will be given in advance of the payment being requested. If you still have an old Standing Order instruction in place with your bank, **please ensure it is for the correct amount.**

The fees remain unchanged at:

Full	£80
Associate	£40
Overseas	£40
Affiliate	£25

Membership of BAHNO also gives you membership of the European Head and Neck Society and of IFHNOS.