

BAHNO Newsletter – Autumn 2024



Message from the President – Mr Ceri Hughes

Dear Members

It feels fortunate that despite so many dangerous and dramatic events taking place internationally that we have a safe working environment and the stability of a political system not possible in many parts of the world. BAHNO offers its sympathy and support to any of its international membership or their families who are suffering at this time.

As promised, we have carried out a survey of our membership and still only have 120 responses from a membership of over 500. We are very keen that change which occurs within the organisation is driven from within its membership and would urge you to have your say. Now is the time to change your organisation.

If you have not already done so, please take 6 minutes to take the questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVK5G7Q>

In light of previous hard work done by BAHNO council we continue to push the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion agenda and hope that BAHNO can continue to place itself at the forefront of this issue with its reputation and actions both at home and internationally being paramount. BAHNO has recently written to its affiliated organisations and has challenged them to demonstrate they hold similar beliefs and values in this respect. We intend to review their responses at our Autumn council meeting and to end affiliations with those organisations which clearly digress from our EDI aims.

Hard work continues from Stuart Winter and our conference team who will stage next year's Annual Scientific meeting. Please put the date in your diary (16th May) as we have many improvements planned to enhance last year's successful meeting. Abstract submission will open shortly.

Finally, I am very pleased that we have established the Accredited Short Fellowship (ASF) programme. We have our first Fellows appointed and would encourage members to apply for the new round of appointments when they are released. This is also an opportunity for teams to consider offering to host a fellowship in their unit. It is often the case that these opportunities are assumed to be surgical or oncology based. This is not the case, and BAHNO realises that short fellowships in other areas such as specialist nursing, speech and language, palliative care, pathology, dietetics etc are often overlooked. If you have suggestions, please speak to someone on council.

Enjoy your Autumn.

BAHNO 2025 – Professor Stuart Winter

After the success of the 2024 conference planning is well underway for 2025. After much debate it has been agreed to stay at the Business Design Centre for at least one more year. While the centre offered many advantages over the RCP there were a few problems that we feel can be ironed out for 2025.



Sam Holmes and Mehmet Sen have joined the planning committee and work is underway to offer a broad programme in 2025.

BAHNO 2025
Annual Scientific Meeting
Friday 16th May | London
Join the Waiting List

BAHNO
BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF
HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGISTS



A Dataset for Histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the salivary gland has been issued from the Royal College of Pathologists. It is available on the [BAHNO website \(Publications\)](#).



National Audit Update – Professor Vin Paleri

I am delighted to announce that the national head and neck cancer audit (NaHaNCA) will commence in November 2024, following a long gestation, dating back to spring 2022.

For several years, the BAHNO membership have clearly expressed the need for a national audit that is anchored to clinical outcomes. The BAHNO council approached this issue systematically, with pragmatism built into it. The council took a long-term view, aiming to deliver an audit process that will be sustainable, while learning from the national audits that have taken place in the past within our specialty and also from successful national audits for other cancer sites. The council took into consideration the resource limitations arising from NHS processes, while at the same time ensuring that the audit meets the needs of the patients, professionals and commissioning organisations.

The council took especial care to engage with other national processes (e.g., GIRFT) in this space to avoid overlap. The council sought input from multiple stakeholders relevant to the process, which included professional organisations, patient groups and charitable entities dedicated to head and neck cancer.

Following exploration of three options, the council concluded that a national audit in collaboration with the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN; <https://www.natcan.org.uk/>), who have been delivering national audits for other cancer types successfully for several years, was the best option. The council was also informed by a concurrent piece of work that was being undertaken by the International Centre for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer using the same methodology in collaboration with NATCAN, with preliminary results from 6 years of data showing results with excellent content validity. A working group was formed, and a draft protocol, detailing the methodology and outputs with projected timelines was created and costed appropriately. The council was greatly supported in this venture by the Head and Neck Cancer Coalition (<https://hncuk.org/>) which had formed around the time of the pandemic, who spearheaded the fundraising programme and freely offered their time to input into the protocol from a patient and carer perspective. The council also engaged with NHS England to make them aware of our plans to set an audit; preliminary discussions with NHS England indicated that they would consider funding future audits, akin to other cancer audits run by NATCAN, if our methodology were to demonstrate feasibility. The protocol then underwent a consultation process with all relevant stakeholders (fig 1: legend is “Stakeholder meeting to discuss NaHaNCA protocol where Professor Jarrod Homer presents GIRFT progress”)

Briefly, the methodology involves linking up the nine administrative cancer datasets at the patient level, identifying patterns (dynamic phenomics), and validating the patterns using robust techniques that have been proven to be effective in several cancers.

The process will be delivered via 4 work packages, with each consecutive with package building on the previous one. Work package (WP) 1 will develop and evaluate performance indicators; WP 2 will examine variation in processes and outcomes, and WP 3 will identify areas with greatest potential for improvement. Finally, WP 4 will extend the audit to less common cancer sites such as the nasopharynx and salivary glands.

The process has been costed at £ £273,488.67. The council has actively engaged with national head neck cancer charities and professional stakeholder organisations. Till date, in addition to BAHNO, £210,000 has been pledged for the process from the following organisations: BAHNON, GetAHead charitable trust, National Association of Laryngectomee Clubs, NorthWest Cancer Research, Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK, RD-UK, HaNC Liverpool and the Young Tongues charity. The council has reached out to other organisations and are waiting to hear the outcome and is confident of meeting the funding requirements.

A contract for research funding has been signed with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine by Mr Ceri Hughes, president of BAHNO, on the 7th of September 2024. Dr Thomas Cowling, Associate Professor in health services research will lead on the project, with senior input from Professor Kate Walker, Professor of Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Tamara Kahn, chief executive of Oracle cancer trust, will be the key liaison from the service user's perspective. I will serve as the clinical liaison and the BAHNO executive will function as the clinical expert group; this group will invite contributions from the membership as and when required.

BAHNO looks forward to working with the membership on this important project.

Vin Paleri, Tamara Kahn, Thomas Cowling

Outputs

- Local Reports- MDT Network
- National Report- mid 2024 (maybe later...)
 - Report of mapping, national-level metrics and soft data/evidence to inform what excellent HNC care looks like (in terms of structure)- with recommendations.
 - e.g. MDT networks, staffing levels, addressing common problems in England, surgical centres, RT centres, on-going data collection





ORACLE

Head & Neck Cancer UK

In May 2024, Oracle Cancer Trust and the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation united to form Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK. As part of the merger and rebranding, their Public Relations efforts and website (oraclehnc.org.uk) has been significantly improved to reflect the charity's focus on raising awareness by delivering and supporting campaigns to increase public knowledge of head and neck cancers. Examples of this are:

- The Signaway Cancer campaign tied into the autumn HPV vaccination programme for year 12 children, where take-up has dropped to 52% and 56% for boys and girls respectively.
- The Head Neck Cancer Check campaign gives the general public a 1-minute guide and video on how to check themselves for head and neck cancer at home in the mirror as well as the importance of regular dental check-ups.

Engagement with Patients and Carers is also a key focus on the website (oraclehnc.org.uk) to drive understanding and improvements to patient and carer experiences. The website has an extensive "what to expect" guide for the various treatments and side effects that patients and caregivers will experience. Based on their research of the "key words" that people use in search engines, they've focused the new website on head and neck cancer types and patient stories that users can better relate to through videos, articles and podcasts.

In the coming weeks, Oracle HNCUK will be focusing on rebuilding distinct sections of their website for clinical researchers/practitioners and translational researchers with links back to bahno.org.uk

Forthcoming events

- | | |
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| 15 th November 2024 | International Head & Neck Cancer Quality of Life Conference
Wellington Place, Leeds |
| 7 th February 2025 | BSHNI Head & Neck Imaging Refresher Course
Cardiff |
| 16 th May 2025 | BAHNO 2025
BDC, Islington, London |
| 16 th – 19 th July 2025 | IAOO 2025
Liverpool |



10TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ORAL ONCOLOGY
IAOO2025
LIVERPOOL, UK

The International Academy of Oral Oncology (IAOO) invites you to the 10th World Congress of the International Academy of Oral Oncology, held in Liverpool, UK from 16-19 July 2025.

Call for Abstracts ----- OPEN NOW ----- [Submit Abstract](#)



10TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ORAL ONCOLOGY
IAOO2025
LIVERPOOL, UK

Jointly hosted by IAOO and by the British Association of Head & Neck Oncologists (BAHNO), the congress is expected to attract over 1,000 delegates and will cover a broad range of disciplines including:

Head & Neck Surgery | Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | Otorhinolaryngology
Clinical Oncology | Medical Oncology | Speech & Language Therapy | Pathology
Allied Health Professionals | Dentistry | Head & Neck Nursing
Basic & Translational Scientists

A world-class Scientific Programme and accompanying Social Programme, inclusive and accessible to all, will share the best scientific and educational content available to healthcare professionals involved in the management of oral malignancy.



The Arena & Conference Centre (ACC) Liverpool is a spectacular waterside purpose-build conference venue in central Liverpool, conveniently located for many of the tourist attractions, newly developed docks, Beatles Museum, and world famous Three Graces.



16 - 19 JULY 2025

The first truly international head and neck congress to be held in the UK and the largest ever held, with clinicians expected from around the UK and the world.



SCAN ME

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 16 July 2025

Pre-Congress Symposia including:
8th International Symposium for Sentinel Node Biopsy in Head and Neck Cancer
14th International Head & Neck Cancer Quality of Life Conference

Thursday 17 July 2025

Opening Ceremony, Scientific Programme, Networking Drinks

Friday 18 July 2025

Scientific Programme, Gala Dinner

Saturday 19 July 2025

Scientific Programme, Closing Ceremony

- 4 x Pre-Congress sessions
- 9 Parallel sessions
- 11 Internationally renowned Keynote speakers
- 40+ Symposia
- Panel Discussions
- Instructional sessions
- Exhibition
- Networking

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Ms Clare Schilling

Associate Professor of the Head & Neck Academic Centre



Prof Christian Ottensmeier

Professor of Immuno-Oncology

Dr Chi T. Viet

Associate Professor



Neal D. Futran, MD, DMD

Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology

Early Bird Registration Rates & Discount for BAHNO members

For more information visit www.iaoo2025.com

BAHNO awards

Research awards: Up to £6,000 may be available from BAHNO for your research needs. A proposal and the CV to be submitted to BAHNO secretariat before 21st January.

Travel grants: up to £2,000 available to help fund a training experience. Priority will be given to unpaid projects rather than to salaried Fellowships. Closing date for applications: 21st January.

The first BAHNO Accredited Short Fellowships were awarded this year:

Manish Mair - Multidisciplinary fellowship at UCL (London) with exposure to Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Head & Neck

Siona Growcott - Clinical Oncology fellowship at The Christie Hospital (Manchester) with the focus being Proton Beam Therapy.

Next year's fellowship opportunities will be announced soon.

Membership

A reminder that invoices for your 2025 membership fees will be issued at the beginning of January. If you have changed status from trainee to consultant, please inform the [secretariat](#) so that the transition to a higher payment level will go smoothly. If you currently pay by Direct Debit you may like to consider switching to another method of payment: the online payment system (STRIPE) available through our website also offers a regular payment option, which may suit your needs. Direct Debit is quite a costly enterprise for a small organisation.

Please log on to your membership area – all your invoices, receipts and other information may be found there. Please keep your contact details up-to-date!

Women For Oncology UK (WFOUK)

BAHNO has been notified that this society is being formed by Seline Ismail-Sutton

The core aims are to:

- Encourage women to pursue a career in oncology by creating a space to share opportunities and challenges.
- Promote diversity and gender equality in all aspects of oncology

As part of this society there will be:

- A mentoring scheme: A medical student/ junior doctor will be connected with an individual

with experience in a career in oncology/ leadership/ academia. Regular virtual meetings will take place to create and tackle personalised goals, provide guidance and encouragement

- A series of virtual lectures and workshops. This will include talks from individuals in leadership and academic roles, personalised based on demand and provide opportunities for Q&As
- A safe and supportive forum to share any aspirations, concerns or challenges and seek advice and encouragement.

The society is currently seeking individuals that would like to become part of the society:

- Both mentors and mentees
- Individuals interested in taking a lecture/workshop
- Volunteers to help run the society

To gauge interest, please complete this google form to indicate which areas interest you. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaAbg8-j9lQj1ECP0a85Lh8NDyNdewbiAsexL9qMlePkp3Ag/viewform?usp=sf_link

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