

BAHNO Newsletter – Summer 2023

BAHNO ASM 2023

This year's meeting exceeded records on all fronts! The wide-ranging programme attracted over 390 delegates – including a sizable number who had never previously attended a BAHNO meeting. Congratulations are due to Professors Paleri and Winter for a diverse and inclusive programme.

The Blair Hesketh Lecturer, Liz O'Riordan, speaking about her experience of changing the landscape of cancer care from the unique perspective as both surgeon and patient.

There are some more photographs available [on the website.](#)



The prize-winners for the oral presentation were:

Tom Dudding - Genome study of head and neck cancer incidence: an international collaborative study

Paul Nankivell - Development of a complex intervention of PET-CT guided, patient-initiated follow-up in head and neck cancer: the PETNECK2 study

Stephen Robertson - The diagnostic management of cancer of unknown primary - a single centre experience (GSTT)

The Poster Prize was awarded to:

Tengku Nur Sabrina Tengku Saifudin - Electroporation with calcium for cutaneous malignancy of the head and neck - a case series

All abstracts chosen for oral presentation will be published in a future edition of the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine.

Council is now actively considering how to build on the successes of the 2023 AAM including whether to extend the event duration and/or change to a larger venue. Details will be announced as soon as possible – but BAHNO 2024 will be an event to watch out for!

Constitution

The AGM this year voted to accept Council's proposals for amendments to the Constitution. The Constitution now enshrines the rights of ALL members to vote on BAHNO matters and confirms that individual members are expected to maintain the Code of Conduct detailed in the Association's EDI statement. The revised Constitution is available in the [Members' area of the BAHNO website](#)

Publications

The specialty representatives on Council are responsible for liaising with parent specialty organisations in preparing guidelines and other publications. When approved, these may be found on the BAHNO website. [Publications | BAHNO - British Association of Head & Neck Oncologists](#)

GIRFT launches NHS Cancer Programme review into services for head and neck cancer patients

NHS England's GIRFT programme has appointed a team of [seven specialist clinicians](#) to lead a national review into services for head and neck cancer patients.

Commissioned and funded by NHS England's Cancer Programme, the new workstream will focus on supporting England's Cancer Alliances to better provide timely, equitable and effective care which delivers the best outcomes for both patients and NHS colleagues. The review aims to cover organisational issues, such as MDT working and workforce, as well as specific stages along the pathway, including improving time to diagnosis and treatment. A questionnaire for trusts is being prepared to help gather data on the current picture for services, and the team hope to begin deep dive visits in summer 2023.

The seven appointed clinicians have a wealth of knowledge from across the MDT, including speech and language therapy, oral and maxillofacial surgery, plastic surgery, dietetics, nursing and oncology. [Find out more](#) on the GIRFT website.

IFHNOS

BAHNO were invited to send a panel to Rome for this year's IFHNOS meeting. Professor Paleri led a group from BAHNO:

This year IFHNOS was held in the magnificent ancient city of Rome, Italy. The conference was set over the course of a week from 21st to 25th June. The historic city hosted Otolaryngological, Oral & Maxillofacial and Oncology colleagues from all over the world with representation from every continent of the globe. It truly reflected the global village that we live in, that allows for closer collaboration alongside sharing and learning to overcome mutual challenges in head and neck oncological research.

Professor Vinidh Paleri was kind enough to extend an invitation to my postgraduate doctors in training colleagues, Mr John Hardman (ENT), Dr Anna Olsson-Brown (Oncology) and I (Basim Dawoud - Oral & Maxillofacial) who chair INTEGRATE, National Oncology Trainees Collaborative for Healthcare (NOTCH) and Maxillofacial Trainees Research Collaborative (MTReC) respectively to the conference on behalf of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncology (BAHNO). The theme of the BAHNO session was on “trainee collaboratives in head and neck oncological research”.

The BAHNO event truly gave a different dimension to the conference by allowing presentations and discussion of a rapidly evolving methodological area which is collaborative research. All three post graduate doctors in training presented their unique insights, successes and challenges that they have faced as chairs of their respective collaborative bodies. There were overlapping themes between the talks but all shared one common goal – encouraging and supporting ‘grassroots’ researchers to engage and positively contribute to clinical research. Each collaborative have successfully demonstrated how a network of enthusiastic trainees with supportive consultants are able to design, produce and publish impactful research.

The slot given for the presentations and discussion was towards the end of a mentally stimulating and engaging day. However, despite the tired body and minds of the delegates, Professor Paleri had successfully encouraged esteemed colleagues from multiple continents to attend which gave the nucleus for what followed to be an incredibly stimulating engaging debate. In particular, the President of the European Head & Neck Society (Professor Giovanni Succo) was so incredibly impressed by the power of trainee research collaboratives that he extended an invitation for the talk to be delivered at the European meeting. Colleagues from India and other parts of world expressed interest regarding the possibility of international collaboration. Overall, trainee collaboratives are a growing and rapidly evolving group which will continue to grow with the sustained support from consultant colleagues.

On behalf of MTReC, INTEGRATE and NOTCH, we are grateful to BAHNO in allowing us to share our research and ideas on the world stage.

Mr Basim Dawoud Mr John Hardman Dr Anna Olsson-Brown

Members’ Area

If you have not yet logged-in to this area of the website, please do so. Not only are you able to view your invoices and print receipts but more general BAHNO-related information is available there, too. Members are encouraged to pay their invoices online – those of you who currently pay by Direct Debit may wish to change to online payment by STRIPE. This can be set as a recurring payment thus stopping those annoying reminder emails that the system will send to you....

It is easy to manage your payment options – just use the log-in button on the top right-hand side of the website. Any problems or queries, please contact [Laura in the Secretariat](#).

UKNFR reports

A reminder that these may be found on the [BAHNO website](#) Peter Kalu sends regular reports. As a key stakeholder, BAHNO will highlight the anticipated registry report, detailing the outcomes of over 10,000 free flaps, when it becomes available.

Plastic Surgery Rep required on Council

A reminder that nominations for this position need to be received by the Secretariat before 21st July, please.

Diary of meetings and events

Here is a selection of up-and-coming events that may be of interest. Please [visit the website](#) for the full list.

15 September 2023 [6th Scottish International Conference - Thyroid](#)

Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh and VIRTUAL (Hybrid event)

19 – 21 September 2023 [West Midlands International Head & Neck Dissection and Free Flap course](#)

West Midland Training Centre

25 – 27 September 2023 [22nd International Cancer Imaging Society Meeting and Annual Teaching Course](#)

London British Museum

Please use the [Submit an Event](#) link on the website to suggest events of interest to BAHNO members.