

BAHNO Newsletter – Winter 2023



Message from the President – Mr Ceri Hughes:

As this is my first contribution as president, I was expecting to have little in the way of news or comment.

On the contrary, I feel that we as an association are in 'overdrive', with numerous projects which are seeing significant progress.

We have record membership levels, our best ever scientific meeting attendance and a new meeting venue planned. I am sure Stuart will give more detail, but it is really exciting that we are moving to 'The Business Design Centre, Islington' for the 2024 annual scientific meeting. I think this development will allow our delegates more space, more time for an updated programme and a 'refresh' to the venue layout. More from Stuart to follow and a reminder to not visit the old venue by mistake!

As promised at the last meeting we are sending a '[SurveyMonkey](#)' link to a short questionnaire for our membership. I am really hoping that we will get some detail on how you feel BAHNO is doing for its membership and how this can be improved. This is your opportunity to tell us what you want from us. We also intend this link to be circulated on social media, recognising that feedback from non-members (who haven't joined) may be just as important as that from the membership. Could I please encourage you to respond, it's a short questionnaire which takes approximately 4-5 minutes to fill out.

The re-introduction of a national audit for Head & Neck Cancer has been discussed for a very long time. I am very grateful to Vin Paleri, our past president, who continues to put in an immense amount of energy into seeing this project through. We have an expression of support from the NHS Cancer Programme leadership but first need to demonstrate feasibility of the project ensuring limited overlap with the existing GIRFT project. BAHNO intends to part fund this in partnership with the Head & Neck Cancer Coalition. Currently the preferred option is to work with the Clinical Effectiveness Unit at RCSEng and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who already have collaborative links for other audits. We should have more to update you on in the next newsletter.

Our international collaboration committee under the leadership of Mehmet Sen needs a special thanks. In collaboration with the Oracle Cancer Trust they have developed a twelve-month funded international fellowship for head & neck surgical oncology. The ultimate aim is to help build capacity in developing countries and initially this will target Africa. We are very grateful for this development and are hoping that the first successful applicant should be in post towards the end of next year at the UK host institution at Leicester NHS Trust.

BAHNO also soon plans to announce a number of Accredited Short Fellowships. These are likely to be around a month long, meaning applicants should be able to obtain leave from their existing unit for this short period. They would offer successful applicants to be part funded to attend an accredited unit to acquire specific skills or experience in areas such as Sentinel Node Biopsy or Proton Beam Therapy. We are currently finalising the logistics of this but hope to advertise for these posts in the Spring of 2024.

Lastly, despite record numbers of members, we are still very keen to continue growing as an association. We are still underrepresented by specialty, gender and ethnicity in many areas. We have made significant advances towards improvement in our EDI profile and under the guidance of our EDI lead Somiah Siddiq, we intend to continue this progress. I feel that as the only multidisciplinary association representing head and neck cancer clinicians in the UK, we occupy a unique space and can offer members a great deal. In comparison to other associations membership fees represent a small investment (as little as £25 for AHP). I am therefore writing to all MDT leads in the UK asking that they highlight the benefits of BAHNO membership to their teams. Can I also ask you as existing members to support this initiative by talking to colleagues (particularly in underrepresented groups) about the association.

BAHNO 2024

Update from

Professor Stuart Winter. Conference Secretary



The 2023 BAHNO conference was extremely well attended with 393 delegates attending (an increase from 288 in 2022). This conference was the final one with Professor Paleri as President and saw the handover of the presidency to Mr Ceri Hughes. Ceri will lead BAHNO as president for the next 2 years.

Several decisions regarding the 2023 conference were made by council. The cost of registration was not increased, a decision made to reflect the cost-of-living inflation impacting all members of the community. Several other innovations were introduced including grants to attend the conference, mother and baby facilities as well as a focus on trying to recycle as much as possible.

Attendees represented the broad range of specialities involved in the treatment of Head and neck cancer. It was particularly pleasing to see almost 100 attendees from the allied health community.

The feedback from the conference was in general extremely positive. Particular thanks must go towards Liz O'Riordan who provided a very powerful insight into her cancer care during the Blair-Hesketh lecture.

As we look to the 2024 conference plans are evolving. We are very excited to be able to offer a new venue for 2024. The Business Design Centre. The theme for the meeting will be 'Data and outcomes in head and neck cancer'. The programme is being developed but includes:

- The Blair-Hesketh lecture from Professor George Davey-Smith
- An update from the GIRFT team
- Poster and oral presentations
- A talk on fellowships

We look forward to seeing you there!



Report from the Honorary Secretary: Professor Andrew Schache



2023 has seen a change in the classification of membership categories to bring more simplicity and hopefully more equitable representation for members from different clinical backgrounds. Clinicians at Consultant level, Senior scientists and Allied Health Professionals are now all classified in a single group as “Members” and all trainees (similarly irrespective of clinical background) are classified as Associates.

During the year we have amended the Constitution of our Association to allow the changes mentioned above but also to facilitate expansion of the council membership to be similarly more representative. We have increased the number of AHP representatives and aligned the duration of all council posts to be equivalent (with the exception of President).

Although we are at our highest membership level to date, we are yet to achieve the desired degree of membership “reach” into key groups such as clinical oncology or from smaller specialist areas such as radiology, specialist nursing and restorative dentistry.

Council would still like to see further expansion in the breadth of our membership, and would ask that members encourage colleagues in their MDTs and across clinical relationships to consider [joining the association](#)

I hope all members will have seen, in the last fortnight, communication from The President, Mr Ceri Hughes, seeking responses to a very brief (5min) survey. This is aimed at improving our understanding of BAHNO members in the hope that we can be more responsive to needs and to improve the “value” of membership. The survey remains open, and if you haven’t already responded please do so <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVK5G7Q>

We are about to start a period of council elections in the new year seeking to fill several important posts. Nominations will open for President Elect (to follow Mr Hughes as President in 2025) and also specialty representation for Plastic Surgery (1 position), AHP (2 positions), Pathology/Radiology (1 position), Oncology (1 position). Please do consider these opportunities and/or recommend colleagues who might otherwise not consider putting themselves forwards. BAHNO is eager to encourage applications from under-represented groups.

All nominations and subsequent elections will be undertaken electronically utilising a recent software upgrade to the BAHNO website. We hope this will make voting easier, and turn provide a greater, more representative turn-out from membership.

Finally, I'd like to highlight some elements of the BAHNO website and included links to important documents and reports published recently;

Breaking the Silence

The Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery has released a ground-breaking [independent report on sexual misconduct by colleagues in the surgical workforce](#).

Histopathology Datasets:

[Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the oral cavity](#)

[Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the parathyroid](#)

[Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the hypopharynx, larynx and trachea](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England Robotic -Assisted Surgery: [A Pathway to the Future](#)

From the RCPATH:

Consultation open: G112 Dataset for the histopathological reporting of nodal excisions and neck dissection specimens



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

BAHNO was a stakeholder in the G112 document and BAHNO members are now invited to add their comments.

College members with a login can access the draft at www.rcpath.org/profession/publications/documents-in-development.html, where they are able to download the document and leave comments. Others may send their comments directly to us via draftguidelines@rcpath.org

The consultation closes on 4 January 2024.

SurveyMonkey

For those of you who have not yet completed the BAHNO survey, it would be appreciated if you would click on this link and let Council know what you think about the association:

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

IReC

On the 16th of May 2024, the day before the Annual Scientific Meeting, BAHNO is collaborating with the International Centre for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer (IReC) in holding a study day exclusively on the topic of recurrent cancer. Limited to 80 places, the IReC day will summarise the state of the art in managing recurrent cancer, inviting expert commentary during panel discussions and future gaze on research activities in this space, both within the UK and internationally. We anticipate this to be held at the same venue as the BAHNO ASM.

INTEGRATE

The UK ENT Trainee Research Network

INTEGRATE is pleased to launch a national retrospective audit of Head and Neck Squamous cell carcinoma Multidisciplinary Team meetings (MTD). This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in impactful, collaborative multi-centre research. If you would like to learn more and register your centre, please find more information on the [ENT Integrate website](#).

Further details also available on the [BAHNO website](#).



Department
of Health &
Social Care

ACCIA are recruiting

ACCIA are recruiting for regional sub-committee (RSC) members for the 2024 award round. RSC members play an important role in scoring applications and ensuring the fairness and equitability of the scheme is upheld.

ACCIA would particularly encourage applications from **women and those from ethnic minority backgrounds, across all membership** categories. Training is provided, no previous experience is necessary.

If you are interested in applying, please contact accia@dhsc.gov.uk or call 020 7972 4608. Recruitment will run until the end of February 2024, but you are requested to submit your application as soon as possible.

Website Members' Area

Please log in regularly to your account in the Members' Area – you may find your 2024 Membership Invoice here (after 1st January). Your prompt payment via the STRIPE online payment system would be appreciated, please. You may amend your method of payment at any time – although the Direct Debit option will gradually be phased out: this is an expensive way of collecting money for an organisation of this size. STRIPE offers a regular payment, though, if you wish to avoid those annoying reminder emails.

Nominations for positions on Council 2024

Nominations are requested for the following positions:

- President Elect – to become President 2025-2027
- Plastic Surgery Representative
- Oncology Representative
- Pathology / Radiology Representative(s)
- AHP representative(s)

Each nomination requires support from two current Members of the Association.

Nominations close 19th January 2024. The voting period will be announced after the close of nomination.

Dates for the Diary

9 th February 2024	British Society of Head and Neck Imaging/ British Institute of Radiology Head and Neck Imaging Refresher Course
27 – 29 February 2024	West Midlands International Head & Neck Dissection and Free Flap course
11 th – 15 th March 2024	Liverpool Practical Microvascular Course 2024
16 th May 2024	IReC Study Day
17 th May 2024	BAHNO Annual Scientific Meeting Data outcomes in Head and Neck Cancer

*Council and the Secretariat wish you a happy holiday season
and a peaceful New Year.*