



President: Mr David Scott-Coombes
University Hospital of Wales
Cardiff

Secretary: Mr Ashu Gandhi
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Spring Newsletter

President's Report

It seems a long time ago since John Watkinson handed over the presidential chain-of-office along with a toga! The annual meeting in Rome was the most popular 'abroad' BAETS scientific meeting and enjoyed by everyone who attended. We are thankful to our home team (Ashu, Jeremy and Bhav) as well as our local hosts Celestino Lombardi and Marco Rafaelli. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Liverpool where Alison has worked hard to develop an exciting programme.

Many folk are working hard on our behalf to promote and support endocrine surgery in UK. Some are named in the Secretary's report. I am grateful to everyone who is influencing debate and policy-making on matters that include specialty training, examinations, commissioning, performance-publication, guidelines, standards-of-care and incident-reporting - to mention a few. Our strong and committed Executive committee collates (and contributes to) this industry, so if any member has any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the executive team via our website.

The Audit remains the shining jewel in our crown and I have two goals

- To start a process of data-input validation
- To increase the overall percentage of thyroid surgeons contributing to the audit.

I shall report on progress at the next AGM in Liverpool.

David Scott-Coombes
President, BAETS

Secretary's Report

Thyroid & Parathyroid Masterclass

This year's Masterclass was oversubscribed and sadly we had to turn people away. The class is limited to 40 delegates in order to maintain a strong faculty to delegate ratio and feedback over the years has confirmed this aspect to be one of the strong selling points of the day. The Masterclass is held annually in mid March in the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

The Masterclass has historically been organised by Mr Paul Maddox, Consultant Surgeon from Royal United Bath NHS Trust. After many years of unstinting hard work and enthusiasm, building the Masterclass to its current level of popularity, Paul has handed over the reins to Miss Alison Waghorn, Consultant, Royal Liverpool Hospitals.

BAETS wishes to thank Paul for his contribution to Thyroid & Parathyroid Surgery education.

Officers of the Association

The following officers of the association are entering the final months of their current tenure.

- Mr David Chadwick - Audit Lead
- Mr Radu Mihai - Ordinary Member with Research Portfolio (eligible for re-election in competition)

Nominations for the above two posts are invited.

Potential candidates requiring more information are directed to the BAETS constitution online where a short definition of each post is available. I am also happy to be contacted for further details - secretary@baets.org.uk

A candidate needs to be a Full Member of BAETS and be nominated and seconded by another Full member. *All nominations should be received by the Secretary by **Friday 27th June** at the latest* via secretary@baets.org.uk

In the event of multiple nominations candidates will be asked to issue a personal statement for circulation to the entire membership and electronic voting by members will choose the successful candidate. Election is by simple majority voting. Full details can be found in the constitution. Successful candidates will be announced at the October AGM and commence office from January 2015. Between October and January there will be a hand over period between current and new incumbents.

Shape of Training - the Greenaway Review

The shape of training of our junior colleagues is set to be radically changed by the Greenaway Review. The final report from Professor David Greenaway is available online (www.shapeoftraining.co.uk). Essentially, Professor Greenaway recommends a generalist rather than a specialist training for the majority of doctors.

If the recommendations of the review are implemented fully in Surgery, the landscape for surgical trainees and for their consultants will change beyond recognition. Currently the full implications of the review are under consideration by the Royal Colleges.

BTA Guidelines

The updated 2014 British Thyroid Guidelines on the treatment of thyroid cancer are due out later this year. BAETS has had 2 representatives on the guidelines update group - Mr Barney Harrison and Professor John Watkinson. We have also been asked as an organisation to endorse the guidelines.

I have had a chance to read the guidelines on behalf of BAETS. I have found the guidelines to be very comprehensive, directly linked to many difficult decisions we face in the clinic or in the MDT. They are extensively referenced and well written. I am sure that our membership will find them very useful on their publication.

BAETS 2014 Annual Scientific Conference

This year's annual conference will be held in Liverpool on 9th and 10th October. Full details regarding registration and accommodation will be available on the BAETS website.

We invite abstracts to be submitted and will consider these for oral or poster presentation. Abstract submission is electronic and full details of submission requirements are on the BAETS website.

The closing date for abstracts is **5.00pm on Friday 20 June 2014**. *Please note that late abstracts cannot be accepted.* Successful candidates will be contacted following 21 July 2014.

We have, in previous years, had a number of attempts at late submission, some as late as 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

Pre-event symposium

The BAETS annual conference will be preceded by a pre-event educational symposium: Practical Nerve Monitoring for Surgeons & Anaesthetists

A multidisciplinary faculty will lead this symposium which will feature

- Practical workshop with tips for helping the monitoring to work.
- Short lectures, discussion groups and time to practice with the equipment.
- Discussion about problems with the different monitoring devices and practical help to overcome problems.
- Practical information leaflets and instructions to take away.

The symposium will be held on **Wednesday 8th October** from **2.00pm to 5.00pm**.

Registration will be via the BAETS website.

Future Conferences

The 2015 Annual Scientific Conference will be held in Reading on 8th and 9th October.

In 2016 we are holding a joint conference in Berlin with our German colleagues. This will be a little later than usual and is planned for 10th -12th November 2016.

I would like to invite expressions of interest for hosting the 2017 Annual Scientific meeting which will be held in the UK. We hope to make a final decision on the 2017 venue at this year's AGM in Liverpool.

Website

I hope that members are finding the new revamped website useful and perhaps easier to navigate than the previous version. There is now the facility to renew/instigate membership electronically. There is also a members only login section where members can update contact details or contact BAETS admin staff with a query.

Work on the website is ongoing and we hope to provide members with a modern facility which will be of practical use as well as being a portal for information regarding the association's activities.

Access to the BAETS National Endocrine Surgery Database

We have had an increasing number of requests from members for access to the data contained within the National database for research and audit. It is in the BAETS constitution to promote such activity for the benefit of patients. However, access to this data cannot be without some level of oversight to ensure appropriate release of appropriate data. We have therefore been examining this whole topic very carefully and will be publishing our decisions on the website in the near future.

Consultant Outcomes Publication

Members should be aware of the following developments in the audit:

First, the re-design of the database, mentioned at the last Annual Meeting in Rome, is almost complete. Multiple changes have been made, to improve the functionality of the system, provide 'future-proofing', and to address issues of data quality previously discussed in the Fourth National Report and recent AGM's. These changes have included:

Modern multi-browser access, allowing members to enter data more easily from their home PC, including Mac. This has been a very popular request from the membership, but does mean that some older versions of web browsers will not allow for effective functioning of the new system. This particularly applies to outdated versions of Internet Explorer. In order to preserve functioning access to the database from Trust PC's, members would be well advised to ensure as soon as possible that their browser uses IE10 or 11, or to install a compatible free browser such as Firefox (which is usually approved by Trusts' IT departments).

Introduction of a tool to screen for potential duplicate entries. This vital facility requires identification of the hospital at which surgery is carried out, available from a drop-down menu. Prevention of duplicate entries requires members to be very careful when entering the original demographic data, however (date of birth, gender and endocrine case type), as return to the demographics page will not be possible once a case has been logged.

The ability to acknowledge dual operating, allowing recognition of both members in their total case load and analysis of their outcomes, whilst avoiding potentially conflicting duplicate entries. This has also necessitated the introduction of a 'read-only' facility in the patient list of the second-named surgeon.

Introduction of a secondary confirmation 'loop' for rare events, in this case to prevent inadvertent entry of in-hospital mortality (as this was discovered to have occurred in several instances during the last round of consultant outcome publication).

Introduction of mandatory data fields, requiring data input prior to being able to proceed further or navigate away from the current page.

Re-wording of certain data fields, allowing for more accurate analysis of late outcomes such as persistent vocal cord palsy and of primary versus secondary thyroid pathologies; and recognition of occasional cases lost to follow-up.

'Tidying up' of some pages, with some optional fields hidden until enabled by responses to relevant previous fields.

These changes should help considerably in improving the quality of future analyses, and I thank members for their patience whilst this work has been done. It has involved a substantial overhaul of the system, and despite extensive cross-checking, there is the possibility of 'glitches' having escaped our attention. Once the new version is operational, please let me know as soon as possible if you encounter any problems.

Second, preparations are underway nationally for the next round of Consultant Outcomes Publication, headed up by HQIP and NHS England. Existing audits have been asked to expand upon the range of outcomes published. The political will to drive this forward should not be under-estimated, and it is likely that audits will not be expected to seek formal consent for publication of their members' data this time around.

BAETS will continue to participate in this process, with an update of our outcomes website later in the year. It is likely that we will seek to include cases operated up to June 2013, to make the output as contemporaneous as possible, and although the date of publication has not been finalized, it is likely to be by October 2014. In the

interim, it is also planned to perform some validation of our data against HES data. Completeness of data entry will be included as an outcome measure, as in the last round of publication.

Members would be well advised to ensure that their audit entries are up to date and complete, so that the published figures can accurately reflect their practice. I shall endeavour to provide updates on progress throughout the year.

David Chadwick
Director of Audit, BAETS

BAETS Trial Proposal Invitation

We are writing to invite you and your trainees with an interest in Endocrine/Thyroid Surgery to submit clinical research proposals for a potential multicentre trial that could be adopted by all members of BAETS and ENT-UK.

This initiative follows the lead from the Royal College of Surgeons of England (see: <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/research/surgical-research/surgical-clinical-trials>) and aims to engage the Consultants and trainees in future collaborative research work in this field.

A shortlist of the best research proposals will be asked to be presented during the 2014 BAETS Annual Scientific Conference (9th to 10th October 2014, Liverpool) in a session organized on the model of ‘The Dragons Den’ in which the consultant/trainee will have 5-10 min for a short presentation.

The study proposals will be judged by the following criteria and thus should consider:

- Does the research question address a common and important clinical problem?
- Would many centres be able to get involved in the study and participate?
- Would the time scale of the project be feasible?
- Is the trainee and the supervising consultant be able/prepared/interested to take lead in organising the trial?
- How is funding going to be secured?

The forum of BAETS meeting will vote based on the feasibility and likelihood of success of the proposed study. The winning proposal will be expected to be taken forward by the authors towards a formal application for funding and ethics approval. It is anticipated that such a proposal will be fully supported by the Royal College Research Department towards submitting a NIHR clinical trial funding application.

Please see our new ‘*Surgical Endocrine Research Network*’ website for further details of this exciting competition and for additional resources in clinical research: www.sern-uk.net

All proposals should be submitted on one A4 and sent by email to radu.mihai@ouh.nhs.uk and daekim72@gmail.com.

Looking forward to meeting you in Liverpool

Best wishes
Dae Kim and Radu Mihai