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Leeds General Infirmary
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Spring Newsletter

President's Report

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. The BAETS executive continues to work hard on your behalf and these newsletters are a good way of regularly keeping members up to date with news and developments. There are two topics I would like to highlight in this issue, forthcoming meetings and our database of endocrine surgical procedures, UKRETS.

Meetings

Plans for this year's annual scientific meeting are now at an advanced stage. As you know it is a joint meeting with the German Association of Endocrine Surgeons (CAEK) and will be held in Berlin in November. If any members reading this have not previously attended a BAETS meeting held in Europe now is the time to do so! Further details are given below.

Before that though we will have a presence at the ASGBI conference in Belfast 11th -13th May 2016. Fiona Eatock and I will be holding a "Meet the Experts" session and I am also scheduled to speak to ASIT. Please come along and say hello if you are there. Fiona is hosting our 2017 scientific meeting in Belfast so it will be a good opportunity for us to look at the venue for our meeting and think about the social program too. For more details on the ASGBI Belfast Surgical Week, please click on the following link <http://www.asgbi.org/belfast2016/>

UKRETS

BAETS is planning the next publication of data. We are also going to start looking at surgical outliers within the audit. A concern of mine is that while we can look at our data and compare outcomes between surgeons who enter data we do not know who has actually entered all their cases and how this may bias any analysis. Completeness of follow up data remains an issue. Neither do we know how our results compare to surgeons who are not BAETS members and therefore do not comply with what is now the mandatory collection of data on thyroid surgery. For these and other reasons, any letter sent to a member whose data suggest they are an outlier, will make it clear that there are limitations to how our data can be interpreted. I hope to get a better understanding of compliance with data entry over the coming months before writing again on this topic.

Meanwhile, we have been approached by FIPO, the Federation of Independent Practitioner Organisations, to explore if or how data on patients undergoing surgery in the private sector is recorded. As a BAETS member, if you operate in the private sector, you can enter data in UKRETS by hospital. So if the private sector comes on board and insists you record outcomes for private patients the mechanism is already in place.

Mark Lansdown
President, BAETS

BAETS Spring Newsletter: April 2016
www.baets.org.uk

Secretary's Report

Positions within the BAETS Executive

The following posts on the Executive will become available from this year's annual conference and BAETS seeks expressions of interest from the membership.

- President Elect
- Secretary
- Director of Audit
- Member Representing District General Hospitals
- Ordinary Member (2 positions)

The role of each of the above posts can be found in section 7 of the BAETS constitution which can be found on www.baets.org.uk/about-us

Officers of the Executive will be elected in accordance with section 8 of the BAETS constitution. We ask that candidates email their interest to myself on secretary@baets.org.uk. They should state which post they are interested in and a short (up to 100 words) summary of what they may be able to bring to the role.

All nominations must be received by 5.00pm on 30 June 2016.

In the event of multiple candidates applying for one post, the summaries will be emailed to all members and candidates chosen by electronic voting. This applies for all posts other than that of Secretary, which will be chosen by interview of potential candidates by the President and Past President.

36th BAETS Annual Scientific Conference

As already mentioned, this year's BAETS annual conference will be held as a joint meeting with our German counterparts CAEK which includes surgeons from the German speaking nations, Austria and Switzerland.

The meeting is to be entitled "*Endocrine Surgery in Europe; Learning From Each Other*" and will be held in the Berlin Hilton. The meeting will be entirely in English.

The details of the programme are being finalised but members can expect the meeting to begin on the afternoon of Thursday 10 November and conclude at early afternoon on Saturday 12 November. There will be a Gala dinner on the evening of Friday 11 November. The venue for this is spectacular.

A specific website is under construction in which all details of the conference will be available. This includes registration, abstract submission, accommodation options, Gala dinner booking. The website is currently under construction and can be reached on www.caek-baets-berlin2016.com.

Abstract submission will be from 1st May to 30th June 2016. Oral and poster presentations are accepted with a prize for the top example of each as chosen by a combination of British and German surgeons.

Data entry into UKRETS & Consultant Job Plans

Some surgeons have successfully negotiated PAs into their job plan for the time taken to enter data into UKRETS. These vary from ¼ to ½ PA per week depending on practice size. The BAETS executive approve of this development noting the time taken to enter data onto UKRETS. After discussion the Executive agreed that BAETS would support allocation of 15 minutes of Direct Clinical Care per patient entered onto UKRETS. Data entry should be accompanied by adequate administrative support

Patient Information Leaflets

BAETS has produced patient information leaflets for Thyroid Surgery. These were developed with the involvement of patient groups and are available for download free of charge from www.baets.org.uk/useful-links/patients We hope that members and their patients will find these useful.

Post Thyroidectomy Hypocalcaemia Guidance

Members are encouraged to develop local guidelines for the management of post operative hypocalcaemia following discussions with their medical and pharmacy colleagues. To help with this BAETS have produced guidance which could be used as a starting point for the production of local guidelines.

Delegation of Login to UKRETS

Some members have expressed the wish to delegate entry of data onto UKRETS to their secretary or Trainee. They then can log in themselves to check the accuracy at a convenient time.

I am pleased to confirm that this is now possible. Please follow the link to submit a registration form <https://cl2.n3-dendrite.com/csp/baes/frontpages/registerme.csp>

BJS society

The BJS Society has approached BAETS with an offer to allow significantly reduced subscription rates for electronic access to the British Journal of Surgery. Currently online only access would cost £209. The offer from the BJS Society would allow BAETS members online access at a rate of £40. This would include enhanced features for viewing and archiving material. A minimum of 30 BAETS members need to show interest for this offer to become active. Please email me at secretary@baets.org.uk if you wish BAETS to take this further.

If enough members wish to take up this option I will ask the BJS Society to activate the proposal. This offer has been made to BAETS at no cost to our association and seemed too good to not pass onto our membership. However, BAETS recognises that many of its members are not from a general surgical background so may have less incentive to subscribe to the BJS.

Ashu Gandhi
Secretary, BAETS

Audit Report

The audit (now officially the 'UK Registry of Endocrine and Thyroid Surgery') remains an important asset of the BAETS, and is high on the political agenda. The last release of Consultant Outcomes Publication data included cases operated between July 2011 and June 2014 (the 'lag time' reflecting the fact that some outcomes are only known at or after 6 months post-op, and that members require time to ascertain and enter these). Many thanks to those members who pointed out a few unanticipated 'glitches' which we were able to iron out, prior to final publication. The database now contains information on over 73,000 endocrine operations, including over 48,000 thyroidectomies.

In 2016, for the first time, the audit has been included in NHS Trusts' Quality Accounts. This means that Trusts must report their data entry into UKRETS, a position which can only strengthen the standing of the audit and the BAETS.

In 2016, we shall once again bid to HQIP for financial support in updating the COP output. Previously funding was not available for the planned publication of parathyroid surgery outcomes, (likely to be the case in 2016), but it is proposed that at least thyroid surgery outcomes will be updated, extending the period of analysis from July 2012 to June 2015. The deadline for data entry is yet to be finalised, but likely to be end August 2016, giving members time to ensure their cases are up to date. Again, those members with complete data for the 2015 round of COP will only have one year's cases to update.

After the Henley meeting, I collated a 'wish-list' of modifications, suggested by the membership, to improve the functionality of the system. Work to institute these is underway at Dendrite. The list includes items such as: extension of members' registration period, improvement in the scrolling function on the List my patients page, changes in the layout of certain pages, and simplifying the funnel plot facility. I hope you will soon be able to appreciate the improvements!

Plans are underway to produce a further national report, as the last one was back in 2012. Subject to financial approval, I hope to complete this before I demit office as audit lead in October. On this point, I would like to extend my thanks to the membership for their support over the last 5 years. Your enthusiasm for the audit, effort in entering data, and constructive criticisms have made the role of audit lead a pleasure. Applications for my successor are invited, and for those members contemplating applying, I am happy to field enquiries.

David Chadwick
BAETS Audit Lead

Research

Following the discussion during AGM at the 2015 BAETS meeting, the ThyVoice project has made significant progress. Ethics approval has been granted and currently an application for multi centre recruitment is pending. Colleagues working in centre's that will be formally recognised as participants will be able to promote the study and recruit patients. Those colleagues who did not complete this process will still be able to have their patients included in this study if the patients contact directly the coordinating centre in Oxford. Anybody interested to be part of this project in more proactive position should contact the study coordinator (radumihai@doctors.org.uk) to initiate

the administrative process of being recognised as a participant centre.

Radu Mihai
BAETS Research Lead

European Reference Networks (ERN)

As part of the constitution of the EU, the European Commission has sent out a call for the establishment of ERNs (http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/implementation/call/index_en.htm).

Their purpose is to share experience, learning, data and communication across the EU. There are two parts to this process

- 1) establishing a network
- 2) applications from care providers (hospital Trusts) to be part of the network

There is a willingness to establish an ERN for rare endocrine surgical diseases. The offices of Eurocrine are going to apply to establish such a network and I will be involved in writing this application with other colleagues in Europe. For any Unit that wishes to be part of this Network, an application needs to be made to our UK representative – Mr Coline Pavelin (colin.pavelin@dh.gsi.gov.uk). There is a template to complete which can be found on the website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/latest-news/>

For those of you who wish to be part of this initiative, the template needs to be submitted by 21 May 2016. However it will be easier to complete the form, once the principles of the ERN have been written. I will keep you updated as the process evolves.

David Scott-Coombes
Immediate Past President, BAETS

Education Report

2016 Thyroid and Parathyroid Masterclass

33 participants attended the Masterclass on 29th February. I am most grateful to the new Faculty members who covered aspects of lateral neck dissection and medical management of hypo and hypercalcaemia, as well as the ever successful workshops. There was excellent feedback from the participants, and again there were 12 delegates from the BAETS/Ethicon Education Program. The Program continues in June with attendance at the thyroidectomy course in Hamburg in June.

Course Endorsements

We continue to endorse other endocrine courses, including the first UK Patient-Doctor Thyroid cancer Forum, and the cadaveric thyroidectomy course in the Cuschieri Skills Centre in Dundee. If any members have other courses that they wish to be considered for BAETS endorsement, please contact me. Please note that every course will receive consideration but may not receive endorsement.

BAETS Webinars

The 10 Webinars done in conjunction with the RCSEd are all available in the Members Area, along with the excellent videos on thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy and adrenalectomy by Michael Stechman and David Scott-Coombes, for which we are again indebted to Ethicon for their generous sponsorship. There is a quarterly literature update emailed to all members on Hyperparathyroidism and Thyroid Carcinoma. If the membership should wish other topics to be covered, again please contact me.

BAETS & ISCP

We now have agreement from ISCP and the General Surgery SAC to go ahead with our simulated case based discussions for trainees for completion of their portfolio. These discussions will cover curriculum requirements for thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal surgery will be made available in the next coming months and accessed from the websites of BAETS, ISCP and RCSEd. These cases will provide an invaluable educational resource on neck endocrine surgery (for all trainees) as well as adrenal surgery (for endocrine surgery trainees).

David Smith

BAETS Education Lead