

Presidents' Report

Spring is here and hopefully some nice weather will follow. It is anticipated that we will escape a triple dip recession, but I don't have a crystal ball with regards to predicting the impact (from April 1st), the new NHS and the commissioning groups will have on Endocrine surgery. We will have to wait and see! What we do know is that last December the government outlined the details of its plan to publish surgeon-level outcomes data taken from national clinical audits in ten speciality areas (of which we are one). This work is being overseen by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, the medical director of NHS England (formally the NHS Commissioning Board) and will result in the national publication of named outcomes data on June 30th 2013. This work is being coordinated by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and involves an input from both the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the relevant surgical speciality associations (of which we are one). HQIP have been advised by their legal advisors that each individual surgeon must give his or her consent before the data can be processed and published and we will be contacting you all individually regarding this in the near future.

We had a very successful meeting in Cardiff in October last year which was ably organised by David Scott-Coombes (President Elect) when 150 delegates attended, Prof Greg Randolph from Harvard gave an outstanding BJS lecture on intra-operative nerve monitoring, and the results of our fourth surgical audit were published (which is timely, given the above). At the AGM, I announced my intention to reorganise the executive and you will see from this newsletter that we have some new posts (the secretary's job has now been split and we have a separate treasurer) and each member has been given a designated responsibility (outlined later). We welcome Ashu Gandhi as our new secretary, and say goodbye and many thanks to Greg Sadler who has demitted office after completing his term of service. My co-opted member, Mr Jeremy Davis, has taken up the role of treasurer so I have co-opted Alison Waghorn from Liverpool with a specific remit to take charge of education and training. It is presumed that Endocrine general surgical trainees will sit in with the new visceral and emergency group. This means that access to thyroid and parathyroid training will be reduced for them, but we will endeavour to ensure cross speciality interface type relationships to ensure that they do not lose out. Last month we had an excellent Masterclass in London, again organised by Paul Maddox, who has now decided to hand over the reins of any future master class meetings to Alison. Our thanks go to Paul for all his hard work.

We also voted as an organisation to give £15,000 a year for 3 years to the Royal College in London to fund a surgical speciality lead in Endocrine research nationally. This was subsequently advertised, interviewed in January and I am delighted to say that on the day we were able to appoint two successful candidates (Mr Radu Mihai from Oxford and Mr Dae Kim from Portsmouth/Southampton). We wish them well and they will be in touch with you all shortly regarding their thoughts on future national Endocrine trials. The BAETS has been an active member of a European body of surgeons who have written a grant to the EU Health Programme in Luxembourg to fund a Pan-European database for rare Endocrine Diseases. The total grant is for 1.2 million Euros, and we are one step away from success. We wish David Scott-Coombes well.

Finally, the National Cancer Action and Peer Review Team (after meeting with reps from BAETS, ASGBI and ENT-UK) published a letter late last year that all surgeons undertaking thyroid procedures for known or strongly-suspected cancers should be members of a Head and Neck, or Thyroid MDT,

and should be performing a minimum of 20 thyroid procedures a year. This takes effect immediately and will be part of this year's peer review.

All that remains for me to do is to remind you about our forthcoming annual meeting in Rome in October this year and details (including registration and call for abstracts) will very soon be available on our new redesigned and upgraded website. Have a great Summer and there will be one more newsletter before our October meeting when we will invite applications for new executive members to include President Elect.

Best wishes

John Watkinson, President British Association of Endocrine & Thyroid Surgeons

Secretary's Statement

I would like to start my first newsletter by acknowledging the tremendous contribution to BAETS made by Greg Sadler, my predecessor as Secretary. Greg put in an incredible amount of time and effort into the joint roles of Secretary and Treasurer for BAETS. He has steered the association through the considerable developments and growth over the past few years. That he will be a difficult act to follow is manifest by the fact that the role he performed has now formally been split into 2 executive positions!

The entire BAETS executive echo my views and also wishes to extend their wholehearted gratitude to Greg.

New Members of the Executive

Besides myself, the BAETS executive welcomes the following:

Fausto Palazzo (Ordinary Member 2013 -2016)

Fausto is clinical lead for endocrine surgery at Hammersmith Hospital. He will replace Greg Sadler as the UK delegate to the European Society of Endocrine Surgery and assist Alison Waghorn in promoting endocrine surgical education. He also will be aiming to address the lack of national multidisciplinary practice guidance in adrenal surgery.

Jeremy Davis (Treasurer 2013 -2016)

Jeremy is an ENT, Head and Neck surgeon working in a DGH based at Medway in Kent. Much of his clinical work involves thyroid and parathyroid surgery. As Treasurer of BAETS he will be contributing to the strength of the Association's finances through sound financial management and participating in fundraising initiatives for the Association. He will also support the charitable work of the Association in supporting research initiatives in Thyroid and other Endocrine Surgery.

Alison Waghorn (Co-opted member)

Alison is currently Consultant Endocrine Surgeon at Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital Trust. She has extensive experience of Training & Education in her home patch of Merseyside where she has been Programme Director for Core Surgical Training in the past and for Higher Surgical Training currently. Alison has been asked to look into developing an Endocrine Surgery education package for higher surgical training in ENT and General Surgery. She will also be exploring the role of a regular update programme for consultant ENT and General Surgeons in Endocrine Surgery. Alison would welcome contact from members who wish to discuss any such topics with her.

Tony Skene (Member Representing DGH Endocrine Surgery)

Tony is currently a Consultant General Surgeon with a specialist interest in Surgical Endocrinology at Royal Bournemouth Hospital. He is also Chair of his local Endocrine Network Site Specific Group. Tony will work within the executive to ensure that the best quality of care is available to endocrine patients whether they are treated in large centres or regional units.

Forthcoming Vacancies on BAETS Executive

President Elect (1 year post)

Current President Elect David Scott-Coombes will become President of BAETS at the AGM in Rome, October 2013. This will leave the post of President Elect vacant from October 2013 to October 2014 following which the post holder will become President of BAETS.

Candidates for the above posts should be nominated and seconded by a full member of BAETS and are expected to fulfil the following criteria

- attendance at 1 annual BAETS meeting per 3 year cycle
- full and active participation in the BAETS national audit
- regular remittance of annual membership fee

Nominations should be sent to secretary@baets.org.uk and should be received by **5pm 21 June**.

Candidates will be required to submit a short manifesto which will be published in the Summer Newsletter and on the Association's website. BAETS members may then choose between candidates and partake in a postal vote. Successful candidates will be announced at the October AGM in Rome.

Annual BAETS Meeting, Rome 10 - 11 October 2013

Details of the October meeting in Rome will be on the website very soon. Members will be able to register for the BAETS meeting, BAETS evening meal, pre and post meeting educational events (arranged by local organiser Professor Lombardi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome) via the website.

Abstracts are invited for presentation at the annual meeting. There will be oral presentations and posters. Abstracts should be submitted via secretary@baets.org.uk and need to conform to the following criteria

- 1) Title
- 2) authors and institutions
- 3) 4 sections: background /aims, methods, results, conclusion
- 4) size 11 Calibri font throughout
- 5) line spacing 1.5 minimum
- 6) maximum of 300 words per abstract (excluding title, authors, institutions)
- 7) **Strict closing dates for abstract submission is 5pm 21 June**

BAETS Website

The BAETS website is currently undergoing a comprehensive update. We are hoping to introduce more features and more functionality to the site. This process will take some time but hopefully members will see developments and improvements very soon.

NHS Commissioning Proposals

It will undoubtedly have come to members' attention that the NHS Commissioning Board, under the direction of Sir Bruce Keogh, has recently committed to begin open publication of surgeon-level outcomes data for a range of conditions (see www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/everyonecounts/); and that the BAETS audit has been selected amongst the first tranche of ten national audits to provide data for such publication. Moreover, the expectation is to begin publication of some data as early as June 2013.

At present the exact outcomes to be selected for inclusion in this initial stage are being finalized. Issues of data quality, raised in the last audit report, are a major consideration in this determination. Whilst still in discussion with various parties, the BAETS executive is considering the following outcomes as reasonable starting points in complying with requirement of the NHS Commissioning Board:

Length of Stay, number of thyroid operations performed annually, mortality, unexpected return to theatre rates.

Research Activity Report

The BAETS Executive has provided support to a new scheme initiated by the Royal College of Surgeons aimed to encourage development of surgical trials. As of February 2013, Mr Kim Dae – Consultant ENT Surgeon at Portsmouth Hospital and myself have been elected as Surgical Speciality

Leads for Endocrine Surgery. The major aim of this initiative is to lay strong foundations for clinical research within our speciality by establishing multiple clinical research active units throughout the UK that work as a network. This scheme is not about the two elected Leads, it is about creating the environment in which each BAETS member can contribute to research and be recognized.

Initially we have invited eight colleagues to form a core Clinical Studies Group (CSG) drawn from multiple research active centres that will spearhead this new project. A first meeting due at RCS at the end of April will have a clear agenda of making proposals for such studies and choosing the topic for the first trial(s) to be attempted. In the near future we will look to involve all BAETS members for input and support.

As part of the revamped BAETS website we will use its research page as the main portal for information and communication. The success of this new scheme is dependent on your contributions and we hope that in the coming years we will see a strengthened interest and enthusiasm related to research in endocrine surgery in the UK.

Radu Mihai, BAETS Executive Committee Member – Research

Audit

As most members should now be aware, there are exciting times ahead for the audit, as we have been selected within the first ten national audits to contribute data for open publication of surgical outcomes. I feel that this welcome development recognises the significant advances we have made over many years in improving the database and refining the analyses arising from it, and therefore see this initiative from the NHS Commissioning Board simply as a catalyst to move forward our existing desire for open publication more rapidly. As the deadline for initial publication is so short, a number of meetings are in place to ensure that all ten audits will be able to produce some data by the end of June, and I shall endeavour to keep members updated as things progress.

In the meantime, I would make a plea for members to ensure that their data are as up-to-date as possible, particularly for thyroid cases in the 3 year period to end of June 2012. Also, to make sure that the ASGBI office have your current e-mail contact address, as updates will be forwarded primarily by e-mail. In particular, members will shortly be asked for their explicit consent to publish their figures at named individual level, and this request will be sent out by e-mail. I would hope that the majority of our members will be happy to provide this consent, so that our audit may lead the way in a new era of transparency. Any feedback/comments on this process would also be most welcome.

Dave Chadwick, BAETS Executive Committee member - Audit Lead

Forthcoming Educational Events

European Society of Endocrine Surgeons 2013 Workshop

May 2013

www.eses.cc/

2nd Cardiff Thyroid FNAC Course

4 June 2013

details on BAETS website

International Association of Endocrine Surgeons

August 2013

www.iaes-endocrine-surgeons.com/meetings/upcoming.html

8th Hammersmith Multidisciplinary Endocrine Symposium, London

6 December 2013

details on BAETS website