

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF ENDOCRINE & THYROID SURGEONS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3 OCTOBER 2019

**Main Auditorium
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Campus de la Ciutadella
Barcelona**

5.15pm to 6.45 pm

1 Apologies

None received

2 Minutes of the AGM, Glasgow 2018

Approved by the AGM

3 President's Report – Mr G Sadler

a) The President thanked the local organiser for hosting BAETS in Barcelona.

b) Eurocrine – Mr Sadler outlined the ongoing discussions around whether BAETS should consider contributing to the Eurocrine Pan-European database. The proposed model would be to contribute to one database (UKRETS or Eurocrine) and if the membership did decide to move, historical data would be stored, rather than transferred into Eurocrine. Professor Anders Bergenfelz (Lund, COO of the Eurocrine Society) presented the potential benefits and costs to Exec and will present to the membership during the conference audit session. This will give membership the opportunity to ask questions. GS assured the members present that they will be consulted before a final decision is made.

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c) John Lynn – the President relayed the sad news that John Lynn, a founding member of BAETS and a longstanding supporter of the society had recently succumbed to previously treated cancer. AGM paused to reflect upon this.

Exec to provide an options appraisal to BAETS members the pros and cons of staying with the UKRETS registry versus moving to Eurocrine and provide a meaningful vote for the membership.

4 Treasurer's Report – Ms F Eatock

a) Ms Fiona Eatock outlined the financial status of the society and reported that the accounts are stable and in a healthy positive balance. In 2018 the society's turnover was approximately £154K, with expenses of approximately £62K. The total funds brought forward by the society were £159,913.64. Both the Masterclass and the Glasgow meeting operated with a profit with the surplus from Glasgow stated as approximately £28000. There was a slight increase in governance costs for the society up to approximately £15000 – this was due to a final payment to ASGBI, increased insurance for COP but overall, governance costs (Insurance ACS Global (membership), Services from Bhavnita Patel (Admin) and Emmanuel Amadiogwu (IT)) are projected to remain stable. The total funds as of the 3rd October 2019 were £159,237.82. The Annual meeting is expected to run at a surplus which will be split 40:60 between BAETS and the Spanish Section of Endocrine Surgery. A member of the AGM asked whether the financial yield from the society's reserves could be enhanced by moving them into a higher interest account. There was a brief discussion about this and it was agreed that this might be feasible but it was also agreed that the society had a responsibility not to use funds to speculate and that only a maximum of £85000 per Bank was fully protected by the UK financial services compensation scheme.

b) No major financial risks were identified.

Treasurer will check whether higher interest accounts are available and whether it is feasible for BAETS to hold the society reserves in two different banks.

5 Secretary's Report – Mr M Stechman

a) The secretary summarised the results of the 2019 elections for BAETS Executive Officers. Expressions of interest were sought for three places between the March and July 2019 executive meetings. Two candidates in good standing (Mr Omar Hilmi and Professor Neil Tolley) came forward and were conferred as ordinary members of executive unopposed. However, the DGH representative slot remained vacant and this was reported to the July Exec meeting. To remedy this, further EoIs were sought and 7 members in good standing contacted the Secretary. After confirmation that all were active members of the society and inputted at least 20 cases per annum into UKRETS, a STV election was undertaken in September 2019. More than 380 members/associates and honorary member of BAETS were contacted with a link for OPAvote, 203 members opened their emails and 118 members voted. Following discussion at Exec, AGM were informed that the results should stand and that Mr Ram Moorthy of Wexham Park Hospital, Slough has been duly elected to the BAETS executive council. The secretary thanked Ms Abigail Evans and Mr James England for their significant contribution to the council over the last 3 years and this was echoed by the AGM through applause.

AGM was assured that steps would be taken to ensure that all memberships details are updated and it was suggested that members should provide their personal rather than trust email address to ensure that future communications from BAETS are received and not rejected by spam filters.

Secretary also assured the AGM that checks would be carried-out regarding the current 'OPAvote' platform to ensure that other more compatible systems are not available.

b) The secretary then outlined the up coming executive positions for 2020. Foremost, the position of President Elect will be available and expressions of interest will be sought for this and any other vacancies in the Spring.

Secretary to ask memberships services to contact all members and ensure that email and contact details are up to date in October 2019.

Expressions of interest to be sought for President Elect, Treasurer and the secretary in Spring 2020.

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c) BAETS research grant (deadline for applications 30 December for decision at March Exec meeting)

AGM were updated that the recipient of this year's research grant for £5000 was Mr Andrew Riley of Hull for his project on 'Monitoring the secretome of advanced thyroid cancers for metastatic markers'. This work will be presented at a future Annual Meeting.

d) Access to UKRETS data (deadlines 31 Aug and 31 Jan)

AGM were informed that there had been one application for UKRETS data in 2019, Mr Seb Aspinall who will be looking at volume outcomes for parathyroid surgery.

e) AGM was also informed that a link to the recent NICE guidelines on pHPT is on the BAETS website, that BAETS has commented on the forthcoming NICE guidelines on Benign Thyroid Disease which are due in the Spring. The secretary also congratulated Mr Jeremy Davis on his appointment as topic advisor for the forthcoming NICE guidelines on thyroid Cancer.

f) The secretary stated to the AGM that the updated Patient Information Sheets with Montgomery compliant list of complications available for download from the BAETS website and thanked Professor Neil Tolley and his team for their work on this.

g) The intended co-opting of a Trainee Representative on the BAETS executive was announced and expressions of interest have already been requested by Fiona Eatock. A suitable candidate will be selected this Autumn and invited to subsequent exec meetings and will be required to represent the needs of ENT and General Surgery Trainees. The BAETS constitution will be amended accordingly and these changes will be put to the AGM for ratification in 2020.

h) Recent difficulties with membership access to the website were highlighted and have been investigated by the Web master. The website platform is now more than 5 years old and needs some updating. The cost of this is around £1200 pounds.

The executive agreed that this this must be resolved quickly and since the cost is relatively modest, plans for this will proceed this Autumn.

6 Research Update – Mr J England

Mr England summarised the difficulties with setting up a BAETS national study on QoL in Graves' disease over the past 3 years. Despite the initial interest in supporting this from the NIHR, support was eventually given to the 'Hemi or Total (HoT) trial' into the treatment of low risk thyroid cancer, led by Dae Kim from the the Royal Marsden. Final confirmation as to whether this will receive full funding is expected imminently. He also emphasised that the research grant continues to provide support for research but that those applying for the funds must be supported by a fully active member of BAETS as described in the BAETS constitution.

7 Education Update – Mr S Balasubramanian

a) A brief education update was provided. The date for the 2020 Masterclass is confirmed as 2nd March in Birmingham. The programme will be published soon and it will be advertised on the BAETS website. Last years meeting ran at a profit. There are also plans for an Adrenal Masterclass and these will be progressed over the next year.

b) The education lead has also undertaken a systematic review of Guidelines for post-thyroidectomy hypocalcaemia and hypoparathyroidism. The steering group comprised a ENT/ General/ Endocrinologists/ Patient group Rep. A survey of surgeons and physicians in UK is planned with the hope of producing guidelines for UK practices that can be endorsed by BAETS and SFE. Members will be requested to complete survey to be sent by email.

c) A brief update was also given on THY3000 a national study examining the management of THY3 nodules is likely to start recruiting patients shortly. Members can get involved by contacting the Education lead.

8 UKRETS and Consultant Outcomes Publication – Mr S Aspinall (presented on 4th Oct 2019)

a) The potential for **new workload dashboards** embedded in UKRETS was presented and although this would require some financial outlay (£6000-7000), this would provide members with up to date information on their numbers of operations, length of stay, and outcomes for annual appraisal. Exec has agreed this idea provided an impending move to Eurocrine.

b) Mr Aspinall also outlined the **status of UKRETS as a compulsory** audit and confirmed that because the audit features in HQIP “Quality Accounts List” through COP. Mandatory for Trusts to take part. GMC guidance on appraisal and revalidation – “expectation of participation in relevant national clinical audits” it is compulsory in England. The situation is less clear in the principalities but BAETS is looking for confirmation.

c) The society had recently received its first subject access request under GDPR whereby a patient applied for access to the UKRETS data held on them. There is a set process for this and it was agreed in Exec that any patients submitting future requests, would need to provide formal ID. Ultimately in this case, UKRETS held no data on the patient in question because the surgeon did not submit data.

d) Two recent publications from UKRETS data (Patel et al, BJS 2019 and Aspinall et al, Langenbeck’s Archive of Surgery) were mentioned and the membership were reminded that they can apply to undertake research from the database.

e) Consultant Outcomes Publication (COP) is due to be published soon for 2018-19. Although funding is confirmed for 2020, it is less certain for 2021. This implies that the funding that was formally available to support this is likely to be withdrawn.

f) Lastly, Mr Aspinall outlined plans for the 6th Audit Report which is due next year.

9 Eurocrine - Professor Anders Bergenfelz Aspinall (presented on 4th Oct 2019)

Professor Anders Bergenfelz provided a comprehensive summary of the design, interface and practical use of the Eurocrine Registry. BAETS members would be able to access it for an annual fee of €13000. Historic UKRETS data would not be transferred over. The advantages and disadvantages of a potential move will be presented to BAETS members to give them the final say.

Exec will put forward proposals to the membership and provide a meaningful ballot as soon as possible.

10 Future BAETS Annual Scientific Meetings

2020 Leeds

2021 Bournemouth or Southampton

Ms Sheila Fraser has recently joined Exec and gave a short presentation on the plans for the Leeds Annual Meeting, outlined the theme 'The Future of Endocrine Surgery' and confirmed that the BJS lecturer will be Professor Marcin Barczynski of Krakow.

The 2021 meeting will take place either in Bournemouth or Southampton and this will be confirmed in the next 6 to 8 weeks.

2022 Expressions of interest are now sought

11 Any Other Business

Questions taken from the floor from members of the society.

a) The functionality of the website was again mentioned and how this might impact upon members. The Secretary reiterated that following a report from the webmaster, Exec is looking to agree funds to take this forward in the very near future.

b) Issue of granting non-BAETS member clinicians involved in endocrine and thyroid surgery access to UKRETS was discussed extensively. The current position is that in order to access UKRETS,

clinicians must pay the subscription fee and join the society. This position is seen as a barrier because many surgeons undertaking thyroid surgery do not wish to join another society just to allow database access. However, the secretary commented that the subscription fee is very modest, that audit is part of GMC good medical practice and revalidation and that because it is part of COP, the UKRETS database is mandated by HQIP. Comments from the floor included proposals for a reduced fee for access to the database only (which would allow data entry and reports but not allow access to download national data), corporate access (whereby Hospitals could apply for access for their surgeons) as means to allow data entry to non-BAETS members. After a lengthy discussion, the President, suggested that the AGM vote on whether BAETS should look at proposals to allow this non-members to input data. After voting, there was no clear majority in favour of proceeding with this.

Exec will put forward proposals (with appropriate terms of reference) to the membership and provide a meaningful ballot over the next 12 months either online or at the AGM.

12 Date of Next AGM Thursday 8 October, 2020 Leeds

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