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Leeds General Infirmary
Leeds

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Spring Newsletter

President's Report

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. The big news for this edition is the publication of our 5th report based on data from UKRETS. David Chadwick deserves our thanks for all his hard work compiling the data and presenting it in such a comprehensible manner. Seb Aspinall now takes over as exec member with responsibility for development of the database and this is a good time to contact Seb with suggestions about how we can improve our data collection and put the information we do collect to good use. One thing we must address is our compliance and the comeliness of the data, which lags behind some of the other mandatory audits. I still hope we can obtain access to HES data to triangulate with UKRETS in order to get a better picture of which trusts and teams are lagging behind. We are asking for compliance with the database to be a measure used by the CQC as a measure of quality when assessing trusts and if this is agreed we will finally have some teeth! Going forward though, there are indications that funding for the National Audits may soon dry up. The DH intend to promote a subscription model where the audit is run by specialty societies from their membership income. Other societies are exploring the possibility of charging individual Trusts but by no means are all willing to contribute. If we get this wrong, the default is that the DH makes public individual consultant HES data without our input. Hence my interest in getting a better understanding of how we can integrate HES data in a way that supports rather than threatens our members but also might lead to improvements in outcomes.

In this vein I would like to highlight the data in a recent paper from Neil Tolley and his colleagues¹, which suggests that we should discuss revising upwards the number of thyroidectomies, we suggest members do as a minimum each year.

David Smith organised another very successful Masterclass in March. Some of you will be aware of the changes going on at the London College. In its wisdom it has decided that when it re-opens after refurbishment it no longer wants to have on-site education in the same form. Rest assured though, as David is negotiating for the next Masterclasses to be held in Birmingham under the auspices of the Edinburgh College. At the ASGBI meeting in May this year Helen Doran gave two excellent educational talks and the size of the audience demonstrates that there remains a need for us to support colleagues and trainees in general surgery who may be involved with postoperative care of patients who have recently had endocrine surgery, and who also need to know about current recommendations for the referral on of incidental thyroid and adrenal lesions to appropriate colleagues.

As adrenal surgery is no longer a part of our RCS Masterclass I think there is an opportunity to work

¹ A national analysis of trends, outcomes and volume–outcome relationships in thyroid surgery. Nouraei, S.A.R., Virk, J.S., et al Clin. Otolaryngol. 2016

with ASGBI to provide something during their annual meeting.

The general surgery curriculum is going through a major revision at the moment. There will be an emphasis on providing emergency general surgery. Knowledge of Endocrine Surgery will be in the curriculum in the early years as now and there will be modules in the later years for those who want to train in endocrine surgery or thyroid and parathyroid surgery. As this work progresses I hope we will finally see thyroid and parathyroid modules that are the same for trainees whether they are coming through general surgery or ENT.

Finally, thank you to all the committee members who are doing a sterling job of supporting and promoting our association on many fronts, not least Fiona Eatock who is organising our Scientific Meeting this year in Belfast. This promises to be an excellent meeting and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Mark Lansdown
President, BAETS

Secretary's Report

Treasurer position within the BAETS Executive

Jeremy Davis is due to demit the post of treasurer on the Executive this Autumn. Jeremy has completed the maximum 3+2 years term and the executive committee and membership are extremely grateful for his dedication and hard work in this critical role. The position is available from this year's annual conference and BAETS seeks expressions of interest from the membership. The responsibilities of this post can be found in section 7 of the BAETS constitution, which can be found on www.baets.org.uk/about-us.

The treasurer will be elected in accordance with section 8 of the BAETS constitution.

We ask that candidates e-mail their interest to me on secretary@baets.org.uk. They should provide a summary (up to 100 words) of what they will be able to bring to the role.

All nominations must be received by 5pm on 28 June 2017.

In the event of multiple candidates applying for one post, the summaries will be emailed to all members and candidates chosen by electronic voting.

37th BAETS Annual Scientific Conference

This year's BAETS annual conference will be held in Belfast. The venue is the **Assembly Buildings Conference Centre**, with plenty of hotel accommodation within walking distance.

The programme has been finalised and the meeting will begin on the morning of Thursday 12th October and conclude in the afternoon on Friday 13th October. The BJS guest lecturer is confirmed as Professor Stan Sidhu from the University of Sydney Endocrine Surgical Unit. The Gala dinner will take place on the Thursday evening at the unique Belfast Crumlin Road Gaol.

Further details of the conference are available via the BAETS website. In a departure from previous years we will be trialling an on-line abstract submission system. The details of each session and each abstract will be available via a smartphone app that will be free to download in the run up to the meeting.

Abstract submission is open from **Monday 1 May until midnight on 16 June**. Abstracts will be shortlisted for the prestigious BJS prize session, the free paper sessions and, the poster sessions.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) for election of BAETS Executive members

As mentioned previously, the executive would like to consult the membership on this change to the BAETS constitution, which brings the society's electoral system into line with that of the Councils of the Royal Colleges and the ASGBI. Information on the advantages and disadvantages of the STV system can be found at:

<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/sites/default/files/What-is-STV.pdf>

A motion to introduce STV will be proposed at the AGM in Belfast.

BAETS research grant

On behalf of the members of the executive, I would like to congratulate Mr G McKenzie, ACF in ENT, based at the University of Hull. He has been successful in his application for support to undertake studies looking at *The effect of corticosteroids on the release of immune modulating factors from Graves' disease tissue maintained using microfluidic culture*. He has been awarded £5000 and we anticipate that the results of this research will be presented at a forthcoming annual scientific meeting.

Login to Eurocrine registry to enter rare disease cases

The Eurocrine pan-European registry has logged an impressive 14000 cases in its first two years and has contributors in just fewer than 100 units across Europe. BAETS members can currently access the registry at no cost and in particular you are encouraged to submit rare disease cases (coloured purple on UKRETS: Medullary thyroid cancer, phaeochromocytoma and GEP-NETs). To register for a Eurocrine account, please send your name, position and hospital details to:

Hakan.Fornander@Skane.se

Your details will then be validated by the Audit lead and an account set up in your name.

Michael Stechman

Secretary, BAETS

secretary@baets.org.uk

Audit (UKRETS)

First, a big thank you to David Chadwick for leading the BAETS audit over the last few years. I only hope I can do as good a job as he has. After receiving handover from David in January at Dendrite head office, and getting to grips with what the role entails, my first task as audit lead has been to help co-ordinate the Consultant Outcomes Publication (COP) for the period 2011-2015, which, although slightly behind schedule, is now available to view on the BAETS website, and by the time this newsletter is published, should be published by NHS Choices.

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We did receive some feedback from members prior to publishing this data, which I hope we've been able to address satisfactorily – thanks to Christelle Given and Robin Kinsman at Dendrite for their help with this. As David mentioned previously, due to concerns raised about possible misuse of some data by private insurers, data on late hypocalcaemia and vocal cord assessment have not been included this time. However I will continue the discussions with HQIP about funding to support the publication of (COP) outcomes for parathyroid surgery in the future.

The fifth national audit report has now been published in PDF format and is available to view on the BAETS website. This represents a considerable body of work and contains some fascinating data on current practice and trends in the management of endocrine surgical disease over the last several years. Again credit goes to David Chadwick and the Dendrite for producing this excellent publication and, of course, to BAETS members for submitting the data to make this possible. I hope it will be of great interest and use to the membership.

Principal tasks over the next few months are to improve the functionality of the audit to allow BAETS members to generate/print their own results as funnel plots, which are useful in appraisal/revalidation. In addition I will look into the possibility of producing PDF templates of data from the audit for appraisal purposes. Some of the UKRETS data fields, particularly around adrenal surgery and parathyroid localisation, could also be enhanced, as well as adding new thyroid data points for core biopsy and tracheostomy. Access to the EUROCRINE database will also be improved to enable BAETS members to input data on rare tumours to this European endocrine surgical database.

Finally the BAETS executive has just approved an application from Cardiff to use the UKRETS to look at outcomes from adrenal surgery in the United Kingdom. I welcome any similar applications from trainees and BAETS members, as there is a wealth of information available now in the UKRETS, and we should take this opportunity as an organisation to use the database to answer (and publish the results of) specific research/audit questions.

Seb Aspinall
BAETS Audit Lead

Research

The executive's aim is to stimulate research within the Association for the benefit of patients. During the last 15 years members of BAETS have demonstrated a high level of engagement in UKRETS and so there is no reason why we cannot expand our research base. Currently research occurs sporadically and in a few centres and there remain several barriers to wider engagement including lack of financial and clerical support, unfamiliarity with the required processes, and lack of recognised time within job plans.

Overcoming these barriers is difficult but the short-term aim is to establish an observational study exploring patient experience and/or QoL following surgery as this demands less clinical time but should enable us to collect high volume data and stimulate research engagement from potentially interested parties.

In the intermediate term the executive plan to look for backing from sponsors to support BAETS backed projects that will remain the property of applying lead clinicians but could potentially involve

other centres following establishment of for example inter-trust material tissue transfer agreements in the case of studies into rarer tumours. Any presentations/publications arising from collaborative studies will, needless to say, cite all involved clinicians.

James England
Research Lead

BAETS Education Update

The Masterclass was held on Monday 27th March at RCSEng. 35 senior trainees and newly-appointed consultants attended - with a 50:50 split between general surgical and ENT background. Aspects of low and high-risk thyroid cancer and overviews of calcium metabolism and parathyroid surgery provided valuable information in addition to highly interactive discussions at the workshop stations. Feedback from the participants was very positive indeed and thanks goes to all Faculty for all their time and input. Due to building alterations and a change in direction of educational strategy by the RCSEng, next year's Masterclass will be held in the RCSEd Birmingham Centre on Monday 5th March 2018. Please put this date in your diary for next year.

The ISCP endocrine curriculum presentations that BAETS produced have been well-used by trainees looking to cover their requirements for syllabus. These can also be accessed through the BAETS website.

In future, we aim to provide a further 4 webinars over the next 12 months in conjunction with RCSEd as before. Dates for these will be provided on the BAETS website and via email. In addition we are looking to provide a Trainee session as part of the Program for the Annual meeting in Belfast and look forward to seeing as many trainees there as possible.

David Smith
Education Lead