



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

Secretary: Mr Ashu Gandhi
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Winter Newsletter

Presidents Report

I would like to start by acknowledging the tremendous work that David Chadwick has dedicated to the Consultant Outcome Publication (COP) process. This has once again been a tour-de-force and BAETS owes David a huge debt of thanks. It was hoped that this would be less stressful than last year but alas the COP process has been hijacked by the politicians meaning that the deadlines and ultimate date of release changed many times. The NHS also decided in their wisdom that the data should be duplicated on two websites, ours and MyNHS. This decision was against our advice. The latter has been beset with errors which David and Dendrite are still sorting out at the time of writing.

Despite this glitch, every member of BAETS should be proud of the data but challenges remain. Internally, we must sort out data validation and at a national level we seek to capture every thyroid operation undertaken by every surgeon. To that end I have written to Sir Bruce Keogh describing our challenges in the hope that we can discuss how to conquer our challenges.

Those of you who came to the Liverpool conference will know that it was a huge success in terms of academic/educational content, entertainment and attendance. Thank you to Alison Waghorn and her local team supported by Ashu/Jeremy and the team at ASGBI [congratulations to Bhav on the arrival of her baby girl]. Liverpool gave me the opportunity to describe and thank all of my colleagues on the Executive Committee who are working so hard on your behalf.

2015 is already looking busy. Please read on for details about the Thyroid and Parathyroid Masterclass. At the start of the ASGBI meeting, April 2015, we are planning an Adrenal Masterclass. The EUROCRINE project is running to time and UK is one of three pilot countries to start gathering data in the coming months.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mr David Scott-Coombes
President, BAETS

Secretary's Report

Members Profile Webpage

We have developed a page on the BAETS website that will display a list of our members. This will be accessible by the public and will list the following mandatory data: members name, GMC number and NHS affiliation. These data are already in the public domain but are for the first time going to be documented on the BAETS website.

In addition to this members can choose to add further information if they wish. You will have the opportunity to add a photo, telephone number(s), other institutional affiliations (can be independent sector if wished), email addresses. If you wish to upload a photo it is best done at 150 pixel size. To convert/compress your photo please visit the following free and very simple website

www.picsize.com/

Each member can add as much or as little as they wish in addition to the mandatory data mentioned above. There is no charge. Please remember that all data will be openly accessible.

We hope that members will find this a useful tool to champion their endocrine/thyroid surgery credentials. You can submit your details on www.baets.org.uk/membership

Access to BAETS National Registry Data

This is a topic that has been discussed for some time and I was pleased to announce at the AGM in Liverpool that there is now a mechanism in place that allows bids by members who wish to access the data held on the BAETS UK National Registry for research or audit purposes.

The process is described in detail on the BAETS website (www.baets.org.uk/audit/) and was developed with consideration for the confidentiality of our members and the data protection act. Bids will be received in competition twice a year.

Future Dates for the Annual Scientific Conference

2015	October 8, 9	Reading / Henley on Thames
2016	November	Berlin
2017	October	Belfast

The exact dates for the 2016 and 2017 meetings are to be confirmed.

New BAETS Education Lead

BAETS is very pleased to welcome David Smith to the executive as Educational Lead. David has extensive experience in educational matters as he was the Wade Chair of Education at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh until recently.

You can see below some of the educational developments we are introducing for the benefits of our members.

My very best wishes to all BAETS members and their families.

Ashu Gandhi

Secretary

secretary@baets.org.uk

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www.baets.org.uk

Educational Developments

We are actively working on the educational facilities available to our members.

Webinars

We are half way through a successful series of webinars, hosted jointly with RCSEd. These aim to help surgical trainees cover aspects of the Surgical Curriculum. Our next webinar is

28th January Tom Kurzawinski Patients with Inherited Thyroid Cancer

To login to these webinars go to www.rcsed.ac.uk/education/educational-resources/webinars/endocrine-live-webinars.aspx. Our aim is to archive these webinars on the BAETS website where they will be available to members. These should be available in early 2015.

Ethicon Preceptorship

We have also in collaboration with Ethicon developed an Educational Program for that will be available for 12 successful applicants. Flyers for this program have just gone out and will offer the individual a place on the BAETS Masterclass and a 2 day Head and Neck and Thyroid Surgery in June at ESI in Hamburg; there will also be a Preceptorship scheme set up to help newly appointed consultants in terms of support and assistance with difficult or unusual cases.

Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery Masterclass

The date for the Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery Masterclass is 9 March 2015. Further details can be obtained on the Royal College of Surgeons of England website www.rcseng.ac.uk/courses/course-search/thyroid-and-parathyroid-masterclass

David Smith
Education Lead
BAETS

Research Update

The ***Clinical Research Initiative*** set up by the Royal College of Surgeons in 2013 aims to improve the care of surgical patients and promote advances in surgical care through clinical trials. To date there are over 100 studies initiated across all surgical specialties, with approximately 20000 patients recruited in over 300 surgical units.

The BAETS made a strategic decision to become involved in this scheme by sponsoring the appointment of two Surgical Specialty Leads – Radu Mihai and Dae Kim.

The challenge is to engage the membership of BAETS to participate in trials that could not be achieved in individual units and could only be successful if enough surgeons recruit patients into such a study. The concept may be unattractive to some as no individual unit/surgeon can claim full ownership of data. This is however the model most favored by funding bodies who are prepared to reward clinical research networks.

The first study to be developed will be named **ThyVoice** and will explore voice outcome after thyroid surgery. Surgeons interested in participating will inform their patients about the study at the first preoperative clinic appointment and will direct them towards a web-based self-registration. This initiates contact with a research nurse who will obtain consent and will provide access to the online questionnaires. The model has been approved and financed by NIHR in other projects.

The questionnaires for *ThyVoice* have been built up and a mock website has been tested. A formal funding application will be made in early 2015 with the aim to start recruiting before the end of 2015. In the first weeks of March we aim to organise a launching event at the Royal College (dates to be confirmed).

A second proposal made was to initiate a cohort study **NoTG-NoRA** exploring the outcome of thyroid cancer patients found to have un-measurable stimulated thyroglobulin following radical thyroid surgery and in whom radioactive iodine ablation will be omitted. A preliminary discussion with the thyroid subgroup at the National Institute for Cancer Research identified a potential conflict with recruitment in the ongoing IoN trial. It is expected however that patients who decline the IoN trial and patients at centres not involved in IoN trial might still be prepared to contribute to NoTG-NoRA. A formal proposal will be prepared and circulated for comments to those BAETS members who would like to get involved in the further development of this project.

At the present time there is more funding available for surgical research than ever before. In the absence of a 'track record' it remains challenging to get access to such funds and the key element remains the 'critical mass' of surgeons prepared to invest time and energy into such initiatives. If we succeed, the position of BAETS within the other surgical subspecialties will be strengthened, hence we cannot fail. Your contribution can make the difference and I rely entirely on your involvement.

Research Funding Opportunity for Members

The NIHR have contacted us as they are currently inviting proposals for research into bone metabolism disorders including parathyroid disorders. They favour studies that test if an intervention works as expected in a well-defined population or group of patients. Please see www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/eme for more details.

With my very best wishes for 2015 for BAETS members,

Radu Mihai
BAETS Executive Member, Research Lead

BAETS National Registry

As detailed at the Annual Meeting in Liverpool, the main recent developments regarding the national audit have been the release of the latest Consultant Outcomes Publication, and the completion of the new version (v3) of the database.

Feedback so far on both developments has been very positive, and I would like to thank the membership for their engagement and enthusiasm for the audit, which contributes towards an increasingly important national resource. If any problems are encountered, however, or if you have suggestions for future improvements in the audit, please feel free to contact me.

This year we were required to provide some data for publication on the NHS Choices website, and elected only to provide mortality data. Some problems were encountered in translating our data to the NHS Choices format, particularly in correct identification of host hospitals, and we are continuing to work to rectify these issues.

From discussions in Liverpool, there appeared to be considerable enthusiasm for expansion of the range of indicators which we publish in the public domain. This might include, for instance, publication of long-term recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy rates after thyroidectomy, and of various outcomes of parathyroid and adrenal surgery. In considering this, I plan to re-examine the current quality of the data on these outcomes, and the influence of confounding factors, such as variation in the use of post-operative laryngoscopy, but would also value any feedback from the membership. Even prior to the recent national initiatives on consultant-level publication of outcomes, the BAETS had been moving towards more open reporting, so it seems logical to continue the progress so far, and indeed to lead the way for other audits to follow.

Certainly, we have already seen major improvements in data quality resulting from this initiative. However, I am aware that this remains a contentious issue, and would be keen to gauge the views of the membership as widely as possible. Please feel free, therefore, to contact me with any comments or concerns, which will be carefully considered by the Executive as we look to developing our audit strategy for the future.

Best wishes,

David Chadwick

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BAETS Executive Member, Audit Lead