



President: Mr Mark Lansdown
Leeds General Infirmary
Leeds

Secretary: Mr Michael Stechman
University Hospital of Wales
Cardiff

Winter Newsletter

President's Report

On 20th January your executive committee met for an extraordinary meeting instead of waiting until our usual meeting in March. We felt this was necessary because there have been so many changes to the exec since the Autumn. It was a pleasure to welcome the new members; I have every confidence that they will represent you and work hard to take our association forward. But change is constant and we are already thinking about how to fill the Treasurer's post, which becomes vacant this year. The exec will keep you informed of the process by e-mail and I look forward to seeing the applications. Also very important will be your thoughts on a possible change to the constitution at the next AGM. We have moved from a simple vote to choose executive members at the AGM to an electronic voting system. This has opened up the vote to members who have, for whatever reason, not been able to attend the meeting. We now wish to explore the advantages and disadvantages of moving from the first past the post system (FPTP) to the single transferable vote (STV), with which you will be familiar from Royal College elections.

We continue to have strong ties with the ASGBI and will be supporting their Annual Conference by providing speakers and hopefully another team for the President's Cycling Challenge! We also enjoy close links to ENT-UK, who recently asked us to undertake a joint piece of work with them to develop a set of standards for Hospitals in which thyroid surgery is performed. The work has been commissioned by the CQC and I am hopeful that the CQC will adopt the mandatory entry of data into UKRETS as one of the criteria they will look for when assessing NHS Trusts.

The next Masterclass is being held at The RCS London on the 27th March. Please encourage your colleagues and juniors to come along if they have not attended before and please come along yourself if it has been a while since you attended – an enjoyable and educational day, ideal for CPD and your next appraisal! Following that we have the Annual Scientific Meeting in Belfast on 12-13 October 2017. Last year I was in Belfast for the ASGBI meeting, my first visit since presenting to the SRS there in 1997. That visit was particularly memorable for me as I paced the corridors with renal colic the day before my first presentation to a rather intimidating audience. About as far removed from presenting to our friendly society as you can imagine – except for the quality of the science. On my more recent visit I found it to be a friendly and vibrant city and I am looking forward to returning.

Finally, a few words of thanks to all those members of the Exec who recently demitted office, but especially to Ashu Gandhi who rounded off his term as an excellent secretary by organizing, with Thomas Steinmüller, such an excellent Scientific meeting with our German and Austrian colleagues in Berlin. I would also like to thank Bhav and her team in the ASGBI offices for their support that helps BAETS run so smoothly.

Mark Lansdown

President, BAETS

Secretary's Report

2016 Annual Scientific Meeting, Berlin

The 2016 meeting was held jointly with the German Association of Endocrine Surgeons (CAEK) at the Hilton Hotel in the heart of historic former East Berlin. The meeting was extremely successful with approximately 400 delegates attending from the UK, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. A series of excellent sessions were held on benign thyroid surgery, thyroid cancer and parathyroid disease. Highlights included the Theodor-Kocher/BJs guest lecture from Professor Bruno Niederle of Vienna, entitled 'The Human C cell and its tumours' and the interactive 'What would you do next?' clinical case discussions. The meeting also permitted lively discussion around topics such as intraoperative neural monitoring and same day discharge for thyroid surgery and it was particularly interesting to observe the differing practices of delegates from different parts of Europe. The winner of the BJS prize for best UK trainee presentation was **Aphrodite Iacovidou** (Hammersmith and Charing Cross hospitals) for her presentation 'How good are surgeons at predicting difficulty in thyroid surgery?'

The winners of the individual poster sessions were as follows:

- Thyroid Carcinoma: **Antony Sorial** (Salford Royal Hospital) - Can a radiological scoring system for assessing the malignant potential of thyroid nodules be safely applied in clinical practice?
- Thyroid surgery: **Pei Ru Chew** (Royal Hallamshire Hospital) - Design, validation and implementation of protocol for post thyroidectomy hypocalcaemia – a template for UK practice
- HPT: **Michael Shawky** (Centre for Innovative Endocrine Surgery at UCLH and GOSH) - New management paradigm for patients with Primary Hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) and single abnormal parathyroid gland identified by pre-operative ultrasound.
- Adrenal: **Gerard Walls** (University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust) - Whole-exome next generation sequencing of sporadic adrenocortical carcinomas – evidence for a proposed adenoma-carcinoma carcinogenesis sequence.

Abstracts will be published in the European Journal of Surgical Oncology.

On behalf of the members of the executive and members of the BAETS, once again I would like to thank the meeting organisers Professor Thomas Steinmüller, Ashu Gandhi the outgoing secretary of the BAETS and Bhavnita Patel from the BAETS/ASGBI office for their tireless efforts in organizing such an excellent meeting.

2016 BAETS Annual General Meeting

A number of important issues were discussed and/or ratified at the AGM:

1. The AGM voted unanimously to increase the tenure of the member of the executive for Audit from 3 years +/-2 years to 4 years +/- 2 years to improve continuity in this important role.
2. The AGM voted unanimously to increase the BAETS membership subscription from £90 to £95, effective in 2017.
3. Specialist Advisory Committee: current representatives (General Surgery: Richard Bliss and Alison Waghorn and ENT Surgery: Jeremy Davis) are due to demit these posts in the next 12 months. BAETS members should consider taking on these roles. The closing date is 31st January for General Surgery and 28th February for ENT.
4. Congratulations to Mr David Scott-Coombes (Cardiff) on his election to the position of President-Elect of the European Society of Endocrine Surgeons (ESES).

Lastly the sad death of Nick Dudley (formerly of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford), a past President of BAES 1997-1999, was acknowledged by a moment's silence during the Presidents Report.

Parathyroid Information leaflets

Patient information sheets for thyroid surgery are available on the BAETS website for the use of surgeons and patients. In a similar vein, information sheets relating to Parathyroid surgery have now been added (via the following link: <http://www.baets.org.uk/useful-links/patients/>).

Electoral Reform

Currently BAETS elections employ a First Past the Post (FPTP) system but we wish to consult BAETS members on changing to the Single transferable vote (STV) system. We welcome comments on this to the e-mail address below. These will be discussed by the exec and a proposal put to a vote at the next AGM in Belfast. Explanations of the pros and cons of FPTP and STV can be found on-line.

Michael Stechman

Secretary, BAETS

secretary@baets.org.uk

Education Update

The main thrust of Education within BAETS has been to promote endocrine surgery to all trainees in ENT and General Surgery - the previous online webinars in conjunction with the RCSEd proved extremely popular with the trainees and we now have agreement to produce a further 4 webinars over the coming year; dates to be decided but these will be promoted through the BAETS and Edinburgh College websites. In addition we are planning to have a Trainee session at the Belfast annual meeting BAETS in October, covering aspects of endocrine surgery that will be relevant to the trainees, particularly those preparing for the intercollegiate examinations.

The deadline has just passed for the BAETS/Ethicon training program - this year we have received the largest number of applicants for the program, with interest from afar as South Africa and Yemen, which is very encouraging. The twelve successful applicants will be generously sponsored by Ethicon for a place at the Masterclass in March and a thyroidectomy workshop at the ESI in Hamburg.

We have added "Adrenal Surgery" as a search topic to the Literature update (in addition to "thyroid cancer" and "parathyroid surgery") - the first of these came out last month and will be updated every 3 months and an email flyer sent around to all members

Lastly the BAETS Masterclass - this will take place on Monday 27th March at the RCS England. The program includes lectures on low risk and locally advanced thyroid cancer, an overview of parathyroid surgery and calcium metabolism, as well as the ever-popular workshops. The program has been designed to provide a stimulus for all specialities so I would encourage all to register for this on the RCSEng website as soon as possible.

David Smith
BAETS, Education Lead

Report from the UK Registry of Endocrine & Thyroid Surgery

This year's round of the Consultant Outcomes Publication Program is slightly behind our original schedule, due to delays in finalizing the contract with HQIP. However, members will shortly be sent a link to view their provisional data/funnel plots, and thereafter the BAETS website for COP will be updated, and results uploaded to NHS Choices for publication on their website in early 2017. As discussed at the AGM in Berlin, this year's output will exclude the funnel plots for late hypocalcaemia and the data on vocal cord assessment, due to concerns raised about possible misuse of some data by private insurers in the last year or so. In some ways, this feels a retrograde step, but this decision will be reviewed annually, taking into account any changes to how our data are used, issues of data quality and completeness, and of course, members' views. On a positive note, we have also had further discussions with HQIP about possible funding to support the publication of outcomes for parathyroid surgery in future, which I hope will come to fruition in due course.

The next national report of the Audit is also due for publication very soon. This will be published solely as a PDF on the BAETS website, in order to reduce costs. The report contains some fascinating data on current practice, and on trends in the management of endocrine surgical disease over the last

several years, and I hope will be of great interest and use to the membership.

One feature of the audit website is the functionality for members to generate/print their own results as funnel plots, which can be useful in appraisal/revalidation. Since the last revision of the database in October 2014, however, it was recognized that some of this functionality has declined, and we have discussed in the BAETS Executive and with Dendrite how to make this feature more useful to members. We have agreed some funding to develop this aspect of the database more fully in the next few months, so hopefully members will see some changes shortly, which will make the effort of data entry even more worthwhile.

Finally, I have now come to the end of my tenure as audit director, and am pleased to welcome Sebastian Aspinall into the role, following the elections of Executive members earlier in the year. I wish him all the best in this fulfilling post, and I know he has great plans and energy to take the audit forward.

I would like to extend my thanks to the membership for the support that I have received over the last five years. The enthusiasm shown by BAETS members for the audit has made it flourish, and made my job, as audit lead, all the more enjoyable.

David Chadwick
Immediate Past BAETS Audit Lead