

14th September 2021

Dear members,

We hope that you are all well during these busy and difficult times.

The BAHNON committee met via Teams for the first time since the beginning of summer on Thursday 9th September and it was great to see each other and to begin to plan for the future.

During the pandemic, the committee has and continues to work hard on the front line, involved with the care of head and neck cancer patients in our respective hospitals. We are all seeing an increase in new referrals, many of these new patients are presenting later and often with more advanced disease, necessitating more radical treatments and needing increased input from the different services. All of this additional work whilst caring for our existing patients, many of them are having trouble accessing their usual support in primary care and many of whom seem to be dealing with recurrence/residual disease with no extra staffing. This increase in service pressure can be both physically and mentally exhausting and we hope that you are receiving effective support from your clinical supervisors, managers and teams so that you can continue to do your job well.

Despite also being busy on the front line, BAHNON committee members have been involved with various projects and initiatives both locally and nationally. Jo Greedy and her colleagues have a very active regional group in the South West, with a number of different teams there meeting virtually for training, support and best-practice sharing on a periodic basis. Other committee members have also been involved with writing a 'role of the clinical nurse specialist' chapter for the new ENT-UK guidelines, helping to update Macmillan patient literature and contributing to the PETNeck 2 study, which hopes to risk stratify some patient's follow-up in addition to providing an App for patients to check their systems and advise them further on effective self-management.

Unfortunately, we continue to have issues with our website, with potential members telling us that they are unable to register, current members are finding it difficult to log-in and some content has also been lost. We are working hard to rectify these problems and are in regular contact with the website designers to iron these issues out. For these problems we apologise and ask that you bear with us whilst we try and fix these issues.

At the committee meeting we talked about the future direction of head and neck nursing and when we could safely conduct our next conference. For obvious reasons it has not been possible to hold an event with a large amounts of delegates in one room, however we are excited to announce that we hope to be able to do this at a venue in Liverpool on Friday June 2023. Whilst virtual meetings have been useful there's nothing quite like networking with colleagues' face-to-face, old and new!

With the conference in mind, we are seeking people to share their stories of good practice, new projects or anything else you want to present to colleagues from around the UK. There will be opportunities to display work informally at our poster presentation event in any format you like. Please liaise with a committee member if you are interested on sharing your good work!

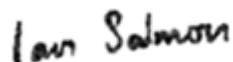
In other news, we have said a fond farewell and thank you to Ingrid Haupt-Schott Thyroid Cancer CNS from Cardiff. Ingrid retires from BAHNON and her CNS post and we wish her a long and happy retirement. We've welcomed Amanda Naylor, Head and Neck CNS from Milton Keynes University Hospital and Hollie Watts Head and Neck CNS from Northampton General Hospital back to the committee. We looked forward to working with you both!

We know that a lot of people use social media and if you use Facebook, we now have our own page as another way to keep in contact with us and each other.

Finally, we are keen to extend our links overseas to gain knowledge and best practice from colleagues working around the world. Amanda has already made inroads into this and we have links with the US, New Zealand, Australia and many others! These overseas contacts will be added to the website in due course, in addition to the committee's meeting agenda and minutes.

Remember that BAHNON is about promoting the role of head and neck nurses so feel free to reach out and share with us any news, events or study days that you are involved with.

Wishing you all well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Salmon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Salmon
Website and membership BAHNON committee member.
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