The Association promotes education, research and audit whilst working to achieve the highest standards of medical and surgical practice in the specialty for the benefit of patients
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President’s Annual Report
by Valerie Lund – President

Remarkably another year has gone by and even more surprising this will be my final report as President. It is traditional to reflect on the highlights and successes and there have certainly been a number of these but they must be viewed against an increasingly difficult political background in which the delivery of high quality clinical care can often seem an uphill struggle. In the latter years of my predecessor, Professor Sir Donald Harrison’s career at Grays Inn Rd, he perpetually complained about the deterioration of everything in a most depressing way and I swore that in due course I would avoid this stance. However, there are moments when we do seem beset from all sides whilst dealing with the deception that ‘everything is getting better’. A good example has been the surgeon level data release where once again some specialities have faced the glare of adverse publicity. For a variety of reasons the DAHNO information garnered little media attention, mainly due to the outcomes chosen and happily mortality remains low at 30 days with no outliers. Overall risk adjusted and staged survival at 5 or 10 years in which patients might reasonably have a greater interest is not demanded by the government and this is an outstanding example were the unit data encompassing the input of medical oncologists/radiotherapists should be taken into account. Interestingly in the Netherlands where they have had a robust audit for some years, only unit data is considered, and over several years rather than using an annual potentially inaccurate snapshot. They are surprised and highly critical of the process inflicted on surgeons in England.

However, the genie is out of the bottle and outcome data will continue to be published and expanded to all areas of practice. Clinician involvement will be mandatory to any database within their practice and if we do not create something fit for purpose ourselves, other organisations such as Dr Foster are desperate to ‘help’. As this organisation has already expressed disbelief that such a small number of surgeons are outliers, I think we can agree it is best for us to develop appropriate systems and to this end the Benign Laryngology Audit, produced with the help of Dendrite, is now available with otology and rhinology close behind.

Revalidation, again hailed by the government as another ground-breaking initiative on the back of the Shipman enquiry and Janet Smith’s report, will do little to prevent a determined serial killer but has done a lot to increase bureaucracy in the NHS and fill the coffers of the myriad companies offering to manage 360° appraisal. On a positive note, the vast majority of doctors have passed with flying colours and those referred have largely been due to failure to put together the necessary paperwork. However, the law of unintended consequences has operated to potentially disenfranchise retired doctors wishing to continue to undertake medico legal work, assist with clinical education and do humanitarian work abroad. A man from NHS England who presented to the FSSA earlier this year seemed blissfully unaware of this which resulted in a rapidly produced guidance document.

As far as Commissioning is concerned, it is very difficult to judge what is happening. Certainly in some areas the CCGs have been active and have impacted on local care but there seems to be a ‘pushing-back’ on the specialised commissioning front. Certainly the Head and Neck CRG, despite the best efforts of colleagues, has struggled to implement change and disappointingly there is now a suggestion that CRG functions will be devolved locally. However, having signed ENT UK up as a stakeholder in many of the other CRGs, I have been asked to comment this year on service specifications for ophthalmology, paediatrics and oncology issues such as proton beam therapy, thereby having some input into areas which heavily impact on our practice.

Meanwhile the conclusions of the Competition Commission’s report on private practice left much to be desired when published this year and virtually all areas on which FIPO had made representation, were studiously ignored. This has led to a legal challenge by FIPO, supported by
many organisations, including ENT UK. Although it seems unlikely that the Commission will retract its findings, it will hopefully serve to fire a warning shot across the insurer’s bows, if you will forgive the metaphor. It also seems that many things such as implementation of Greenaway’s Shape of Training are on hold until after the next General Election.

Fortunately all is not gloom and despondency. The clinical research prioritisation exercise in ENT and audiovestibular medicine undertaken by Natalie Bohm and Professor Anne Schilder has been funded by ENT-UK and the results will be available early next year, providing guidance and support for a robust future strategy which puts us ahead of most other surgical specialities.

The Consultant Skills Refresher courses in Emergency Paediatric Airway have gone from strength to strength and have been attended by 166 ENT-UK colleagues, with 4-6 courses planned for next year. And a similar exercise will be included in the Skills centre at BACO next year.

And facial plastic surgery has been given a face-lift if you will pardon the pun, by Tim Woolford which has excited a lot of interest, not least amongst BAPRAS!

Overall, 2014 has been a very successful year for ENT UK. We have increased our political profile through the FSSA, there have been some very positive changes in our office structure now ably led by Lyndy Pullan and much is planned for the website and our membership services. Overall I have had a very interesting time, supported as ever by the Executive members (Nirmal, John, Chris, Anirvan, Andrew, Derek and Tony) who have been a constant source of sound advice and positive assistance for which I most sincerely thank them. I am confident that my successor, Tony N will continue to benefit from that support and I wish him the best of luck!

First Year Report
by B Nirmal Kumar – Honorary Secretary

"Whither Halcyon Days"

"...Expect Saint Martin's summer, halcyon days,
Since I have entered into these wars."

Shakespeare, Henry V1, Part 1, 1592

This is my first report as Honorary Secretary for ENT UK having been Assistant for 3 years and it has been quite a year. It all seemed easy and halcyon when seen from afar but I realize that being in the "hot seat" poses completely different challenges. I must begin by thanking my predecessor Andrew McCombe who really steered ENT UK through very difficult times and was a tough act to follow. It was also an honour to serve under Professor Valerie Lund who showed me what it takes to perform at the top of the game! More importantly, and in spite of her very demanding roles, she was always available to provide advice and support in all matters that affected our specialty and members.

It has been a very productive year for ENT UK and much of this is due to the stability we have found in the office with our new General Manager, Lyndy Pullan and her team who are now working smoothly to not just fire-fight but to act positively and function as the administrative arm of ENT UK, as it should be. I thank all our members for their patience in the trying times of the past but hope that from now we will have a much smoother ride. Though the financial and other challenges faced by all of us are increasing we will hopefully work together for the benefit of our members and ultimately improve the quality of our services to patients.
In 2014, following the earlier work done for the College in producing commissioning guidance to help the emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG’s), ENT UK provided guidance for otitis media with effusion, sore throat and tonsillitis, and rhino-sinusitis. This seems to have been successful in warding off, at least temporarily; the challenge of limiting "Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness" and some further work was required to respond to CCG’s in their localized attempts to limit services. The inherent fallacy in the argument for limiting tonsillectomy has been shown by the exponential increase in admissions for acute tonsillitis and its complications and ENT UK have tried to disseminate this information to all stakeholders and commissioners. GENERATE led by Prof Anne Schilder and Natalie Bohm will also augment this and by raising awareness of the importance of continuing research in ENT will help develop a joint national programme for research with allied professional organisations.

As mentioned by Prof Lund, ENT UK is working with Dendrite to work on audits across the specialities for the benefit of members and we hope to be ahead of the game before such activities become mandatory. The support for e-lefENT from ENT UK is bearing fruit and is a good platform that is increasingly seen as a resource both locally and abroad.

In 2014, ENT UK ran a successful annual meeting which covered many of the topical themes of interest including training and commissioning. We are providing input to Shape of Training Review and also made a request to the Centre for Work Force Intelligence (an oxymoron in my view) at the DoH to increase the numbers of training posts so as to reduce the mismatch between CCT numbers and consultant posts being advertised across the UK. The successful alliance with ORS and CAPAG continued.

Development of a digital strategy led by our new Assistant Secretary, Anirvan Banerjee has provided a new sense of direction after the teething problems of our website were overcome. Links with e-lefENT, BACO and some new features including "surgeon-finder" as also the ability to book on to courses such as Paediatric ENT Skills Courses for Consultants is proving a good resource.

In keeping with our charitable aims we continue supporting the Medical training Initiative (MTI) and provide substantial and high quality training for international fellows while forging links with institutions abroad. Other types of charitable activities abroad have also been fostered due to the herculean efforts of various members.

In the financial milieu that the NHS is now facing and ever increasing demands for Cost Improvement Projects (CIP’s) it is imperative that we as a small speciality group stand together and provide a clarion call amongst the larger surgical specialities. Professor Lund leaves as President in the New Year but with Tony Narula and other executive colleagues we hope to continue to serve the membership to the best of our abilities and in an inclusive fashion. With our new President elect starting imminently and the rest of the executive team we look forward to hearing from you if there is anything that we can do to make your jobs more enjoyable and productive.

I leave you with a quote from LP Hartley who said "The past is a different country: they do things differently there". There is no going back and "we must embrace the change we wish to see in the world" (MK Gandhi).
Finance and the Office
by John Rubin—Honorary Treasurer

The UK economy is growing, but in an atmosphere of austerity measures that we are still feeling the effects of. None the less the finances of ENT UK remain healthy and buoyant and we have been able to both build on recent activities for our membership and undertake a number of new initiatives over the year.

Our main driving force in 2013-14 was once again medical education. Activities over the past year included a successful ENT UK Annual meeting in September which was a well-supported highly successful event hosted at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Ongoing activities have included e-learning projects, in particular the e-lefENT e-learning project that continues to flourish under the enthusiastic leadership of Victoria Ward, the Medical Training Initiative, various fellowships, Medical student and Foundation year initiatives, activities to support Revalidation, etc. Newer activities have included National Audit development that will help support members with surgeon level outcome reporting and revalidation, the Generate project that will help bring ENT research well into the 21st century and the Consultant emergency refresher ENT skills project. Planning for BACO 2015, 8-10 July 2015, in Liverpool is, of course, in an advanced stage under the careful eye of the Master, Ian Mackay and the team that he has set up.

To support these initiatives, there have been considerable new activities and faces in the office. In mid-year Richard Guy, our General Manager left us and we successfully brought in Lyndy Pullan, who subsequently has built up the office team. The web site and computer systems have been enhanced and the office is now able to provide administrative activity such as PESCC.

From the perspective of Governance, I am pleased to note that we have achieved our charitable objectives. We have generally worked throughout the year towards an increase in fiscal transparency. To that end, we maintained a regular financial forecast throughout the year. Towards the end of the year we inaugurated a financial audit committee, inclusive of an independent member. We put into process the development of a more formalised financial policy, still being finalised at the time of writing this report. We have been in close contact with our Accountants at Baker Tilly, in particular in relation to VAT registration, in terms of necessity, timing and the possibility of obtaining an exemption for the charity. The society’s financial assets continue to do well under the care of Brewin Dolphin and as yet we have not needed to capitalize funds. That said, all of the ongoing activities and newer initiatives that we have undertaken do have cost implications, and need to be carefully budgeted for.

On a personal note, I took over as Treasurer from Andrew Swift during the 2013-14 year. I must again thank him for his mentorship, for all of his good work as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and in helping conceive the exciting new activities that ENTUK has undertaken for membership.
**British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology (BACO 2015: July 8th - 10th July, Liverpool)**

by Ian Mackay – BACO Master

The 15th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology (BACO) will be held from the 8th July to 10th July 2015 at the award winning Liverpool Conference Centre. BACO is established as the major international ENT conference in the United Kingdom and attracts friends and colleagues with speakers and delegates from across the world.

Prof Shak Saeed has organized an extensive academic programme spread over the 3 days which will include 5 world renowned keynote speakers; Prof Sir Ian Gilmore, Prof Piero Nicolai, Prof Randall Morton, Prof Erwin Offeciers and Prof Diane Bless. A key feature of this conference will be the practical surgical demonstrations, cadaveric FESS and temporal bone dissection and we will be repeating the very popular clinical skills training centre, workshops and an extensive trade exhibition and electronic poster display.

In addition to providing sessions, which should appeal to all those ENT surgeons with special interests, the conference will again offer specific days dedicated to ENT nurses, audiologists, and speech and language therapists.

The chairman of the local organising committee, Andrew Swift has negotiated with conference organisers and the centre to ensure a successful meeting and arranged the social programme which includes the Master’s Reception at St George’s Hall on Wednesday evening and the Conference Dinner at the Maritime Museum on Thursday, showcasing the Maritime History of Liverpool.

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**British Rhinological Society (BRS)**

*by Paul White - President*

The BRS has had another busy and successful year. BRS council members Claire Hopkins and Andrew Swift launched a successful bid to bring the European Rhinologic Society meeting to the UK (London) in 2018.

The annual scientific meeting for 2014 was held at the Assembly Rooms in Norwich and was extremely well organised by Carl Philpott. The academic focus this year was patient centred care in rhinology and this was facilitated by involvement of “the Fifth Sense” patient group at our conference. The academic themes for the meeting were olfaction and personalised treatments for CRS. Prof Thomas Hummel, Director of the Dresden Smell Centre, presented the Storz Lecture on Treatments for Olfactory and Gustatory Disorders, and this generated a lot of interest in new interventions such as olfactory training. This presentation was complimented by an excellent lecture from Dr Amin Javer from St Paul’s Sinus Centre in Vancouver on ‘Personalised Medicine for CRS’. The scientific paper winner for 2014 was Jason Powell from the Northern Deanery with his paper on the value of imaging in hyposmia.

Next year’s BRS meeting will be held in Manchester on 15 May when the presidency will be handed over to Sean Carrie.

Other details on BRS activity can be viewed at [www.britishrhinologicalsociety.org.uk](http://www.britishrhinologicalsociety.org.uk).
At present the Director of Education has responsibility for the following committees and activities within ENT UK through chairmanship of the Education and Training Committee:

- Medical Students and Junior Doctors Committee
- SAS Doctors Committee
- Revalidation Committee
- CPD committee
- Simulation and Courses Committee
- RCS Edinburgh Webinar Collaboration
- E-lefENT Project
- Other related Educational activities

The work of these committees has been very significant over the past year, 2014, with a progression of movement from ideas and planning to implementation. There have been some very notable successes within the work undertaken and much of this has been related to an enhanced support from the IT services available to ENT UK. This is very much appreciated and very well recognised and appreciated.

**Medical Students and Junior Doctors Committee:**
This group is chaired by Simon Lloyd, and has achieved an enormous amount of work over the past year.

*Under-graduate Curriculum and eLearning Platform:*
The curriculum has now been completed and presented to the executive committee and the ENT UK Council, receiving approval and adoption as the Under-graduate Curriculum recommended by ENT UK for teaching in Medical schools in the UK. The GMC have offered to include this ENT Undergraduate Curriculum as a model curriculum on their website in the appendix to their document *Tomorrow Doctors 2009*, however this is as far as the GMC is able to proceed with the validation/approval process.

There is an accompanying eLearning platform, developed between University of Leicester and OCB Media, and purchased in 2013 by ENT UK. This is an undergraduate learning resource with an assessment package which is being mapped to the curriculum; this eLearning platform should be available shortly through the e-lefENT (postgraduate ENT UK eLearning resource) web site.

This is very significant and large piece of work undertaken by the committee over several years and has also been published in the Clinical Otolaryngology journal, *(Development of an ENT undergraduate curriculum using a Delphi survey. Lloyd, S., Tan, Z.E., Taube, M.-A. & Doshi, J.Clin. Otolaryngol. 2014, 39, 281–288).*

**Medical Students and Junior Doctors ENT UK website:**
The programme of convergence with the Medical Students and Junior Doctors ENT UK website and the NEUFTS (National ENT Undergraduate and Foundation Trainees Society) is almost complete and should be launched in February 2015. Issues around logins and levels of access to the ENT UK website are being resolved this new venture represents a considerable upgrade to the present site. The site includes up-to-date podcasts about careers in ENT as videos with eminent ENT surgeons, educational podcasts about common ENT diseases and clinical issues, advice on ENT electives, ENT prizes and competitions, courses, undergraduate curriculum, event
diary, links to eLearning and much more. This is a large piece of work undertaken in collaboration with the IT resources within ENT UK.

**Career Fairs 2014:**
Members of the committee regularly attend Careers Fairs throughout the country and also arrange local representation at career fairs. Recent attendances include:

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<tr>
<td>3rd September</td>
<td>Health Education North East Core and Specialty Career Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th October</td>
<td>Mersey Deanery Careers Fair/HENE JOINT CARE</td>
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<td>17th-18th October</td>
<td>BMJ Careers Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th November</td>
<td>RSM Specialty Careers Fair</td>
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A foldable stand bought by ENT UK last year, 2013, has been very successful for these events. It is available to borrow (and can be sent by courier) for events throughout the country with a careers fair pack which includes leaflets, pens, post-its etc.

**Electronic ENT Guide Book:**
The Medical students and Junior Doctors have now completed an ENT Guidebook designed to support Foundation doctors whilst in their first ENT post. This is now available in pdf format as a downloadable booklet, however enquiry into the prospect of an App for a phone or tablet computer is also being considered.

**Medical Students and Junior Doctors Annual Conference:**
The annual conference undertaken in March 2014 was a major success with a large audience and excellent programme including a poster competition. The Grant Bates Prize was presented for the first time and our appreciation must go to Mrs Sue Bates for providing £111 gift for the prize on an annualised basis. This next conference will take place on 27th April 2015 with a full programme of presentations, posters and a skills workshop.
This group will also have a session at BACO 2015 which may include presentations and a skills workshop.

**SAS Doctors Committee:**
The SAS committee has now been re-launched in September 2014 following a meeting with several interested SAS doctors at the ENT UK Annual meeting. Janice Proven is now the chairperson with five further SAS doctors as members of the committee. Their first programme for 2015 will include a session at BACO with invited presentations and an Annual CPD meeting in late 2015. At present the SAS membership of ENT UK is limited in numbers, however it is hoped that a database of UK SAS doctors can be used to enable communication with this group to be significantly enhanced.

**Revalidation Committee:**
This group is led by Maurice Hawthorne. Over the past year Maurice has attended various Revalidation committees, reporting back to ENT UK the latest information. A survey monkey survey was undertaken earlier in 2014 and the full analysis/results are awaited.
It would appear that revalidation, in general, is working reasonably with the principles embedded with all doctors practice in the EK, therefore the need for this committee has become less significant with issues related to revalidation being handled within the executive committee. Over the next six months Maurice will stand down as chairman and the Revalidation resources will be transferred to the executive committee to be directed on a day to day basis.
We would wish to thank Maurice for all his work representing ENT at the various revalidatory committees and meetings over the past 5 years, this has allowed ENT to be well informed and to be prepared for this new venture led by the GMC.

**CPD committee:**
The turn around time for application for CPD for courses is now approximately one week and there is a dedicated member of the ENT UK office staff dealing with the CPD, Janet Stephen. Hopefully bench marking can start soon with the ability to check up on course feedback automatically.

Professor Mehana is now standing down as chairman for this committee after 3 years of very productive work and ENT UK wish to thank Professor Mehana for his time, vision and effort with developing CPD within the committee and within ENT UK. A new chairman Declan Costello and deputy chairman Russell Cathcart have now taken up the leadership. The prospect of developing the web-based validation/monitoring of courses for CPD should continue over the next year. This work is essential to ensure the quality standards of learning within the UK courses such that the GMC can consider the quality assurance related to approval for appraisal and revalidation.

**Simulation and Courses Committee:**
The Paediatric ENT Skills Courses for Consultants continues to attract an enormous amount of interest and are always fully booked very early.

Most recent courses include:
- Birmingham, 17th October 2014
- Oxford, 22nd October 2014

Courses to follow include:
- Leicester, 23rd January 2015
- Bangor, 30th January 2015
- Belfast, 5th June 2015
- London (Royal London) 2nd December
- Brighton, Yorkshire and Bristol have expressed interest.

There are several other hospitals/regions wishing to run this course and indeed there are now issues around the number of courses that can reasonably be supported per year. At present we have tried to maintain four courses per year. However during 2015 there will be six courses due to the demand and the willingness to organise the courses locally.

This course is now co-ordinated by the ENT UK office and information can be accessed from the ENT UK website. The educational content has been peer reviewed, is evidence based and aligned to the Royal College of Surgeons ENT continued professional development framework. There is now a significant medical educational research project monitoring the feedback and content of the courses.

Further work looking at courses to ensure the more generic aspects of emergency ENT skills for consultants has also been considered, however these courses would very expensive due to the high fidelity simulation required, and thus further work is required to explore this option over the next 12 months.

**Webinar Collaboration with the RCS Edinburgh:**
This is work has been coordinated by David Owens over the past year.
The Webinars continue with new topics including

Autumn 2015 Programme includes:

- Oropharynx Cancer in the Era of HPV Mediated Disease, 11/9/2014 (Terry Jones)
- Assessment of Patients with Goitre, 24/9/2014 (Zygmunt Krukowski)
- Making the best use of radiological tests in Thyroid & Parathyroid Disease, 30/10/2014 (John Rees)
- Primary & Re-Do Thyroid Surgery for Benign Conditions: Avoiding Complications, 12/11/2014 (Radu Mihai).

It is expected that this work will continue into 2015. There remains some difficulties with access to the archived webinars if the trainee is not a RCS Edinburgh fellow, member or associate, however further work will continue in 2015 to try to resolve this issue. The live webinars, however, can be fully accessed regardless of affiliation.

E-lefENT
I am most grateful to Victoria Ward for the following report. However it is important to acknowledge Victoria’s enormous commitment to this project, and its incredible success which has become very apparent over the past year. Thanks must also go the section contributors and editors for their work.

Achievements
The project has now been live since 2012 and is steadily gaining acceptance and support both in the UK & internationally. There are currently 996 users registered and regularly engaging in variable sessions of which 225 are new users. In the last 6 months there are an increased proportion of international non ENT UK Members.

We have now published

- **88** Learning Zone Sessions
- **96** Clinical & Radiological Images
- **42** Clinical Guidelines
- **274** New Videos not including those in embedded in sessions

Income **£1710** of orders processed since June 2014

Background
Initially ENT UK for the project purchased a bespoke Drupal platform from the College of Emergency Medicine.

A memorandum of understanding was drawn up in 2009, which facilitated further development costs to be shared in the development of further functionality for the platform. It was agreed at that time that ENT UK would not sell the platform in its current format to any other parties. This memorandum of understanding is no longer relevant as the College of Emergency Medicine no longer uses the same platform and our original platform has developed in a different way to that of the College of Emergency Medicine. In terms of the IPR, ENT UK owns the copyright for all the materials developed on the website, acknowledgement has been made where relevant to those other contributors who have supported the development of component parts of the Sessions, i.e. e-learning for Health (e-lfH) for example.
The terms & conditions of use, privacy policy and acceptable use policy for the website have been developed and ratified by lawyers for ENTUK in 2010. See Website links. In short ENT UK can merge this platform with any of its other platforms as it sees fit. The development of e-lefENT pre-dates any changes to the ENT UK site and is of such capability that it could effectively host ENT UK’s site alongside it.

Developments to the site are on-going and a provisional estimate for planned upgrades and refinements is £15,000 and a one off payment to Deeson Publications (original developers) is planned for 2015. Increased Vzaar License will enable further hosting of video materials (cost to be advised).

There are many challenges to the Project not least of all the need to complete outstanding sessions and encouraging Section Editors to complete their sections. This has always been an issue for the project as no direct remuneration has been offered to incentivize the contributors and authors since the loss of e-IfH funding in 2009.

Continued support for the project is required to ensure its survival, a new strategy is required to breathe new life into the project, not necessarily a change of Editors but perhaps a few new members to drive the delivery process further. Some recognition if only by means of acknowledgement of individuals time spent reviewing sessions would be useful to ensure continued engagement.

The following is a list of other activities for e-lefENT which have been undertaken / established in 2014.

- Meeting with Medtronic European Director for Education on the 11th of September, to present the current e-lefENT Project with a view to obtaining a grant for £30,000 pounds worth of sponsorship. Confirmation is awaited.
- Collaboration with Otoendoscope - Endoscope-I video materials 274 in total live and very popular – 1897 views in the month of September.
- Offer to provide prizes for best submissions to e-lefENT for BACO,
- Advertising for submissions through ENT News.
- Review meeting for Section Editors – planned for Feb 2015
- ISCP link Live – Further collaborative Meeting 4th November 2014
- OCB media link to be resolved for e-lefENT – pending

- Formal negotiations complete and established with the EBORLHNS – e-lefENT now the endorsed e-learning platform to support the European Board ORL HNS exam
- Collaboration with Professor David Howard & Emmanual Kitcher in Ghana – 8 trainees provided charitable access.
- Collaboration with Medical Student Curriculum team -Simon Lloyd et al to facilitate access to relevant materials.

Future developments

- BACO Prize
- BACO Session – “Technological advances for training – the future “
- Hosting of Poster Competition winners from BACO
E-lefENT has a session & stand at BACO
Further collaboration with Professor Howard’s new project in Tanzania.
UEMS recognition and endorsement of e-lefENT.
International Author Review Article development.

**In Summary - ENT UK Education Programme, the Future for 2015:**
As one can see from the above, there is an incredible amount of work progressing within the ENT community related to educational activity, and this only reviews the work overseen by ENT UK. In 2012/13 a lot of work included sorting out priorities for the future and creating content for the projects being considered. In 2014 there has been a very significant shift to the implementation of many of these projects and this process will very clearly continue in to 2015. This has been a very exciting year watching and being involved with this process and 2015 will undoubtedly be even more significant.

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**Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC)**
*by Andrew Robson- SAC Chairman*

In 2014 we welcomed Sean Carrie as a new ENTUK representative on the SAC, replacing Mr. Philip Scott. There will be 2 new ENTUK vacancies in 2015. New members are obliged to meet the requirements set out in the person specification and from 2015 will be appointed using the same process as for Joint Colleges representatives.

**National Selection**
This was held in Leeds in March, run by the Yorkshire & Humber deanery and organised by Helen Cruickshank. The process covers England & Scotland, and 40 people were appointed to numbers with approximately 50% coming from core training. We found that take up of LAT posts were poor due to the perception that this disadvantaged those wanting to apply for NS the following year. We are most grateful to those who attended to interview and the continued excellent turnout means that shortlisting is unnecessary.

**National Selection Review**
This was a review, led by Derek Skinner, of the current status of National Selection, to identify areas of good practice and areas for development. The review was widely publicised and involvement by key stakeholders encouraged and welcomed. The report provides a good basis for gradual change to the process, retaining what is good and introducing more rigour and quality assurance to the process;

- In 2015 a more structured briefing will take place
- Formal interviewer training and question calibration will take place
- Questions have been designed in a different format with descriptors for each question
- The portfolio will represent a larger percentage of the total marks available.

There will be ongoing discussion around the points awarded for time spent in ENT, with a change possible for the 2016 round.
Recruitment to consultant posts
In the last two years there has been a discrepancy between the number of CCT awards and the number of consultant posts advertised. Between January 2013 and September 2014 there were 92 CCT ‘sign offs’ and 115 consultant posts advertised. Many units around the country are having difficulty recruiting to consultant posts. The SAC and ENT UK have requested an increase in numbers recruited at National Selection in England to 40 in 2015, recognising that medical workforce planning is very unpredictable.

Quality Assurance of Training Posts
The JCST & GMC survey generally shows that training posts are of high quality and meet the JCST Quality Indicators for training. The two areas that need attention relate to the standard of teaching on post acute ward rounds (poor or very poor in c. 25% of posts) and poor and patchy handover processes. This is an area that the SAC is working on over the next year.

E-learning
The SAC is working with e-LEF ENT to link more closely with the ISCP in order to encourage ongoing learning related to syllabus items. The aim is to link e-learning modules with relevant syllabus topics in order to simplify acquisition of knowledge and provide evidence of competence in trainees’ portfolios.

Shape of Training Review
The implementation of the review’s recommendations is proceeding and at the time of writing no firm proposals have been made. The drive is for more general and flexible training which mainly addresses the concerns regarding provision of acute medical care, which has some concerning implications for the craft specialities. The expectation is that proposals for the restructuring of postgraduate medical education will be presented to ministers in 2015.

Facial Plastic Surgery UK
by Tim Woolford

This has been a busy year for FPS UK, when we have finally moved from being a representative committee to a specialist society. There is now agreement that FPS UK will be an inclusive society open to all ENT UK members with an interest in facial plastic surgery. Membership will be free, and trainees will be encouraged to join. I anticipate that membership will now grow steadily.

Members of the FPS UK Committee are representing the interests of ENT surgeons in numerous important national and International forums. These include the RCS Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee, The Cosmetic & Reconstructive Interface fellowship, European Board Certification in FPS, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery.

Following on from the successful FPS UK rhinoplasty session at the ENT UK annual meeting this year, our first FPS UK annual meeting has been arranged for February 23rd at the Royal College of
Surgeons in London next year. The keynote lecture will be given by Pietro Palma from Milan, President of the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery, indicating our society links to the European Academy. There will be a society AGM at the meeting and I hope to establish a committee with several new members.

I am determined that FPS UK is not viewed as a society only for Consultants interested in private cosmetic practice, rather that we promote high quality facial plastic surgery in both the NHS and private practice. We will also be the main resource for ENT trainees interested in a future career in facial plastic surgery.

This has certainly been a challenging year, however I believe FPS UK is finally in a position to move forward, and become an active subspecialty society within ENT UK.

Independent Practice Committee

by Andrew McCombe - Chair

It has been a fairly quiet year for the independent practice committee for 2013-2014. This is, in large part, because we have been waiting to see how the Competition Commission (CC) report into private healthcare market starts to bed in to the “coal-face” of practice.

So far, there has not been much change; the recommendations are supposed to be actioned by the start of the 2015 financial year. Some of these recommendations may be delayed pending the results of a judicial review being brought by FIPO. And thank you to the many of you who contributed to the “war chest” to help fund this undertaking.

Nor has there been much change in the actions of the various private insurance companies, BUPA and AXA-PPP in particular, as they try and limit re-imbursements. There has been a persistent campaign against many individual consultants to force them to reduce their fees for out-patient consultations. Sadly, once those individuals have relented, the insurers seem to move on to the level one below and press again. There is a certain relentless and un-welcome direction to this process.

In addition, BUPA have continued a campaign to try and prevent consultants for charging for certain out-patient procedures and investigations: audiometry is a particular issue for ENT. Many younger consultants who have signed up to new “partnership” or recognition arrangements are prohibited from charging for such tests.

On the good side, there does seem to be some back-lash against the principle of “open referral”, with a realisation by both corporate policy holders, and some journalists, that this does not always result in the best, or most appropriate, care for the patient. I would suggest you all remain vigilant with regard to this policy.

One area that is going to be very interesting going forward, and is already starting to gain a certain momentum in the NHS, is with the publication of surgical outcome data. The Competition Commission has called for greater transparency with regard to surgeons’ results with the aim of allowing patients to be better informed when making decisions about their treatment. Whilst the principle is laudable, as ever, the devil will be in the detail. Questions to be answered include: what data will be collected? Who will collect it? More importantly who will enter that data and
how will it be presented? And finally, who is going to pay for it? Regardless, this will be a massive undertaking.

One senses that there is something of a storm ahead, and I expect that it will start to hit during the course of 2015!
Have a good year....

**British Society of Otology**

*by Anil Banerjee - Chairman*

2014 has been a busy year for the BSO. In addition to providing our annual course on balance disorders and our Annual Otology Meeting we have also been tasked with looking at standards in otology and how best to monitor and elevate them in the UK. It’s very easy to pay lip service to this but instead the BSO Council has held a number of meetings to discuss the best way forward, taking opinions from a variety of sources but principally from members.

Links to Scandinavia have been strengthened with a return Anglo-Scandinavian Otology Meeting taking place in Windsor this summer which proved extremely successful.

2015 is the year of BACO and the BSO is putting together a series of exciting otology sessions for attending delegates.

Training and education are core components of our society’s mandate and to that end; we have established prizes to fund trainee delegates to several national and international meetings. This will continue in 2015.

The 2015 BSO Annual Meeting is combined for the first time with the RSM Otology Section Meeting and will take place on Thursday Feb 5th 2015.

It is important to bring new blood into the ranks of council and the BSO encourages members at this AGM to stand for membership of council as at least two places will be up for election.

The next BSO Balance Disorders Course will take place at the Royal College of Surgeons on Thursday March 5th. Registration is limited to 42 places and is through the ENT UK office.

**ENT UK Head and Neck**

*by Vinidh Paleri - Secretary*

The 2014 calendar offered rich pickings of academic offering for head and neck surgeons. The European Congress on Head and Neck Oncology combined with the annual British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists meeting was held in the UK for the first time in Liverpool (April ’14), followed soon after by the joint 5th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies and the American Head and Neck Society Annual Meeting (July ’14); this meant that there was little time left in the working year for the national meetings organised by ENT UK Head and Neck Society.
Endolaryngeal surgery audit: Following extensive consultations between ENT UK Head and Neck Society and the British Laryngological Association, this audit is now live, with around 50 early adopters already signed up. By the time this newsletter goes to press, the ENT UK office would have sent out a web link for all members to register.

Forthcoming meetings: Happily, in 2015 the usual timetable of consensus meetings and evidence based days, in spring and autumn respectively, will resume. The topics currently under consideration include early oropharynx cancer, advanced larynx cancer and role of open partial laryngectomy in current day practice. We would encourage members to email us other topics and suggestions for future meetings. The proceedings of the 11th evidence based day on the "Management of metastatic neck disease" have been published in Clinical Otolaryngology and a pre-publication version and slides from the meeting are available for download on the ENT UK Head and Neck website.

Head and Neck Cancer guidelines: There have been significant developments in the head and neck literature since the publication of the 4th Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancer guidelines. The publication of 10 year data from landmark trials on laryngeal preservation, altered fractionation and postoperative adjuvant treatment, rapid strides in the field of robotic surgery (currently undertaken at several centres in the UK) and radiation delivery warrants a revision. Work is underway to update these guidelines and we anticipate that the guidelines will be available by mid 2015. In addition to endorsement from the five professional bodies obtained for the 4th edition, we hope to get the 5th edition of the guidelines endorsed by the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Radiologists.

Council: Some of the current officers of the group will demit in March 2015 and two posts in the council will be up for re-election. It is intended that the election will take place in January 2015. Interested members are advised to contact the secretary at vinidh.paleri@nuth.nhs.uk

The Young Consultant Otolaryngologists Head and Neck Surgeons (YCOHNS) Annual Meeting was held at the Belfry Hotel, near Birmingham, on Saturday 11th October, preceded by a three-course black-tie dinner and drinks on the Friday evening to allow for consultants new, and not so new, to share stories and experiences of adapting to life as independent practitioners. The outgoing president, James Powles, organised a varied educational programme to help new consultants make the most of their professional life. The day opened with Richard Irving sharing his experiences of Clinical Excellence Awards, summarising the scheme and the application process. Richard Vowles shared his experience of a surgical complication and the ensuing legal process. Tony Jacobs updated delegates on private practice matters. An overview of tax issues and how to avoid tax avoidance schemes was well received. The meeting has grown since it was reborn in recent years, and we intend to develop YCOHNS further to be more appealing and relevant to young consultants. The next meeting will be in October 2015, most likely in the same setting which is centrally located and convenient for many to reach for the Friday evening proceedings, and over Friday evening and Saturday morning so that study leave is not an issue for most. Any
suggestions for developing YCOHNS and items for the next meeting, and requests to be added to the mailing list, are welcome to ycohns@hotmail.com.

Association of Otolaryngologists in Training (AOT)
By Zaid Awad – President AOT

The 2014 annual AOT conference was a great success and saw the introduction of a poster and free paper presentation sections. A prize was awarded to the best poster and another to the best oral presentation given by Pre-ST3 trainees and judged by invited faculty members. Abstracts of oral presentations were published in the Journal of Laryngology and Otology. The conference report is available from ENT and Audiology News Sep-Oct 2014; 23(4): p30. The association has been active in representing the UK and Irish trainees at all committees that deliver and govern training in otolaryngology. The association was also invited to contribute to National Selection quality assurance team and question writing group.

The AOT website has been updated and the online forum contains numerous academic events relevant to the specialty (www.aotent.com). Circular adverts have been updated to include fellowship and consultant appointments of interest to senior trainees. The AOT constitution and the job description of council members were updated to reflect the roles, terms and duties of the elected officers. Two new council positions were created and elected for including a ‘Research and Audit Officer’ and a ‘Journal Liaison Officer’. A list of all 21 officers, 18 regional representatives and their respective duties is available on http://www.aotent.com/regions.php. The council is planning to meet on the 6th of February after the RSM and the next AOT conference will be held in Birmingham on the 14th-15th of May 2015. The conference will include invited speakers from the SAC, ENT UK, TPD and many more from the west midlands. The call for abstracts and final programme will be announced soon.

British Laryngological Association (BLA)
by Janet Wilson - President

The British Laryngological Association (BLA) established in 2012, is a membership society which aims to achieve advancement in laryngology through research, education and training for the benefit of the public.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2014-2016
President Professor Janet Wilson
Past President (2012-2013) Professor David Howard
Honorary Treasurer Mr Guri Sandhu
Honorary Secretary Mr Yakubu Karagama

There are 12 Elected Council Members who represent wide areas of the UK and different aspects of the discipline of laryngology with a couple of members who represent constituency of membership category (trainees and SLT). Council term is 3 years and elections will take place in April 2015.
Membership currently stands at 205 members (an increase of almost 50 over this one year), in the following categories:
- 71 Associate Members
- 73 Full Members
- 21 Overseas Members
- 40 Trainee Members

We are grateful and continue to work with our Founding Corporate Partners (Merz, Pentax and Olympus) and are currently discussing major multi-institutional national research projects with two of them.

The Annual BLA Conference was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on Thursday, 26 June 2014. The conference was a tremendous success with over 170 participants including exhibitors. Our prestigious Keynote Speakers, Dr Lee Akst and Prof Markus Hess brought their unique experience to our discussion sessions, from North America and Continental Europe. Our 3rd Keynote Speaker was Prof Alyn Morice, a National Authority on cough. There were parallel free paper sessions on Laryngology and SLT.

Our next Annual BLA Conference will take place on Thursday, 5 November 2015 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, London. The main focus of the Conference will be swallowing. Abstract submission will open in April 2015.

In the interim, the BLA is also well represented at BACO 2015 with related Laryngology and Speech and Language Therapy Sessions taking place on Friday, 10 July 2015 http://baco2015.org

Finally, I am delighted to confirm that the national Laryngeal Surgery Audit is live on the ENT UK Website. http://larynx.e-dendrite.com/

ENTUK members interested in finding out more about the BLA are invited to contact our Administrator Dion Bassett - enquiries@britishlaryngological.org

The newsletter has now settled into its new avatar with a standardised format and electronic distribution. It is published quarterly and distributed by email to all ENT UK members. Articles and opinions are up to date and hopefully more topical. Space is virtually unlimited. There can now be as much content as necessary or as little as desired.

The ENT UK Newsletter is the main vehicle for the ENT UK executive to communicate its views and activity to the wider membership and to that effect has regular articles from the President and the senior executive members. It is a forum for medico-political ENT discussion and information dissemination.

It is very important to also have input from any members who wish to air their views to the wider ENT community and you are always welcome to write in with articles or comment.
MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION 2013-14

Membership Categories

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<td>Full Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainee Members</td>
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<td>Associate Members (SAS doctors)</td>
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<td>Affiliate Members (nurses, audiologists, GP Specialty Practitioners)</td>
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<td>Corresponding Members (overseas)</td>
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<td>Life Members</td>
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<td>Honorary Members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
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ADVISERS TO COUNCIL

- Intercollegiate Board - Chairman: Mr Brian Bingham
- UEMS Board: Mr Christopher A Milford
- Royal College of Surgeons of England Council - Invited: Professor Gerald McGerry
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: Vacant
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow: Professor Michael Walsh
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland: Mr Ven Reddy
- YCOHNS Representative: Mr Iain Swan
- AOT Representative: Mr Zaid Awad
- BAO-HNS “Newsletter” Editor: Mr Tony Jacob
- BACO Master: Mr Iain Mackay
- Royal College of Surgeons of England – Elected Member: Mr Chris Milford
- Modernisation: Mr Richard Wright

CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- Armed Forces Representative: Colonel Claudine Horrocks
- Audiological Medicine (BAAP representative): Mr M Raouf Chorbachi
- BAO-HNS Clinical Audit and Practice Advisory Group: Mr Iain Swan
- BAO-HNS SAS Doctors’ Representative: Mrs Janice Provan
- British Society of Academics in Otorhinolaryngology: Professor Shakeel Saeed
- British Association for Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology: Mr Gavin Morrison
- BMA CCSC: Mr Robert Sudderick
- “Clinical Otolaryngology” Editor: Professor Terry Jones
- NCPA: Professor Gerard M O’Donoghue
- RNID: Mr David Adams
- BLA: Professor Janet Wilson
## ENT UK ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Tel</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyndy Pullan</td>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7611 1731</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7404 4200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gm@entuk.org">gm@entuk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judi Bennett</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7611 1733</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7404 4200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judi@entuk.org">judi@entuk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lidija Ivnik</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7611 1735</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7404 4200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lidija@entuk.org">lidija@entuk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Okoli</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7611 1735</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7404 4200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:support@entuk.org">support@entuk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Stephen</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7611 1733</td>
<td>+44(0)20 7404 4200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janet@entuk.org">janet@entuk.org</a></td>
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## ENT UK FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 2015

**Friday 23 January**  
Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants (PESCC)  
Leicester

**Friday 30 January**  
Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants (PESCC)  
Bangor

**Friday 6 February**  
ENT UK AGM; Award of Under Graduate prize, award of CAPAG prizes, Launch of student website  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

**Monday 23 February**  
Facial Plastic Surgery (FPS): Conference  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

**Thursday 5 March**  
British Society of Otology (BSO): Balance Course  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

**Friday 13 March**  
ORS Spring Meeting; Award of prizes for Annual Meeting  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London
Monday 27 April
Medical Students and Foundation Doctors: 5th Foundation ENT Conference
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Friday 15 May
British Rhinological Society (BRS): 14th Annual Meeting
Manchester

Friday 5 June
Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants (PESCC)
Belfast

Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 July
15th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology (BACO)
Liverpool

Thursday 10 September
ENT UK Clinical Audit and Practice Advisory Group (CAPAG) Meeting
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London