ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2014–2015
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President’s Foreword
by Professor Antony Narula MA FRCS FRCS Ed

Welcome to the Annual report which describes the main activities of the Association and its constituent parties over the past year. Much of this has been regularly updated to members through the newsletter so apologies for any repetition.

As President I am fortunate to have a great team of Executive Officers and also a well-functioning office team headed by Lyndy Pullan our General Manager. It is no secret that we have had our administrative issues in previous years but I am delighted that everything is now on an even keel which allows real progress.

Since I took over from Professor Valerie Lund CBE in February 2015, I have tried to look at how we function. I have a strong aim to be as helpful as possible towards all our constituent societies: including those that are formally independent but affiliated to ENT UK. Having an efficient administrative service makes that much easier and the Executive will be discussing this issue going forward. In addition we are looking at the Trustee Board composition and proposals will be put to the AGM in May 2016. I have also introduced the idea of Council discussion documents and this will help the Association develop new policies for the future.

As always the Association is interested to hear the views of members and I would like to encourage you all to make your views known.

Professor Antony Narula, President ENT UK
I started my report last year with a paean to halcyon days of the past and wondered if we would experience this again. I must say that my 2nd year as Honorary Secretary for ENT UK working with President, Professor Tony Narula has been immensely satisfying and we now have a stable office led by our General Manager, Lyndy Pullan which hopefully serves our member needs, as the administrative arm of ENT UK should do.

It has been a very productive year for ENT UK and many of the activities started under the auspices of our former President, Professor Valerie Lund have come to fruition and are running successfully. These include initiatives such as PESCC (Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants) led by Professor Iain Bruce, and e–lefENT led by Victoria Ward. These are concrete examples of services that ENT UK have supported which bring direct benefits to our members while indirectly improving the quality of our services to patients.

GENERATE, our national research agenda for ENT, hearing and balance was launched successfully by Professor Anne Schilder and Natalie Bohm. The aim is to build the evidence base for our specialty, to use this evidence to make decisions about resource allocation for service commissioning and to ensure our patients continue to have access to high quality evidence–based ENT services. In the financial milieu that the NHS is now facing and with ever increasing demands for Cost Improvement Projects (CIP's), it is imperative that we as a small speciality group stand together and work with our colleagues in other disciplines to ensure that our voice is heard and our patients get the best possible care.

In the year of a very successful BACO we did not run the annual meeting but will have one in September 2016 which will cover many of the topical themes of interest including training, commissioning and multi-disciplinary working. We continued input to the Shape of Training Review and also worked with the Centre for Work Force Intelligence 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 continues.
The development of a digital strategy led by our new web master, Mr Shahed Quraishi has provided a new sense of direction after the teething problems of our website were overcome. Links with BACO, FPS and SFO and also the ability to book on to courses such as PESCC is proving a good resource. Collaboration with ENT Masterclass, an educational platform led by Mr Quraishi has been instrumental in giving our members the opportunity to participate in the Consultants Masterclass and also to provide the journal of Masterclass free to all our members.

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. ENT UK has also formed a Global Health Partnership under the chairmanship of Robin Youngs that will foster further charitable activities abroad and bring together the generous efforts of various members. Our SAS colleagues led by Janice Provan (President) and Shyam Singam (Secretary) ran a very successful 1st annual meeting in October last year which was well attended and provided good value for members. The next SAS annual meeting is proposed for 25th November 2016.

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, Brian Bingham bolstering 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. We want to thank our outgoing Director of Education, Derek Skinner for all his efforts and welcome Andrew Robson as the new Director of Education. With his experience as past chair of SAC he will no doubt bring a lot of energy to the ENT UK executive team and help fill the very large shoes of Derek.
ENT UK is solvent. Our total reserves, including our portfolio are over £2 million. Total current liabilities are minimal. We have adequate, immediately available monies to cover any financial shortfall or exigency.

Thus we are in a good position to support our charitable aims and activities. Our main driving forces in 2014–15 were once again Governance and Education. From the perspective of Governance, I am pleased to note that we achieved our objectives. We worked throughout the year towards an increase in fiscal transparency. To that end, we maintained a regular financial forecast throughout the year. We developed further the financial audit committee, successfully incorporating two independent members by year’s end. We formalised our financial policy including a reserves policy.

Having taken advice, initially from Baker Tilley Tax Accountancy and then from Bishop & Sewell, we came to the conclusion that VAT registration was necessary for BACO, given the large turnover involved. To that end ENT UK became VAT Registered and also took on help from Piero Souteriou a registered Accountant.

From the perspective of Education and Training, our goals were also met in 2014–15. BACO 2015, held on 8–10 July 2015, in Liverpool under the careful eye of the Master, Ian Mackay, and the team that he set up, proved to be extremely successful. It had the largest turnout ever for a BACO event. The simulation training available in the skills centre was particularly exciting.

For Medical Students and Junior doctors activities included:
• Ongoing development of a medical school curriculum
• Careers fairs
• Electronic student/junior doctor’s ENT Handbook
• The 5th Foundation Medical Student and Junior Doctor ENT Conference
Annual Report of Council

- A SFO UK Conference session at BACO
- A StR Induction Boot Camp was also held during the year

For Specialist Surgeons and Associate Specialists, the SAS Committee was active and the 1st SAS Annual meeting was held. There was also a dedicated session at BACO.

For Consultants, the PESCC Simulation courses were a particular success and were held repeatedly in different venues throughout the year. Revalidation activities this year also included the rolling out of the National Laryngological Audit/ Surgical Outcome Database.

For the general public as well as our membership, e-learning projects, in particular the e-lefENT e-learning project continued to be developed. Its website had a substantial upgrade during the year. We continued to support our humanitarian aims in Africa.

Many other activities are in planning or underway, not least the GENERATE project that will help bring ENT research well into the 21st century.

Financially, there was substantial instability in the markets in the last two to three months of our financial year resulting in a drop in FTSE 100 share index by 14% from its peak price in April. This had an impact on our year-end financial position. In addition, all of the ongoing activities and newer initiatives that we have undertaken have had and will continue to have cost implications. To support these initiatives, Lyndy Pullan, the General Manager has further built up the office team. The web site and computer systems have been and will continue to be enhanced.

ENT UK has maintained membership dues at a static level for several years, now, in order to support members during the austerity measures. However all of the newer activities now available and being developed need to be carefully budgeted for. Given this, it is conceivable that we will need to increase dues by year-end 2015–16. Overall it was a highly successful year for ENT UK.
I would start this report with the observation that 2015 has and continues to be a very successful and exciting year for ENT Surgery and for ENT UK most especially on the educational front. Below I have outlined the many activities which have taken place and continue to develop under the educational remit of ENT UK. There is much to be celebrated and much still to come.

**Medical Students and Junior Doctors Committee (SFO–UK):**

**Under-graduate Curriculum:**
The undergraduate curriculum has now been completed and published on the ENT UK/SFO UK website, this is a very significant piece of work undertaken by Professor Simon Lloyd and his Committee and was started several years ago by David Strachan. The curriculum work was published in Clinical Otolaryngology in 2014. Since that time the curriculum has been sent out to the Deans of all the medical schools, but with almost no response. The template of the curriculum was used by the RCS England to set out the generic surgical curriculum for submission to the GMC and this has now been approved by the GMC. As part of the generic surgical curriculum the ENT section was taken directly from the ENT UK, ENT Undergraduate curriculum. The curriculum may be discussed at the next BSAO meeting in March 2016.

**Webinars with the RCS Edinburgh:**
The ENT and Endocrine webinars undertaken in collaboration with RCS Edinburgh have continued throughout the past year on a regular basis with archiving provided by the RCS Edinburgh on their website. Topics have included: Thyroid cancer, Hyperparathyroidism, Nasal tumours, HPV induced tumours and Adrenal incidentalomas.

The future of the webinars has temporarily faltered with the last webinar in September. A new programme of webinars is hoped to start in early 2016.
Medical Students and Junior Doctors ENT UK website – SFO UK:
The Medical Students and Junior Doctors Committee has now formally become the SFO UK (Students and Foundation Doctors in Otolaryngology). This new group arising from the above committee and NEUFTS (National ENT Undergraduate and Foundation Trainees Society) has redeveloped their website which is part of the ENT UK website. This website is very actively used and includes details about the ENT specialty and careers, ENT training issues, educational resources and possible prizes and awards. Videos, podcasts and interviews with various ENT leaders are integrated into the website.

Career Fairs 2015:
Careers fairs have been attended this year including Inverness and South Wales. The “Pop Up” resource unit for such events was renewed in early 2015, after the first unit was lost in transit. Information regarding its use is available through the ENT UK office.

Electronic ENT Guide Book:
The Student/Junior doctor’s ENT Handbook has continued in development this year with the document in the last stages of editing. There is still no definitive sponsor for the development into an “app” for use on phones and tablets, however we now have a drug/instrument company interested in the further development of the handbook, and this is a positive progression. Possible collaborations are being explored with other similar resources, hopefully more news over the next few months.

Medical Students and Junior Doctors Annual Conference:
27th April 2015 saw the 5th Foundation ENT Conference organised by Ameera Abdelrahim once again. This is a large amount of work attended by around 80 junior doctors with great enthusiasm. This year included talks by Prof Valerie Lund, David Howard, Khalid Ghufoor, and Prof Antony Narula with a panel discussion and a skills session in the afternoon which included anatomy, grommet insertion, epley manoeuvres, tests of manual dexterity etc.

Monday 21st March 2016 will be the next annual meeting. Ameera has been incredible with her commitment to this event and her stalwart work is very much appreciated.
SFO UK – BACO 2015
For the first time the BACO conference in July 2015 allocated the Friday to medical students and junior doctors. This was highly successful with more than 34 delegates taking part in the skills stations during the morning and more than 65 in the afternoon conference session. In the afternoon, there was a specific SFO UK conference session with speakers including Andrew Robson, Professor Ray McMahon and Navin Mani. Feedback from this activity was very positive and it is hoped that that BACO 2018 will incorporate a similar programme into their activity.

CPD committee:
The CPD Committee now has a new Chairman, Declan Costello as well as new members, Assem Shayah and Paul Nankivell. The Committee’s agenda is now moving on at speed with a full strategy for CPD point allocation for UK national courses and also for international courses.
Russell Cathcart has developed an extremely useful software programme to automate the application for CPD for courses and this allows documentation/certification for delegate feedback. The development of a kite-mark for ENT UK CPD approval has also been produced and this adds significant value to the allocation of CPD points. This automated programme should be launched on the ENT UK website in late October or early November 2015.

Quality Assurance activity with attendance at courses has just started and will continue with a programme of activity undertaken by the Committee to validate the QA process for courses. Ultimately the course inspections will be unannounced with the aim to attend 10% of all courses approved for CPD per year.

**SAS Committee:**
This relatively new Committee appointed in September 2014 has really started to work well and attract new members and activity. Over 2015 there have been two main meetings including the BACO 2015 SAS session which was well attended with contributions from Amit Kochhar, Shyam Singam and C.E.E. Reddy.

Janice Provan also provided a report and comments to the R.C.S England document on SAS job planning, which was very well received.

The first annual SAS Update meeting took place on 1st October 2015, the meeting was well attended with almost 40 SAS ENT specialists present and great content in the form of clinical topics delivered by well-known experts in various fields including vertiginous migraine, parotid tumours, naso-oesophagoscopy, voice clinics, coblation and rhinosinusitis. Several instrument companies attended and the meeting was an overwhelming success. Congratulations must go to Janice Provan and her Committee who worked hard to deliver an excellent study day. The next annual meeting will be November 2016.

It is hoped that with the success of this study day, more SAS ENT specialists will feel able to attend the ENT UK meetings and contribute to the ENT UK activities including the e-learning programmes available through e-lefENT.
Simulation and Courses Committee:

Thanks must again go to Tim Woolford for his work with this Committee over the past 3 years. Notably there has been no new Chairman appointed to this Committee following the demission of Tim Woolford in July 2015. A further advert for this post will be available towards the end of 2015 or early 2016. The work of this Committee is essential to the educational profile of ENT UK and it is hoped that a suitable individual will be found soon.

PESCC Courses:
The PESCC courses continue to move forward in a very positive manner, venues/courses this year include Leicester, Bangor, Belfast, Brighton, London and courses booked for 2016 include Sheffield and Cambridge.

Enormous thanks to Iain Bruce and his team who have developed the courses and faculty locally very effectively. Indeed, some very good medical educational research has been stimulated, undertaken and should be published shortly in Clinical Otolaryngology. This research continued at BACO 2015 and Iain and his team have now received a £10,000 grant from ENT UK to continue and develop the educational research based around this course. The research results should feedback into further courses planned by ENT UK including courses to deliver/maintain core emergency skills for Consultants/SAS specialists, thus aiding the aims of revalidation.
**ENT Masterclass Collaboration:**
ENT UK has joined up with ENT Masterclass for 2016, with Shahed Quraishi, and for the future with a Core Emergency Skills Course (for revalidation) for Consultants following the May 2016 RSM. ENT Masterclass has also agreed to distribute its prestigious annual journal to all ENT UK members at no cost to the members.

**ENT StR Induction Bootcamps:**
Charlie Hall, Shahed Quraishi and several other Consultants have been working with the ENT SAC to pilot StR induction bootcamps to enable the St3 Registrars to acquire new and essential skills rapidly and safely. The initial course in September 2015 was in Bristol and ENT UK gave £5,000 as a contribution to start this activity. 16 trainees were involved and content included practical workshops during the two-day course. The plan for 2016 is to involve all new ENT trainees with bootcamps being held in two centres: Bristol (organised by Charlie Hall) and Wigan (organised by Professor Nirmal Kumar) however, future financing will be secured through the Deaneries.

**e–lefENT Project:**
The new website upgrade work has now been completed and this provides some new sections and content especially with extra resource material from the iEndoscope collaborative. Links to the national curriculum and to the ISCP have also been developed from the website. There has been significant interest from National ENT bodies in Australia and Sri Lanka wishing to access the e–learning platform and various medical libraries are also interested in gaining access to this resource. The website is also able to support e–learning for the European Board ORLHNS examination with links into the curriculum.

The Human Factors Unit is now complete and functional, representing a collaboration with the ENT SAC.

Philanthropic work with various countries in Africa continues, where access to the e–learning material remains free to aid their learning programmes.

Over the past 12 months the access to the e–lefENT website has increased enormously, e.g. in 2014 total of 786 attendances to 2015 total is 2681, this is 340% increase in work and study in the e–lefENT website.
Discussions and collaborations with possible sponsors continue, no final conclusions have been reached, but interest is maintained and is likely to develop.

Over the past year we have been approached by the Motor Neuron Disease Association to help them raise awareness about MND with diagnosis and treatment. Indeed the association has made available £4,000 to allow the development of learning material. Our approach has been to include some of this information in the medical students’ handbook for undergraduates and perhaps develop a learning unit in the e-lefENT e-learning resource. A further possibility is a short article for CPD in The Otolaryngologist journal.

Lastly further help with administering the website is important, there is an enormous debt of gratitude to Victoria Ward who has led this project with huge success, however further help with this is required and I would anticipate the appointment of a deputy to aid this work with Victoria towards the end of 2015.

**National Selection:**
The National Selection Review document was released in September 2014, this outlined possible improvements and upgrades to the process for ENT, both for short and long term.

In the most contentious area the SAC has now agreed to a small change in the scoring of ENT experience in the Portfolio section. This includes increasing the score from 10 points to 15 points for ENT experience between 18 months – 30 months. This underscores the value of ENT experience and reduces, any slight disadvantage with increasing ENT experience in possible LAT posts. The clear message remains that undertaking more ENT work experience requires evidence that time is spent usefully gaining more audits, publications, presentations and courses too.

Thanks to Helen Cruikshank and her Committee, as well as the Yorkshire Deanery, for their extensive work in this important area. Many ENT surgeons and trainers attend this important event each year and their work and time is very much appreciated.

The new National Selection Committee, will be led by Angus Cairns from 2017 with Helen Cruikshank organising the 2016 event.

**For the Future:**
Further developing relationships with other educational groups: there have been some
brief discussions with RILA about the possibility of setting up a post-graduate diploma affiliated to ENT UK. This could be an area for future consideration/development.

a) National curriculum, there has been little “take up” from the medical schools so far, however the incorporation of the ENT UK curriculum into the national surgical curriculum is a good sign that may yield more activity in 2016.

b) The SFO UK guidebook should be published soon and hopefully some sponsorship will become available to aid conversion into an app for phone/tablet use.

c) Development of the SAS group of specialists would be significant to aid networking and support for this group, good start has been made however more work can aid development in this area, for what is a large group of hard working specialists.

d) Continued growth with PESCC and possible development/collaboration with Masterclass to produce more emergency core skill workshops for Consultants.

e) Developing further the CPD/Quality Assurance portfolio for courses throughout the UK, thus supporting the new software/CPD web profile will be important.

f) Maintaining the momentum of success with e–lefENT and its links to the various examinations and learning environments both nationally and internationally.

**Director of Education:**
Lastly, it is now my turn to demit from the post of Director of Education for ENT UK, at the end of December 2015. I have spent four, very exciting, years overseeing the above activity related to the various committees. It has been immensely enjoyable and a huge privilege to be involved with the activities of so many different people and Committees. I shall watch with much interest at how the future of ENT surgery and ENT UK develops. May I express my most sincere thanks to all the Committees, Chairmen/Chairwomen, ENT UK Executives/Trustees and Council members with whom I have been involved.
The role of the SAC is to contribute to the development of specialist training policy as it affects the specialty. In 2015 we welcomed Andy Bath and Paul Spraggs as new ENT UK representatives on the SAC, replacing Jeremy Davis and Meredd Harries. Craig Murray was also appointed. Anne Louise McDermott has recently been appointed to the SAC in place of Robin Youngs. New members are obliged to meet the requirements set out in the person specification and from 2015 have been appointed using the same process as for Joint Colleges representatives.

1. 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 44 people were appointed to numbers with approximately 50% coming from core training. We are most grateful to those who attended to interview and the continued excellent turnout means that shortlisting is unnecessary. Angus Cain has been appointed as National Selection Lead to succeed Helen, following the 2016 round. He will be appointing a selection committee to develop the process of National Selection further.

The number of applicants to higher training in ENT has fallen for the third year in a row, which is in line with what is happening in other specialties. Candidates applying in 2015 had slightly more than a 1 in 2 chance of being offered a training post (including LATs). Reasons for the drop in applications are uncertain but may reflect the relatively poor experience of surgery at Undergraduate and Foundation programme level, and the unsatisfactory nature of core training, as well as the feminisation of the workforce.

2. National Selection Changes
Outputs from the 2014 review of National Selection were evident in National Selection for 2015. In particular;

- Formal question writing sessions were held with validated questions used for selection stations
Interviewer briefing, both generic to the process, and station specific, was formalised

A facility for appeal was introduced which was utilised by many candidates

The QA process was formalised

The number of selection stations was reduced by one

In 2016 the portfolio has been changed to alter the marks awarded for time in ENT such that those who have spent more than 18 months in ENT will have a difference of only 5 points from those working up to 18 months.

Further changes are likely to include further question writing (with changes to questions being used through the interview days) and development of the clinical skills station to ensure doctors are recruited with the ability to develop relevant clinical skills.

3. Workforce

There continues to be a significant discrepancy between numbers of trainees awarded their CCT and Consultant adverts, with many vacant posts and difficulties in recruitment. Workforce planning remains unreliable, but the trend of an increase in new and replacement posts continues. With some hesitation ENT UK and the SAC has accepted Health Education England’s (HEE) recommendation to recruit to all available training posts in England which has led to a significant rise in the number of ST3 appointments. This is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As well as scrutinising Consultant adverts Jeremy Davis has completed a workforce survey in England which has predicted an ongoing increase in Consultant vacancies year on year. This has helped inform our discussions with HEE. Sean Carrie has now succeeded Jeremy as workforce lead both for ENT UK and the SAC.

4. Quality Assurance of Training Posts

The JCST & GMC survey generally show that training posts are of high quality and meet the JCST Quality Indicators for training. We were invited to attend a review of the ENT training programme in the East of England which confirmed a high quality training programme with committed trainers. We were able to help develop an action plan to further improve training in that region.
5. **Shape of Training Review**

There has been little development in this area over the last year. We have contributed to discussions and proposals via the JCST. We are optimistic that an opportunity will be available to restructure and improve core training. The role and place of credentialing remains uncertain.

I demit the office of Chairman of the SAC at the end of December 2015. I wish my successor well, and thank all those who have helped to develop and improve training in ENT over the last few years.

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**Report on Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme by Professor B. Nirmal Kumar, ENT UK MTI Lead**

The MTI scheme administered by ENT UK as official sponsor has completed 5 years. The scheme utilizes training slots when Specialist Trainees go Out of Programme (OOP) and preserves the training capacity in UK training programmes in addition to fostering international links and helping the training of non-EU ENT surgeons from around the world. ENT UK only authorises placements on the scheme at Higher Surgical Training (HST) level and not at Core Training (CT) level or in staff grade posts.

**Current situation** – 11 placements in the last 2 years with 5 suitable candidates available to place at the moment. 2 candidates completed their MTI placements and have given very positive feedback of their experience here in the UK.

"I would like to thank ENT UK for the opportunity to work here in the UK".

"It was a pleasure to work here as an MTI. The best thing about MTI is that the post has lot of training opportunities".

Candidates who undertake the programme are from a variety of non EU countries including Mexico, India, Jamaica, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, KSA, and Nigeria and are vetted by ENT UK. After the successful MTI meeting and placements ENT UK offer
a certificate at the end of placement to verify their period of training in the UK. ENT UK received funding from AoMRC for arranging these placements this year.

Future Direction: The scheme will hopefully consolidate over the next few years and continue to foster good international links with ENT surgeons around the world and strengthen the reputation for ENT training in the UK.

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) took place at the BT Convention Centre Liverpool from 8th –10th July, attracting a record number of 1,238 registrations. Prof Shakeel Saeed organised an extensive academic programme with over 300 speakers from the UK and abroad and keynote lectures delivered by Prof Sir Ian Gilmore, Prof Randall Morton, Prof Erwin Offeciers and Prof Markus Hess.

The local organisation was undertaken by Mr Andrew Swift who liaised with the Convention Centre to ensure that every detail had been carefully planned, from the audio visual requirements to the technical arrangements for the cadaver dissections. Andrew was also responsible for the highly enjoyable social programme with the Masters' Reception at St Georges Hall and the dinner at the Maritime Museum, while he and Mr. Chris Potter also made certain that the finances were kept successfully under control.

As with previous years, fellowships were awarded to deserving delegates and this year 14 were awarded to applicants from India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland and Romania. We were grateful to the JLO, SOS, BRS, MIO, SWENT and NOEOS for their generous sponsorship. We received over 800 poster submissions, generally of a very high standard and for the first time an electronic system was used to display these with some
of the best in each section being given the opportunity to present within the main conference sessions.

The very successful Clinical Skills Centre, was retained again for BACO 15 with an even larger area at the centre of the exhibition hall being provided. Organised by Prof Nirmal Kumar and Mr Tim Woolford, it featured: Paediatric ENT, Otology, Facial Plastics, Laryngology (injection & Laser) and Endoscopic and ‘A structured Approach to Balance Assessment and Rehabilitation’ sessions. These were booked to capacity, in advance, attracting 428 delegates over three days.

The breakfast meetings included an opportunity to attend YCOHNS, BSAO & evidENT, e-learning, NAPDENT, Our Health, GENERATE, Women in ENT, Independent Practice, British Cochlear Implant Group and BLA with University Challenge occupying the lunch break.

The trade exhibition was the largest yet with a record number of exhibitors. The feedback from the exhibitors has been extremely positive: they were hugely appreciative of being close to the delegates attracted by the clinical skills centre, refreshments and lunch breaks.

It gives me great pleasure to hand over to Professor Valerie Lund CBE, who will now take on the role as Master of the British Academic Conference, with the next conference to be held in Manchester in 2018.
This has been another busy year for FPS UK, and facial plastic surgery as a sub-specialty continues to gain ground in ENT, with increasing interest amongst trainees and a generally higher profile. Our Society membership is now well over 300, our website is up and running and we have a bi-annual member’s newsletter.

National meetings have contributed to a successful year. We had our first ever FPS UK meeting earlier this year; a high quality meeting with a very encouraging turnout. Our second meeting is in February 2016. I can also state with confidence that the FPS programme at BACO this year was the strongest ever, with more sessions and a number of excellent International speakers on the faculty.

We have new Committee members, and the interests of ENT surgeons are being represented in several important national and international forums. These include the Royal Society of Medicine, the RCS Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee, the Cosmetic & Reconstructive Interface fellowship, European Board Certification in FPS, and the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery. The European Academy meeting will be in London next year further raising the profile of FPS in our specialty.

Finally I am very pleased to announce that Alwyn D’Souza will be taking over as Society President when I demit after our annual meeting. I am completely confident that under Alwyn’s leadership our society will continue to flourish.
The British Society of Otology continues to flourish, working hard to support the practice and training of British Otologists. Richard Irving has been President, and Peter Rea Secretary of the Council. Chris Aldren has been voted unanimously to be President Elect. The accounts continue to maintain a healthy surplus which is being used to support major meetings as well as trainees.

The Council meets formally 3 times per year to develop plans to assist British Otological practice but the work goes on throughout the year. Below we list a sample of the areas we have contributed to this year.

The Council continues to explore the most suitable method of establishing a National Otology Audit – a task more complex than it initially seemed. The Council is considering using hospital generated data on operation types and numbers and combining this with automatically captured audiological outcome data alongside Patient Reported Outcomes (PROMS) to maximise efficiency. Four centres have collected baseline data which will be presented at the BSO AGM in February 2016.

The Council has continued to support the development of the Chole2016 International Otology Meeting in Edinburgh in June 2016 – both with time, academic input, and financial backing.

Many members of the BSO contributed to the hugely successful BACO meeting in Liverpool in July 2015 with lectures, and practical and hands on demonstrations. The Council backed the Anglo–Scandinavian meeting in Windsor last year and is promoting next year’s meeting in Uppsala.

Members of Council contributed to NICE guidelines on management of Acute Otitis Media.
The BSO Tinnitus course was reinstated with colleagues from Masterclass, whilst the BSO Balance Course continues to go from strength to strength. With an international faculty it was held this year in London and will be held in Bristol in February 2016 where planning is now at an advanced stage for the 2016 Annual Meeting which will feature a distinguished panel of speakers covering a number of topics based upon otological emergencies.

ENT UK Head and Neck
by Vinidh Paleri, Head and Neck Council Member

The ENT UK Head and Neck Society has had a busy and productive 2015. The Head and Neck scientific programme put together for the British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology was widely appreciated. The invited speakers for the Head and Neck sessions received extremely good feedback as did the dissection sessions. The live streaming of robotic surgery from Brussels was also received very favourably. This will hopefully build onto a robust programme for BACO 2018.

Consensus Document 6th Edition
The Head and Neck consensus guidelines document has been sent to the publishers and will be published as a supplement in the Journal of Laryngology and Otology early in 2016. Authored by over 120 experts in the field, it provides evidence based recommendations for head and neck oncologic care. Like the previous editions, this will be endorsed by the 6 specialty associations and we hope that this will be received well.

Meetings
The academic offerings for 2016 include a larynx cancer study day on the 3rd November, being organised by Mr Costa Repanos. This will bring together all the recent advances in laryngeal cancer management that have occurred over the last 8 years since the last larynx cancer study day.
Laryngeal Surgery Audit

Thanks to the tireless work by Mr Ricard Simo, the laryngeal surgery national audit is now up and running. We would strongly encourage members to contribute to the audit which can be accessed at https://entuk.org/welcome-ent-uk-laryngeal-surgeon-activity-data.

Membership of the ENT UK Head and Neck Society and Elections to Council

Membership to this society is included within your ENT UK subscription and please contact Lidija Ivnik at the ENT UK office if you wish to be added to the mailing list. Two members from the current Council have demitted, and the ENT UK office will assist with the elections for two further members of the Council.

This is my last report as Secretary of ENT UK Head and Neck Society. I can’t express enough gratitude for the support I have had from my Council members during my tenure in office, especially Mr Nick Roland as Chairman of Council. This group has helped deliver a significant body of work over the last 7 years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the ENT Head and Neck community and work with a talented group of individuals. I wish my successor, Professor Jarrod Homer, every success in this role.

2015 saw the Society, now 14 years old; grow form strength to strength with 277 current members.

Mr Raj Bhalla and Mr Tim Woolford were our hosts in the award winning Manchester Convention Centre for this year’s annual meeting. Professor Piero Nicolai from Brescia, Italy, was the Karl Storz guest speaker sharing his experiences in sinus and skull base surgery. As ever, a high standard of Registrar papers were presented, complemented by a programme with senior rhinology colleagues from around the UK. As ever, the meeting ran like ‘clockwork’ supported by the expert administrative guidance of Ms Lyndy Pullan and colleagues from the ENT UK office.
The BRS had a significant involvement in the academic programme for BACO 2015 and are looking forward to 2018, the BRS will be the host Society for the European Rhinologic Society meeting at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London. Before that though we look forward to meetings in Leeds and Jersey in 2016 and 2017.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Paul White and Mr Raj Bhalla, the demitting President and Treasurer respectively, for their commitment and wisdom during their tenure and welcome Professor Anshul Sama as our new Treasurer.

The BRS is set to enter a busy period on a number of fronts. In conjunction with ENT UK, we are planning a national audit of epistaxis management. Mr. Russell Cathcart, our Honorary Secretary is developing a web based outcome tool and we are fostering links with European Societies in the spirit of education, collaboration and friendship.

The BLA has continued to evolve over the year, with a steady increase in membership and an increasingly impressive portfolio of educational events. Currently the BLA has 233 Members, 206 UK and 27 overseas. The breakdown of UK Membership is as follows: – 79 Full, 78 Associate (healthcare professionals with an interest in laryngology, including Speech and Language Therapists) and 49 Trainee Members.

Most recently we held a well-attended Annual Meeting and AGM at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. We attracted over 150 participants, including ENT Consultants, Laryngologists, Trainees, Speech and Language Therapists and Allied Health Professionals to discuss the latest advances in research and technology. This year, we were delighted to welcome both Professor Shaheen Hamdy and Professor Daniel Sifrim as our Keynote Speakers.
The quality of accepted abstracts was excellent. Congratulations to the David Howard Prize Winners –

- Best Oral Presentation – Samantha Holmes, Northwick Park Hospital
- Best Poster Presentation – Jason Powell, Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences, Newcastle University

At the AGM, members were asked to consider nominations for the next BLA President who will officially take over from myself at the Council Meeting on Friday 4th March 2016.

The British Association for Paediatric Otolaryngology (BAPO) had an excellent year, culminating in our scientific meeting at the magnificent Titanic Centre in Belfast in September 2015. The John Evans lecture is the centrepiece of our annual meeting and was delivered on this occasion by Mr David Albert, Consultant Paediatric Otolaryngologist at Great Ormond Street, London. David gave an inspirational talk celebrating the joys of his subspecialty. BAPO members contributed to several sessions at BACO in Liverpool, where one of the highlights was the skills centre, staffed by BAPO members who took delegates through the basics of simulated neonatal laryngo–tracheobronchoscopy. BAPO members were active throughout the year at several training sessions including the ENT UK Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants and at BPOC (British Paediatric Otolaryngology Course) which runs annually, alternating between London and Glasgow.

We were instrumental in alerting ENT UK members to the dangers of ingested button batteries in children and in liaising with A and E and Anaesthesia colleagues and specialty associations to ensure recognition and prompt treatment of this emergency. BAPO represents the interests of ENT UK members at a number of Royal College committees,
including the Children’s Surgical Forum where we are very much to the fore advocating for improved surgical services for children throughout the NHS.

The annual meeting for 2016 is scheduled to take place in Liverpool on 16th September, where Mr Michael Rothera will deliver the John Evans lecture.

The YCOHNS Annual Meeting was again held at the Belfry Hotel, near Birmingham, on the 9th–10th October 2015, featuring a variety of talks on service development and Consultant life. Paul Tierney shared his experience of the merger of the Bristol ENT departments. Darren Pinder offered insights on NHS work and training outside of traditional NHS departments, illustrating the potential for NHS Trusts to bid to deliver services in non-NHS facilities. Angus Waddell shared his experience of the Clinical Excellence Awards scheme and how it can be navigated. Professor Nirmal Kumar shared his thoughts on modern medical education and surgical training. Tony Jacobs provided an update on private practice, including partnership models.

Going forward, YCOHNS aims to help Consultants to be more effective in their professional life, and our programme for the 2016 meeting will introduce sessions on developing successful business plans, to include making the case for new equipment, and insights into the various professional roles that Consultants may take on.

This year’s meeting will involve a change in format with talks and presentations during a daytime meeting followed by dinner for those wishing to stay on. Once a date is finalised, information will be updated on www.ycohns.co.uk. Any suggestions are welcome to
This year’s annual AOT conference was held in the vibrant city of Birmingham. Eminent speakers from the Midlands as well as national figures were invited to address our members. The programme was aimed to cover trainees’ needs at all levels from core to post CCT. Scientific poster and free paper presentations were given by pre–ST3 trainees and judged by invited faculty members. Abstracts of oral presentations were accepted for publication by the Journal of Laryngology and Otology and the winners received a free copy of “ENT and Head and Neck Procedures: An Operative Guide”, an illustrated step–by–step ENT operative book.

The 2014–15 year was very busy and successful for the AOT. New frontiers include coordinating trainee led research and audit collaboratives, contributing to GENERATE, representing ENT in national simulation workforce meetings, securing access to NUS cards for our members, liaising with the RSM and the industry for discounts on memberships and products and many more. Positions at the AOT Council continue to evolve and the up–to–date list can be found on our website list (www.aotent.com).

The association has also been active in representing trainees at key Committees especially with regard to Shape of Training challenges, National Selection reforms, updates to CCT requirements and the junior doctors’ contract issues. The AOT forum and calendar offer a one–stop hub for trainees’ academic and training inquires. A new Council was elected and Robert Nash is the new AOT president. A list of all 21 officers, 18 regional representatives and their respective duties is available on http://www.aotent.com/regions.php. The next AOT conference will be held in Scotland and details will be released on the website soon including call for abstracts and positions available for elections.
I took over as chair of the IPC this year from Andrew McCombe who has ably led the Committee over the last few years.

Independent Practice continues to be a somewhat “dirty word” for some and those members who don’t do private practice wonder why there is a subcommittee within ENT UK dedicated to it. The last survey done of our membership showed that over 85% did some private practice. I therefore feel that it is right that the subcommittee exists to try and assist and guide members in the UK private healthcare market.

There continue to be numerous pressures from insurers intent on trying to “control” the market. The pressures are intended to force down Consultant reimbursement for fees. The competition and markets authority investigation into the private healthcare market has turned out to be a bit of a shambles with the various stakeholders challenging the outcomes. The dust is yet to settle on this.

We organised a successful meeting at the Royal College of Surgeons in June this year. There were a number of good speakers discussing current challenges and also innovative new ways of working.

My aim is for the Committee to be proactive with the various stakeholders like insurance companies, the CMA, FIPO etc. to ensure our views are heard and that we try and retain some influence in the market.
The ENT UK Newsletter remains 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.

This year I have taken on an able and enthusiastic assistant, Emma Stapleton has started as the Deputy Editor of the newsletter. She will help integrate the newsletter better into the electronic world we find ourselves in.

We are looking to have more representation and content from the various subspecialty associations within the umbrella of ENT UK to make it more relevant to all interest groups.

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.

The intercollegiate FRCS Otolaryngology continues to work well. The board is now chaired by Mr. John Hill and is supported by Mr Quentin Gardiner, Mr Paul O’Flynn, Mr Gerry O’Leary, Mrs Sue Clark, Mr Andrew Robson, Mr Robin Adair and Mr Brian Bingham.
There have been successful sittings of the exam in Newport and Limerick over the last twelve months and the exam is due to be held in November 2015 in Basingstoke.

The refinement of the exam continues with the introduction of iPads, which will help to improve the quality of images used in questions. We are continually improving the quality of the questions and examiners skills with highly detailed feedback to ensure that the exam remains set at the right standard and continues to be fair.

Examining remains a vital function of our profession. It is also stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable. We are always on the lookout for new examiners to join the panel or to help with the question writing. Anyone interested who has some educational or previous examination experience would be very welcome to contact us through the intercollegiate FRCS website [http://www.jcie.org.uk](http://www.jcie.org.uk) or contact any members of the board directly for help and advice.

I am writing this report as our specialty association representative on the RCS council and as the ‘new boy on the block!’ This year has seen a major change in the constitution of the RCS council that required a formal amendment to the Charter and approval by the Privy Council. This has enabled each specialty association to have their own representative on the council to enable fair representation for each specialty. The cohort of new specialty representatives has a formal place around the council table with an equal right to speak and full voting rights.

The most important consideration for the RCSEng at present is Project 2020. This project is carefully considering strategic plans, designs, future utilisation and finance for a major redevelopment of its buildings. The aim is to rebuild the Barry building whilst maintaining the columns and historical facade. If all goes according to plan, work will begin in June.
2017 with completion by October 2020. However, this will necessitate relocation of all of the specialty associations to temporary accommodation during the construction period. There is however a firm commitment to offer all specialty associations' preferential 'discounted' rental rates on return.

The RCS has inevitably been drawn in to the ‘new contract’ for trainees being proposed by the government. The council is very supportive of the concerns raised by the trainees and emphasises the important issue of the wider issues of this effecting patient safety.

With regard to training, the RCS is firmly committed to developing post-CCT fellowships and is currently putting a lot of emphasis in maintaining standards by assessing and accrediting fellowships and national/international courses, across all specialties.

Surgical Speciality Group of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) by Omar Hilmi, Chair

The role of the Surgical Speciality Group (soon to become the Surgical Speciality Board) of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is to reflect the views of the 612 ENT surgeons that are Fellows of the College to Council. 65% of these are UK based.

The college is undergoing internal reorganisation to better reflect the needs of its Fellows. The current members are appointed to reflect the range of the speciality both in terms of subspecialty interest and geographical location, as an international institution we take on board the needs of our members both in the UK and abroad. With these changes, the previously informal relationship to ENT UK is to become formalised.

The Faculty of Surgical Trainers continues to grow and is available to fellows and non-fellows alike – its aim is to increase the recognition of surgical education and training. Alongside this, there has been an ongoing promotion of the International Surgical Fellowship Program supporting international trainees in finding experience of the UK
training environment. In addition to the obvious training opportunities, this enables host trusts to address staffing issues in speciality posts.

There has been a push to maximise the teaching and educational resources provided by the college. The existing facilities in Edinburgh have been reinvigorated with a major investment in the library, and have been supplemented by the new centre in Birmingham providing accommodation for meetings and dry lab facilities. The expanded range of courses available directly through the college has been supplemented by approving existing external courses that meet the necessary educational requirements. The Webinar Project (in conjunction with ENT UK) has remained very popular, and there is an aspiration for future collaborative educational developments.

**UEMS ORL MEETING 1st to 4th October 2015 by Brian Bingham and Tristam Lesser**

Upgraded log-books for use by trainees. Not applicable for UK. Updated European logbook is much less sophisticated than the UK version.

1. Updated on European ORL examination. 140 candidates have sat this year. 65% of candidates are from outside the European Union. Major countries such as France and Germany do not have any candidates sitting examination. In our system (GMC regulations) the examination is given equivalence with the DOHNS and would only be suitable for someone “entering” training. The European examination does not consider equality and diversity. The European examination has no standard setting. There is no available curriculum for the European examination.

2. UEMS (43 specialties) is, currently, financially in the red. A building was bought in Brussels as a Domus Medicus for UEMS. Refurbishment was €1.1 million over
budget. It is considered that it will take 2 to 3 years to reach financial stability. Currently, new projects are shelved.

3. Money is available through CEORL for fellowships in head and neck, rhinology and otology. The money derives from profit for the European ENT congress. Eligibility to apply for one of these fellowships is to hold the European ENT examination or a national equivalent exit examination, so UK trainees can apply.

4. As always, with Ireland, we are by a long way bottom of the manpower table. However, workload to specialist number is the detail we want to know to get an idea of equivalence. Tristram and I are going to ‘present’ on “UK" Consultant workload at the next meeting in Prague 2016. (Nothing would appear to move quickly). If we provide the model then our European colleagues can start to fill in their blanks.

5. European Accreditation for CME points is an expensive business. Each specialty has a subcommittee that undertakes the work. The money is taken in by UEMS and “distributed” to the specialties. At present this money is being kept by UEMS to pay off their debts. Last year they collected €900,000 in accreditations fees. The fees charged are proportional to the number of delegates. By my estimation BACO would pay €2,500 to receive European accreditation.

6. An accreditation system for units/departments is being planned. This would identify where a fellowship could be held. At the moment the exact nature of the visit has not been defined. A good idea but without detail. Tristram suggested the “virtual visit” but although highly efficient it may cramp the benefits of an in person visit. There is no money to develop this at the moment.

7. Development of guidelines was discussed. It was identified that this would be a huge amount of work and most of the major countries already had their own guidelines. Development of a webpage link to national guidelines was the outcome and this will be considered in Prague Autumn 2016
8. Length of training was discussed. The objective is that all European countries have a minimum of 5 years ORL training. Arrangements were made for letters to be sent to the “Minister for Health” in countries that had substantially less than 5 years training. The UK level of sophistication in training in terms of curriculum, log books and operative numbers is some considerable time away for the UEMS.
Board of Trustees 2014–2015

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Mr Brian Bingham, President elect
Professor Nirmal Kumar, Honorary Secretary
Mr Anirvan Banerjee, Assistant Honorary Secretary
Mr John Rubin, Honorary Treasurer
Mr Chris Potter, Assistant Honorary Treasurer
Mr Ian Mackay BACO Master
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Mr Brian Bingham, President elect of ENT UK
Professor Nirmal Kumar, Honorary Secretary of ENT UK
Mr Anirvan Banerjee, Assistant Honorary Secretary
Mr John Rubin, Honorary Treasurer
Mr Chris Potter, Assistant Honorary Treasurer
Mr Shahed Quraishi, ENT UK Webmaster
Mr Derek Skinner, Director of Education
Mr Andrew Robson, SAC Chairman
Other Council Members 2014–2015

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<td>Mr Steven Backhouse</td>
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<td>Northern Ireland</td>
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Upcoming ENT UK Events

Friday, 20\textsuperscript{th} May 2016  
British Rhinological Society Annual Meeting 2016  
The Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

Friday, 9\textsuperscript{th} September 2016  
ENT UK Annual Meeting  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Thursday, 3\textsuperscript{rd} November 2016  
ENT UK Head & Neck Society Biennial EBM Conference Laryngeal Cancer  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Friday, 25\textsuperscript{th} November 2016  
SAS Update Meeting  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

TBC December 2016  
History of ENT Meeting 2016  
The Royal Society of Medicine

Wednesday, 1\textsuperscript{st} February 2017  
British Society of Otology Balance Course  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Thursday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2017  
British Society of Otology Annual Meeting  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Thursday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2017  
Facial Plastic Surgery Annual Meeting  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London