I write this after being at the helm for a few months. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with fellow executives and trustees to improve the services we offer our members. As promised, we encourage trainees to join the fraternity. To this end executives and trustees approved a graded tier of membership rates so that the step up from SFO (student and foundation) membership to trainee rates is gradual. This was well received at the vibrant AOT annual meeting in London. It was heartening to see our trainees participate enthusiastically in the educational programme, and also enjoying the social aspects, though this drew the ire of my daughter who banned me from attending the after-party! Well done to the organisers. It is gratifying to see the specialty flourishing at the grassroots. I was also pleased to announce that ENT UK subscription can now be suspended during maternity or paternity leave while retaining all member benefits.

In collaboration with ENT UK’s global health committee we have made international membership free for surgeons living and working in the lower income countries (HINARI A). This is a message of solidarity with colleagues working in resource poor areas. By sharing our educational resources we can make a difference to patient care around the world. I have had the pleasure of visiting the Malaysian Society annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur and am due to attend the South Asian Regional ENT congress in the summer before going to New Orleans for the American Academy as goodwill ambassador. In all of these visits I have the honour of flying the BACO 2020 flag. It is pleasing to see that we are now offering substantial discounts in registration fees for our members.

Closer to home, our SAS group led by Shyam Singam ran a very good annual meeting with many workshops that were well received. As you will see in the report from the Director of Education we aim to support SAS colleagues who wish to develop their careers whether by attaining CESR to go on the specialist register or simply to pursue an area of interest that will benefit patients.
I wish to bring to our member’s attention two important pieces of work. The first is the final GIRFT ENT report led by Andy Marshall which will present a compilation of a lot of good work done by colleagues around the country and an opportunity to learn from good practice so that we can raise the standard of care we offer our patients. More on this soon. Secondly, we saw the launch of Safe Delivery of Paediatric ENT Surgery in the UK: A National Strategy. Under the chairmanship of Ben Hartley, the report of this working party represents the collaborative outputs from the British Association of Paediatric Otolaryngology, ENT UK, the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists. It is an opportunity for us to ensure that we provide the safest care for our young patients.

I look forward to welcoming you all to the annual meeting which is due to be held on September 13th 2019, and can promise an exciting programme that will interest trainees and specialists. In the meantime I hope you enjoy our British summer with a plethora of international sporting activities that will keep all of us interested even if not indulging ourselves!

Mr. Jayesh Doshi
Chair, Student and Foundation Doctors in Otolaryngology

SFO Update

The SFO EBook is now available. It is specifically aimed at medical students and foundation doctors to provide them with the basics of ENT. This educational resource has been mapped onto the SFO UK undergraduate curriculum and is available to buy at £4.99. It can be downloaded via Amazon onto any iOS/Android device and viewed through the Kindle app.

The SFO conference is drawing closer and will be at University Hospital Birmingham on Saturday 12th October 2019. This year’s theme is “Life as an ENT Consultant / Trainee and how to make it!” After a morning of lectures, including the latest on the ST3 application process and portfolio advice, there will be an afternoon of practical skill stations (grommet insertion, tonsil tie, nasendoscopy etc). Three prizes will also be available; the JLO prize for best oral presentation, the Grant Bates Poster Prize, and the People’s Prize voted by delegates. The cost ranges between £25-£50. Delegate numbers are limited to 80 so please encourage your medical students and juniors to sign up early to avoid disappointment. Further information about the programme, registration details and abstract submissions are available via both the SFO & ENT UK websites.

Planning is also underway for the SFO Day at BACO 2020 following the popularity of this at the previous two BACO meetings in 2015 and 2018. Once again an emphasis will be kept on hands-on practical skills stations as well as opportunities for oral and poster presentations. Confirmed skills stations so far are 3D temporal bone drilling simulation and paediatric bronchoscopy, with many more exciting stations to follow! Ask your medical students and juniors to pencil in Thursday 9th July 2020 and sign up to SFO UK social media to keep up to date with the latest news!

SFO UK Website
SFO UK Facebook
SFO UK Twitter
SFO UK Instagram
BACO 2020 abstracts for oral, poster and instructional sessions now open

Submissions for oral and poster presentation abstracts and instructional sessions are now open for the largest ENT conference in the UK, BACO 2020, which will take place 8-10 July at the ICC in the lively city of Birmingham, situated at the heart of the English Midlands.

The oral and poster presentations and instructional sessions constitute an excellent opportunity to share your research with a wide audience of interested and highly knowledgeable peers from around the world, with prizes awarded for the best oral and poster presentations.

Why submit your abstract to BACO 2020?

- Exposure: Gain exposure for your research. BACO 2020 will attract a wide range of experts from across the specialty and around the world.
- Peer review: A vital part of the research process. Presenting your findings at BACO will allow you to get immediate feedback from your peers in an intellectually stimulating environment.
- Networking: Network with peers, colleagues and experts in ENT research from the UK and all around the world. This is the perfect forum to share your thoughts and ideas with them.
- Participate: Experience the extraordinary atmosphere that makes BACO a special event. If you have attended before, you will be aware of the sense of professional camaraderie this conference creates.
- Prizes: The opportunity to win a prize at a famous and prestigious event and stand out among a very impressive cohort of peers.

The deadline for submission is 23.00 (GMT) on Wednesday 11 December 2019. All submissions must be made via the BACO 2020 website, where you can also find information on how to submit.
BACO 2020 Travelling Fellowships

We are pleased to announce that applicants are invited to apply to the Mrs. Prakash Narula Travelling BACO Fellowships programme. This programme has been established to help ease the financial burden of attendance for delegates in developing countries who would not otherwise be able to attend. Successful applicants will receive free registration plus £750 towards travel and expenses, and will be selected by the ENT UK Executive and the ENT UK Global Health Committee.

In order to be considered, applicants must be either a trainee in their country or a specialist or consultant within 5 years of their appointment, and must be able to demonstrate that they have taken an active role in local service or education development. Previous recipients of BACO fellowships are unfortunately not eligible for consideration. Full details can be found on the website.

Key dates:
- Early-bird registration opening: 13 Sept 2019
- Abstract and Instructional Deadline: 2 Dec 2019
- Early-bird registration deadline: 17 Apr 2020
- BACO 2020: 8-10 July 2020

“An excellent conference, BACO was a great learning experience, allowing me to liaise with the ENT community in the UK. Visiting the UK was a dream come true, and my experience at BACO enhanced my confidence practicing in Pakistan. The fellowship helped me to gather resources to travel there; I would definitely recommend it.”

Dr Rahim Dhanani, Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi
Mrs. Prakash Narula BACO Fellowship recipient 2018
Mr Shyam Singam is to be congratulated for the organisation and delivery of an outstanding conference for the ENT UK Staff and Associate Specialist (SAS) group in Torbay Hospital on 19th and 20th June 2019. Attendees included SAS doctors and allied health professionals who care for ENT patients, which made for rich discussions and inter-professional learning. See below for for Shyam’s report of this event.

ENT UK would like to develop a supportive buddy scheme for SAS doctors who wish to pursue the CESR (certificate of eligibility for specialist registration) route to registration. The CESR route is expensive and currently has a 50% success rate of applications. It is hoped that with some input from a supportive but critical buddy prior to application, the successful application rate may be increased with the subsequent benefit to both the individual surgeon and our patients. If anyone is interested in becoming a CESR buddy please get in touch with me via the ENT UK office, as we would like representation around the UK to mirror the regional council representatives that we currently have.

ENT UK has recently successfully supported the appointment of four medical training initiative (MTI) scheme doctors to come and work in the UK for two years at ST3 and above level. If you feel that there may be an opportunity for training an additional surgeon in your team please get in touch for details of the process.

The adult Emergency Safe Surgical Skills Course for consultants and SAS doctors will be run in Guildford on October 11th 2019 at a subsidised cost of £200 for ENT UK members. Please apply now to avoid disappointment. We are planning to develop video resources to support the course for a broader reach to all members in their maintenance of emergency safety.

We all know that starting your first ENT post can be a challenging time for junior doctors as there is limited practical skill acquisition at undergraduate level. Many departments are currently stretched to deliver a high quality induction experience up to five times a year due to the frequency of rotation of the various types of junior doctors. James Tysome and his team have run a highly successful introductory course in Cambridge and we are hoping that we can develop a package that will be useful for members around the UK to use as a useful adjunct to their local introduction to ENT for new Foundation doctors, GP trainees and core trainees who join the team.

We are planning a GP day on 9th July 2020 at BACO 2020, for GPs with an extended role in ENT. In the post GDPR climate it is a challenge to know who is working in this way in the UK so please tell any GPs that you may be mentoring or supporting that this BACO day is being designed specifically to address their CPD requirements. This day will also be a useful update day for allied health professionals, so please encourage your colleagues to consider registering.
Mr. Craig Murray  
Chair, Specialist Advisory Committee in Otolaryngology

SAC Update

Over the past few months we’ve seen significant developments that will affect trainees and trainers. The new curriculum has been accepted by the GMC pending a few minor clarifications. The overall shape of the curriculum has been agreed. In summary the main changes will be:

Training structure and assessment
Rather than having a training scheme composed of small isolated components (WBAs) that are joined up to create a surgeon, the process works the other way round. The focus is in the global skills we utilise each day. These components are called CIPs (Capabilities in Practice) and are skills such as managing a ward round, theatre list etc.

The aim is to use different types of evidence to build up a picture of competence. Some of this will be via WBAs but also by a more global assessment, the Multi Consultant Report (MCR). The pilot of the new MCR is looking positive.

Special Interest / training time.
Currently trainees undertake six years of HST to be awarded their CCT. Areas of special interest can often be a fairly soft judgement. To clarify these special interest areas different levels of competence will be expected at CCT and are measured at the level of a day 1 DGH Consultant. The areas specified are Otology, Rhinology, Head and Neck, Thyroid/Parathyroid, Paediatrics, Laryngology and General ENT. The GMC are keen to show that training can be shorter in certain circumstances. Laryngology and General ENT have been identified as having potential to be completed in five years of HST. This will be carefully monitored and fed back to the GMC. Specialists in tertiary units will usually have additional fellowship training. The GMC have raised the potential for high level fellowships to be available in the UK. Whilst these exist in various forms at present, JCST are keen to have fellowships supported by all four surgical colleges and supervised by the JCST QA process. The intention is these will be in niche areas (e.g. cochlear implant and skull base) at high level and comparable to international fellowships. I look forward to presenting at ENT UK and ENT Scotland in Autumn 2019 and will focus on the new curriculum. I realise that the question time may be longer than any presentation. If I cannot answer your questions in time allotted, I will be happy to speak afterwards. It is important that the ENT community understand the direction the GMC wish to take and you can trust that the JCST and SAC will attempt to make any changes as smooth and effectively as possible.

I would like to raise my ongoing concern regarding Consultant supervision for the emergency take. In their ‘seven day services standards’ document, HEE require emergencies to be assessed by Consultants within fourteen hours of admission. JCST have a similar requirement (Q14) ‘All ENT emergency admissions… should be reviewed as part of a ward round within 24 hours of admission, attended by a consultant.’ Even allowing for this being less than the HEE requirement, we consistently fall short of this requirement on all surveys. I would like to remind the Consultant body that whilst this may seem a major change it does fall within the HEE requirements and something we should be aware of and try to improve.

I will finish reiterating the good news regarding the new curriculum. I will remind you it is on its way and should expect commencement in 2020. Please take notice of the regular updates available through the ISCP website and please feedback your experience of any forms made available to trial. Feedback both positive and negative means it is more likely to succeed and be less painful when implemented.
Mr. Michael Wareing  
Consultant Otologist and BSO Council Member  
St Bartholomew’s and The Royal London Hospitals

British Society of Otology (BSO) Council Update

The BSO Council has been busy in a number of areas. Peter Rea will take over as President when Philip Robinson demits office in 2020. Simon Lloyd takes over as Secretary. After the successful AGM in Edinburgh, attention has turned to liaising with ENT UK on clinical and political issues including quinolone guidance, NICE hearing standards, and credentialing.

The issue of data produced by PHIN (Private Healthcare Information Network) has involved discussions with the BSO represented by Peter Valentine and now Ian Bottrill. PHIN was introduced after the CMA investigation into the Healthcare market. Unfortunately the data it has produced has not proved to be accurate. It has made very broad groupings (e.g. meatoplasty ends up being coded as pinnaplasty), in an attempt to ‘keep it simple’. BSO has proposed a procedure grouping that more accurately reflects the range of otologic surgery. We have concerns regarding the accuracy of the data uploaded to PHIN which comes from private hospitals and NHS HES. The accuracy of the latter can be challenging and we are trying to ensure the data are a fair reflection of practice. BSO recommend that consultants review their data and feedback errors but we are keen that we do not become the de facto guardian of accuracy. The current BSO view is that we should not endorse the data until our concerns are addressed and discussions are ongoing.

An education subcommittee led by Wendy Smith has been set up to consider the problem of increasing management advice referrals from Primary Care and to look at ENT education in both Medical Schools and GP training. The subcommittee is working closely with Philippa Tostevin, the ENT UK Director of Education and will support the proposed RCGP ENT library as well as provide vignettes demonstrating the assessment and management of ear conditions from a GP and then an ENT specialist viewpoint. The BSO Council is also considering projects to support and badging of academic courses. There is a junior BSO forum set up by Aileen Lambert, who has now handed over to Elinor Warner. The forum has a useful list of Otological Training courses under BSO Juniors.

Professor Manohar Bance from Cambridge has taken up post as Academic Secretary with a broad remit that includes promoting academic activity, cooperation and collaboration in otology and otologic research, as well as encouraging trainees to become involved in academic activities in the UK. He hopes to encourage collaboration with allied specialties as well as raising funds for otologic research.

Anyone interested in standing for BSO Council would be encouraged to discuss the role with a BSO Council member. It is an interested and interesting group on all matters otological! The next Council elections will take place at the BSO Annual meeting to be held at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, London, on 6th Feb 2020 where prospective members need to be present. There are usually 3-6 places for election to the Council.

SAVE THE DATE!
6th Feb 2020  
British Society of Otology meeting  
St Bartholomew’s and The Royal London  

Details to follow in next newsletter
The 5th ENT UK SAS Conference returned to the English Riviera June 20th-21st 2019 over the summer solstice. After ten days of incessant rain, we had the perfectly timed break we desperately needed. An exciting array of workshops, were laid out by the faculty for the delegates, who came from across the British Isles.

Workshops included Job Planning by the BMA; Pensions and Investments by Chase de Vere; Career Progression for ENT nurses by Dean Frawley, balance, SALT, as well as hands-on workshops which included a BAHA workshop, a MIPS (minimally invasive POnyo surgery) update, and a combined Anaesthetic and ENT CICO (can’t intubate, can’t oxygenate) venture involving cadaveric dissection.

The group were then whisked away to the Devon countryside for an organic gastronomic experience at Riverford Field Kitchen, then to the Cornubian batholith that formed 280 million years ago, with an insightful geology lesson by Adam Wilde.

The following day, plenary sessions were kick started with an engaging talk by Philippa Tostevin (ENT UK Director of Education), followed by a very accomplished faculty exploring Revalidation, Otology, Palliative care and Head and Neck surgery, with the highlight being a comical look at the world of Sex, Media and Otolaryngology by Prof Colm O’Mahony (University of Chester).

The best oral presentation went to Alisha Patel: Review of litigation trends in otolaryngology, and the best poster was from Stephen Park: Improving ward rounds through documentation.

We ended the meeting with a fond farewell to all and a big thank you to the ENT UK and Torbay staff for all their support.
BSFPS Update

The 5th Annual Meeting of BSFPS was held in the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham on the 14th June 2019. We were very pleased with the high turnout and quality of presentations. Three themes on cleft surgery, facial reanimation and rhinoplasty made the main body of the meeting and were covered expertly by the faculty. The invited international speakers Yong Ju Jong and Luis Lassaletta gave outstanding talks on deformed noses and facial reanimation respectively. The national faculty that included a mix of ENT surgeons, Plastic surgeons and Ophthalmologists was equally very informative. Prizes for best oral and poster presentation were awarded to the winners at the end of the programme. Congratulations to Mustafa Jafaar for best presentation, and Fergal Cadden for best poster.

The AGM was well attended, and the progress of BSFPS in its fifth year was presented. Importantly, the proposed bylaws for the society with introduction of changes in the council format and online elections were approved. We plan to announce elections for Council and applications for regional representatives in the near future. The next meeting date will be 27th March 2020 in Glasgow.

Yong Ju Jong, Seoul, speaking at BSFPS 2019