



President's Newsletter

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INTRODUCTION ROBERT BENTLEY, PRESIDENT


So if I was asked to reflect on 2020 I would probably say to parody, a 60's satirical comedy sketch show "2020, that was the year that wasn't!" A year in which due to the COVID pandemic we lost all face-to-face meetings, the ASM and most aspects of what helps define us as the "Home of OMFS." In contrast it has shown the best of BAOMS as the "Face of Surgery," where its members delivered in supporting their patients and the NHS in its "Darkest hours," and continue to do so through the now rapidly worsening second wave of COVID.

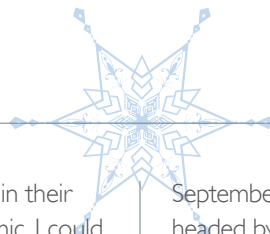
It's been a year that has reaffirmed mine and many others' belief that OMFS is the best specialty and it was a privilege to lead some of the most talented and committed individuals that I know. I would like to thank the officers and members of Council and all associated representatives, who as volunteers together with the BAOMS office team, have continued to deliver and serve you – our members, through such difficult times.

"Events dear boy, Event's" That is what I had quoted in my Spring Newsletter from Harold McMillan's response to the question to what had shaped his premiership. Equally I could have responded "COVID, dear boy, COVID" if I was to reflect on my year as President of the Association and 2020 which has proven to be the most challenging of years for all of us both on a personal and professional basis and of which I will return to a little later in this piece.

The year, however, did start off on a positive note with one of my initiatives which was to bring the officers of Council and the five elected Presidents together for a strategy day in February, where we looked to address the main issues facing the Association over the next four presidential terms of office. The aim was to and create a work plan that would have been supported by focussed symposia in the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) which would have discussed in particular, development of an online teaching platform and repository to support delivery for the new curriculum, building the brand recognition of BAOMS, a second journal, alignment of the presidential handover at the Annual Scientific Meeting, recruitment and retention, training to the new curriculum and developing the relationships to the GMC and GDC to support a continuum of an integrated training pathway. This last debate in particular would have informed the training edition of BJOMS in December and would have laid the foundation for Austen Smith's Presidential year in

2021 supported by Peter Brennan as the incoming Chairman of Council working closely with the chair of SAC. However, then came March and the ravages of COVID which resulted in the loss of all face-to-face Council and Trustees meetings and in particular the main social and debating platform of the ASM in June.

In March I was appointed as National Clinical Director and chair of the National CRG for Major Trauma and Burns and was asked by NHSE and the National Medical Director to plan and implement the National Response of these complex multiagency services to the challenges of a rapidly developing COVID National Emergency. In addition, for a 3 month spell I was also asked to hold the reins as Clinical Director for the Trauma National Programme of Care (NPoC), one of five NPoCs which includes Critical Care, Neurosciences, Spinal Cord Injury and Specialist Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation to name but a few. To say I had my hands full was an understatement, but the experience and insight that I gained by working within the NHS Medical Directorate coupled with the personal clinical experience of dealing with Major Trauma and OMFS response to COVID with my colleagues at King's, shaped a number of national guidelines and service reconfigurations that helped colleagues in other areas of the country prepare in advance for their own challenges, yet to come. In an email to members of the Association in March, I outlined these recommendations and reflected that our members and the specialty of Oral



and Maxillofacial Surgery would not be found wanting in their support of the NHS's response to the COVID pandemic. I could never have imagined that my words would have been proven more justified. Not only did we adapt but we improved how we dealt with the delivery of our own elective and emergency services, demonstrating ingenuity and pragmatism for the benefits of all our patients. In addition many members at all levels went beyond this and distinguished themselves through redeployment to hard pressed disciplines such as Intensive Care and Renal Medicine, of which they should be justifiably proud. Unfortunately we find ourselves once again being called upon in wave 2 and what is highly likely to be wave 3 as I write.

Despite the pressures of work the Association's members contributed to COVID audit projects which has led to an invaluable database of how we delivered the service as it was, and helped highlight issues relating to access to diagnostics and treatment for elective services including Head and Neck Cancer ([Click for COVIDSurg report](#)) and emergency infection and trauma provision. I was able to use many of the lessons learnt as part of the NICE Team who reviewed the provision of elective services during COVID and helped, together with Bill Allum from the Royal College of Surgeons, produce the guidance that resulted in the unworkable 2 week isolation pathway being reduced to 72 hours. In addition the Association provided the REDCap platform for the COVIDTRAC tracheostomy audit, conducted jointly with our ENT and Intensive Care colleagues after some negotiation, which helped demonstrate the significant part we play as a specialty in the provision of essential services, something that might have been lost on some, prior to COVID. I am indebted to Clare Schilling, Fabien and all of the COVID audit leads around the country that have demonstrated that we can co-ordinate data collection ([COVIDTrach; a prospective cohort study of mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients undergoing tracheostomy in the UK](#)), something that will be imperative to the QOMS projects going forwards.

Nothing typified the spirit of BAOMS more than the Office Team of Sarah, Sue and Danni who at the beginning of the year, were already displaced as a result of the College refurbishment who then had to move to working separately from home. Despite this "Team BAOMS" have still have been able to support me with critical time dependent issues, not least of all the negotiations with the Southbank Centre in London, the venue for our 2020 ASM. They ensured that the Association did not incur a significant five or six figure loss and by securing the rollover of our sponsorship deal in its entirety to 2022 – we made virtually no loss at a time when other Associations did not fare so well. In addition you will also be aware of the successful launch of the new membership platform, something long planned but again delivered against the backdrop of COVID for which the team should be congratulated.

One of the other year's casualties that succumbed to COVID was the ICOMS conference scheduled to be hosted in Glasgow in

September 2021 and delivered by a local organising committee headed by David Koppel, who had assembled an excellent programme. Austen Smith and I had been party to the ongoing meetings with ICOMS, in particular over the Summer period on behalf of the Trustees. We wish to thank David and the team who acted with good grace and dignity throughout the discussions which ended with the outright cancellation and the loss of 5 years preparation. I believe the Association owes them a huge degree of gratitude. It is to be hoped that some of the material can be used in the future for the benefit of our members and the September slot vacated by ICOMS now means that Austen will hopefully be able to host an ASM as President, something that was previously precluded as part of the contract with ICOMS.

One of the challenges that came at the top of our strategy list was the Quality Outcomes in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (QOMS) project and how we as a specialty can address the huge disparity of our current level of audit data when compared to other specialties. Those who attended the recent online AGM will have heard the good progress that Michael Ho, David Tighe and Fabien Puglia have made with the pilot project building on the excellent work started by Jeremy McMahon – [highlighted in their section in this newsletter](#). The specialty desperately needs every unit's involvement to support this process and I would urge you to select a QOMS lead and liaise with the team as quickly as possible. As a National Commissioner, I know that every service review is based on a GIRFT process that makes use of a specialty database of performance and quality measures that is able to challenge Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data. [The second round of OMFS GIRFT](#) will be commencing shortly under the leadership of Maire Morton and it's outcome will be used by Commissioners as part of the emerging block contracts for 2021/22. The "Blended payments" for 2022/23 will include a quality premium administered by the then established Integrated Care Systems (ICS's). If we can't evidence 'what good looks like' through national benchmarking then we leave our units open to challenge and potential rationalisation as part of population based commissioning. In March's Presidential Newsletter I made reference to the need for engagement with the emerging ICS's and their overseeing Regional Teams. Now really is the time to ensure we have them as "Our best friends and not our worse enemies" – something that has not been lost on other specialties who portray their ability to offer aspects of our services, and which if lost, threaten the viability of an integrated and comprehensive Oral and Maxillofacial Service.



One of the strategic aims that came out of the February meeting was the proposal from Kaveh Shakib, BJOMS Editor, for a second journal, "[Advances in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery](#)" which is a new open access journal dedicated to publishing research articles on all aspects of surgery in the oro-facial and head and neck region. The journal will publish



original research, review articles, editorials, technical notes and case reports. It is hoped that this will help access for Junior Trainees wishing to publish, whilst maintaining the impact factor for BJOMS. The new journal is now accepting submissions and Kaveh and the editorial team deserve to be congratulated for their delivery of this project in such a short space of time and what I am sure will be a welcomed sister addition to the BJOMS.

“The Face of Surgery” and the home of “Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery”



Earlier in the piece I mentioned one of our objectives was to help build the brand of BAOMS not only as the “Face of Surgery” but also as the “Home of OMFS” for all its members' professional needs.

In order to help build this image I have worked with the Office Team to design a series of items that reinforce the logo, building on the colour scheme of the existing lanyards ranging from an iconic badge, 32GB USB stick, pen and sustainable cotton bag. All of these would have been available at the ASM but thanks to our sponsors kind support (KLS Martin and Stryker) a package will be winging itself to you as a “BAOMS Christmas Present” and will also include a branded chocolate bar. 5 of the packages will have a “Lucky Golden Ticket,” enclosed. The lucky winners of which will receive a Hamper.



AGM and Prize Giving Ceremony and Presidential Handover



Also in a direct response to the postponement of the ASM, we had planned an enhanced programme around the AGM and Prize giving as a hybrid event in a London Hotel in December. But like so much of this year, every attempt to hold something face-to-face was thwarted by new restrictions as wave 2 of COVID took a grip. However, we were able to trial for the first time, a live streamed combined Council, membership groups, AGM and celebratory presentations of the 2019 prize winners.

This was hosted from a hotel ship moored in London Docklands. For the senior prizes the citations were pre-recorded and there was a full-house for all the recipients who joined live with their certificates as did the members' prize winners. We were able to toast them as well as the incoming President for 2021, Mr Austen Smith and Vice President Mr Cyrus Kerawala. (see photo). If you missed it, then it can be [viewed or watched again here](#).

ePosters Vote for your favourite

Again in a direct response to the postponement of the ASM and with the kind sponsorship of KLS Martin and Stryker we were able to host an ePoster competition this year.

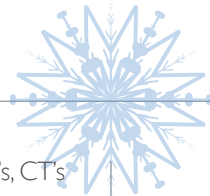
Please participate by scoring your favourite ePoster and we will announce the winners in the Spring President's Newsletter. We have already awarded the BAOMS members' prizes for the top ranked/scored ePosters following scores received from the Scientific Panel (please see further down for BAOMS members' prizes awarded for the BAOMS ePosters). [Please visit the ePoster portal to view them all](#).

Presidential initiatives

On a positive note as part of the Presidential initiatives, Council and Trustees have approved the funding for a post to lead a delivery group of the proposed online teaching resource. This is designed to support delivery of the new curriculum with a series of hosted webinars by experts in their field from around the country, and supported by state of the art information technology – with a view to making this interactive and free for all trainees in the UK and around the world. It is hoped that in time it will build in to a valuable repository accessible and branded through BAOMS.

A job description has been compiled by an initial organising committee and I am grateful to Emma Woolley, Jag Dhand, Montey Garg, Jason Green and many more for their invaluable input in shaping how this post will fit with, and build upon the e-learning portfolio which will be overseen by Council and linking closely with the SAC. We have been in encouraging discussions with potential commercial and educational partners of how we can attract sponsorship going forwards to maintain a BAOMS Educational Resource.

One of the other initiatives which we have been discussing with Emma Woolley as chair of the SAC, has been a concept of how to build on the great work started by Ian Sharp on Council regarding junior development programmes. The aim is to address recruitment and retention of younger members. My suggestion was taken up and agreed with the SAC and would include a Lead Training Programme Director (TPD) role who would work closely with all TPD's and a nominated lead on Council. The lead would look to help co-ordinate through the TPD's a supportive



network of trainers and units. This will help support DCT's, CT's and degree students, giving them a "Home" which has been achieved successfully at King's and several other units in the hope that we could have a comprehensive network that can deliver the restructured "Taste of OMFS and Mentorship programmes," and also have access to the virtual training material. Again a job description has been pulled together by Emma Woolley and myself and a proposal shall come to Council in March 2021. If there are financial issues depending on who fulfils the post then any money left over from my fund can be used towards this as well as a proposal to Trustees for support.

In conclusion, it has been a year that has come with huge challenges and disappointments for us all, and from my perspective the inability to honour my elected mandate as President to represent the Association and deliver the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in 2020 has been a huge disappointment. In March, Council will consider how best to accommodate the cancelled plans for this year but I do hope I will given the opportunity to discharge my responsibilities as the 59th President in a way that all previous Presidents have been able to do.

So if I was asked to reflect on 2020 I would probably say to parody a 60's satirical comedy sketch show "2020, that was the year that wasn't," a year in which due to the COVID pandemic we lost all face-to-face meetings, the ASM and most aspects of what helps define us as the "Home of OMFS." In contrast it has shown the best of BAOMS as the "Face of Surgery," where its members delivered in supporting their patients and the NHS in its "Darkest hours," and continue to do so in through the now rapidly worsening second wave of COVID. It's been a year that has reaffirmed mine and many others' belief that OMFS is the best specialty and it was a privilege to lead some of the most talented and committed individuals that I know. I would like to thank the officers and members of Council and all associated representatives who as volunteers, together with the BAOMS office team have continued to deliver and serve you – our members, through such difficult times.

I would like to wish Austen Smith the very best for his Presidential year in 2021 and hopefully what be an opportunity for an ASM in Sheffield in September as of the cancellation of ICOMS, something I believe we will all welcome as an opportunity to meet again!

The 2020 BAOMS Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Ceremony

The AGM was held as an online meeting on Friday 11 December 2020 and included the Awards Ceremony.

The 2020 AGM and Awards Ceremony can be watched here.
 To log in use your email address and the password for all members is BAOMS2020



PATRICK MAGENNIS
 CHAIR, BAOMS COUNCIL

Chair's Report

Breaking News - Observer seats now available for BAOMS Council meetings in 2021

With the support of Council, there will be opportunities at each meeting of Council for members of any level to join as observers. This was proposed a little while ago but rejected because of the expense of bringing additional people to our meetings. Now that we are hybrid – a situation which is likely to continue at least for next year – observers can join without travelling. At the end of 2021 there will be 4 elected Fellow places up for election. If you are considering standing, why not attend one of the meetings during the year as an observer.

Gallery of Diversity, Equity Statement and Unconscious Bias Checklist

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the [Wall of Diversity](#). Anyone who has yet to contribute, please take a few minutes after reading this newsletter to send a picture to the office with a brief note of what makes you diverse. The Chief Executive of RCS England noted this as an excellent innovation.

New Membership Database

(Please update your profile, your workforce census and add diversity information)

Please log in to the BAOMS website and update your profile including your workforce census information. There is a new page of diversity information (which is encrypted and can only be viewed by you – the Association gets a consolidated report). If we are to understand how our diversity may change, we need baseline information.

Support for Trainees at all Levels

Taste of OMFS and Mentoring and Support Programme (MSP)

The Taste programme is aimed at inspiring anyone interested in OMFS to find out more about the specialty. It is a trainee led programme using available resources. The MSP is a more focussed programme aimed at those targeting a career in OMFS, based on the JTP.

Training Edition of BJOMS

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this. There have been so many articles there may be a further training themed edition in the New Year. Our Editor Kaveh Shakib is keen to



garner responses and further papers around training. [Please take the time to contribute.](#)

There is a formal response from BAOMS Council. We remain committed to OMFS as a dual degree specialty. Austen Smith, President 2021, is focussed on delivering improvements to training as his Presidential project. We will need your help, so please watch for his announcements and requests.

Brexit and OMFS

This will impact on our specialty, restricting the ability to recruit European specialists into hard to fill posts but especially the ability to recruit non-UK dentists and doctors to train and work in the UK. Please watch out for initiatives and contribute if you can.

[European OMFS in the time of Brexit – where did the UK fit and how might the future look?](#)

[United Kingdom immigration and emigration of oral and maxillofacial Surgery \(OMFS\) specialists 2000-2020: how might Brexit impact on OMFS?](#)

COVID Crisis

We should be proud of how the specialty and Association has responded to the COVID crisis. On our website there are position documents with our oral surgery and ENT colleagues (recommending avoid, restrict and abbreviate), multi-specialty research and service evaluations including COVID tracheotomies. We also contributed to prioritisation lists through the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations (FSSA).

Moving OMFS and Oral Surgery specialists in BAOMS into the correct category of membership

The rules of the Association mean that members who are OMFS or Oral Surgery specialists should be in the Fellow category of BAOMS membership. Comparing our membership list against the specialist lists found a number of colleagues in the wrong category. All these have been transitioned to Fellow. Fellows' subscriptions are higher because they sustain the Association by paying for our administrative staff and contributing to the support we give to trainees of all levels. We hope all of those who have been transitioned to Fellow will continue to benefit from being a Fellow of the Association and contribute financially and by their enthusiastic efforts.

QOMS Project and GIRFT

As we get to the other side of the COVID crisis and begin to return to normal, we will need everyone to contribute to this project. Our [Getting in Right First Time](#) report highlighted the weaknesses of our specialty in terms of outcome data. There will be considerable pressure on all surgical services in the next

few years with the backlog of elective operations across all specialties which will need to be addressed.

Thanks to all on Council, Fellows, Junior Trainees, Fellows in Training and Associate Fellows

This December will bring to a close 11 years of continuous service on BAOMS Council and a total of 26 years as an elected or co-opted member. It started in the Medical Students' Group in 1988, including joining the Information Sub-Committee as a specialty trainee in 1995, roles in the Clinical Effectiveness Sub-Committee as Secretary then Chair, 3 x 3 year terms as an elected Fellow, 3 years as Honorary Secretary, 1 year as deputy Chair and 4 years as Chair. It has been a privilege to work on your behalf and I hope my contributions have made positive differences to the Association and most importantly our membership and our specialty.

If I could highlight a few of my favourite contributions, making the Junior Trainee Group from the Medical Student's Group, designing the first BAOMS website, creating our eLogbook, the Consultants and Specialists' Group, Sub-Specialty Interest Groups, Trainer of the Year and Trainers' Trainer of the Year, the President's Fund and especially the fore-runner of the MSP, the Junior Trainee Programme. On the administrative side levelling the fees for FITs has increased the number for specialty trainees in this group, co-opting RSPAs as our official regional reps who are invited to Council to present regular reports and giving the Junior Trainee Rep on Council a voice by changing them from an observer to a full voting member was controversial at the time but has had many benefits for Council and Junior Trainees. Of course, without the BAOMS Office team of Sarah (and before her Kate Aldridge) plus Sue and Danni nothing would happen at all – so thanks so much to them too.

The Association is in a strong position with active membership and a focus on the future. I hope to be able to continue to contribute, if my efforts are required.

UKNFR mid December 2020 update

[The UKNFR is likely to be a good barometer of surgical activity in the NHS.](#)

In October 2020 there were signs of a dramatic increase in reconstructive capacity. These gains were short-lived as registered case numbers rapidly tailed-off in November and December most likely due to the arrival of the second wave of COVID-19. We shall see what effect the annual round of 'winter pressures' has on further registry numbers.

Mr Peter Kalu, Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, UKNFR Audit Lead



Quality Outcomes in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

QOMS update

Applications invited for Phase 2 of this Quality Improvement initiative. [Click here.](#)

Despite the on-going COVID-19 epidemic in the UK, QOMS has kept on growing and evolving. The appointment of Michael Ho as new BAOMS QOMS Clinical Lead in July 2020 marked the beginning of Phase 2 of the Project.

Following our 1st pilot (December 2019 - March 2020), QOMS will be officially launched next year. Participation will be open to all OMFS units and surgeons who wish to take part. BAOMS and Saving Faces will be funding up to 10 units for 3 years to employ a dedicated data coordinator to effectively support high-quality and comprehensive data collection for QOMS.

The application process opened shortly after a successful webinar run by the QOMS team on 13 November 2020 (<https://bit.ly/3kLkYQo>). The selection of those 10 OMFS units will be based on their willingness to engage with quality improvement and requires commitment from all local OMF surgeons and the hospitals' medical directors. More details and the application form can be found on the [BAOMS QOMS page](#).

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for submission of applications has been extended to 22nd January 2021. The application form and further information can be found on the [BAOMS QOMS page](#).

The QOMS initiative has been granted full section 251 support from the Confidentiality Advisory Group of the Health Research Authority (CAG, HRA) to collect data without the need for patient consent in England and Wales.

Michael Ho, Fabien Puglia and QOMS Team

Finally, you can follow us on Twitter (@BAOMS_QOMS) and Facebook (BAOMS_QOMS) and we are always contactable by [email to answer any of your queries \(qoms@baoms.org.uk\)](mailto:qoms@baoms.org.uk).

Notice

We are sorry to inform you of the death of **Mr Brian Millar** in November. A longstanding Fellow of the Association, he will be sadly missed.

Report from Honorary Secretary

ROBERT BANKS
 HONORARY SECRETARY

Elections to BAOMS Council

Following a recent nomination process for one vacancy for a Fellow on Council, Mr Alexander Goodson has been elected. Many thanks to Mr Ian Sharp, who demits from his role as a Fellow on Council following a three-year term of office.

Mr Hesham Emam was elected unopposed for a three-year term on Council as an Associate Fellows' Representative working alongside Mrs Vinita Shekar. Thanks to Mrs Parminder Shoker who demits after her three-year term of office. Our thanks to all candidates who took the time to take part.

Fellows in Training Representative and Deputy

Miss Divya Sharma was nominated and appointed to the role of Deputy Fellows in Training Representative and will work alongside Mr Peter Glen, who takes over as Fellows in Training Representative in January 2021. Many thanks to Mr Raghuram Boyapati, who demits from that role in December 2020.

Deputy Junior Trainees and Members' Representative and Junior Trainees' Group Chair

Following a call for expressions of interest Dr Rhea Chouhan will take over as Deputy Junior Trainees and Members' Representative and Junior Trainees' Group Chair in January 2021, working alongside Miss Aimee Rowe (Junior Trainees and Members' Representative 2021). Our thanks to them for their contribution in these roles.

63rd Presidential Election

The more observant of you will have noticed there has been no Presidential election as yet, normally held around this time of year and would actually be for 2024, or, for the 63rd President of the Association. The delay has arisen as a result of this quite exceptional year, with knock-on effects into the coming years and already elected Presidential terms of office. Briefly, our 2020 ASM at the South Bank Centre has been rescheduled to 2022, to accommodate the ICOMS meeting scheduled for Glasgow in 2021, now recently also cancelled. In the midst of this domino effect of rescheduled meetings, the opportunity has arisen to move the presidential handover from the 1st January to the ASM in line with many other associations. This has some merit, the current flux has produced circumstances where this could be accommodated and is worthy of consideration early in the New Year prior to running a presidential election where the terms of office can be clearly defined shortly after. I will provide a update in the New Year.



Updated online membership services

In contrast to the presidential election, we hope you haven't noticed the upgrade to the Association's membership system. All the office team need to be thanked for the tremendous amount of hard work that has gone on behind the scenes to make this transition as seamless as possible. The only visible change to you should be the need to log in with your registered e-mail address rather than your user name, your password will remain the same.

The new membership system has also meant some housekeeping to ensure everyone is in the correct category, so please log in and ensure your details are up to date. Because of this, although our numbers have remained static, we currently have 417 registered Fellows and encouragingly 200 student members.

BAOMS membership categories

Please ensure that your BAOMS membership category is correct and up to date. You can now change your membership category quickly and easily online via your profile in the new membership system.

Please email office@baoms.org.uk if you would like further details.

BAOMS members' prizes awarded for the BAOMS 2020 ePosters



We would like to offer congratulations to the following ePoster prize winners. These are the papers which were selected following peer review and scoring by the 2020 Annual Scientific scoring panel for presentation at the postponed Summer 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting due to have taken place in London.

Please do take some time to visit the [ePoster portal](#) to view all the ePosters. The portal has been supported by KLS Martin and Stryker and we thank them for this educational resource.



Prizes to be awarded in 2021

We plan to award the following prizes at the next BAOMS Awards Ceremony which will take place in 2021 with the date to be confirmed.

President's Prize 2020

Awarded to **Mr Simon Van Eeden**

For paper: *10 years of orthognathic surgery and speech in cleft patients from the NorCleft Audit group; pre-operative assessment and post-operative outcomes*

Norman Rowe Clinical Prize 2020

Awarded to **Mr Salim Miskry**

For paper: *Intra-corporeal lithotripsy - A case series demonstrating its efficacy as a minimally invasive option*

Paul Toller Research Prize 2020

Awarded to **Mr Aitor De Gea Rico**

For paper: *Skin cancer training in OMFS: a UK national questionnaire*

Junior Trainees and Members' Prize 2020

Awarded to **Miss Hana Kennedy**

For paper: *Do we have a robust method for pre-operative tumour depth assessment for oral cavity tumours with clinically negative necks?*

Associate Fellows' Prize 2020

Awarded to **Dr Jothi Srinivasan**

For paper: *Assessment of patient satisfaction using a digital consent package for wisdom tooth procedures; a pilot study at Royal Derby Hospital*

Clinical Poster Prize 2020

Awarded to **Dr Daniel Armstrong**

For paper: *Are tie-over bolster dressings necessary for healing or success of full thickness skin graft reconstruction, following facial skin cancer excision?*

Research Poster Prize 2020

Awarded to **Mr Declan Hughes**

For paper: *Temporomandibular joint dysfunction: Relationship between mental health and MRI findings*

Junior Trainees' Poster Prize 2020

Awarded to **Dr Yallan Nimalathas**

For paper: *Comparing outcomes between traditional and enhanced recovery cohorts in major head and neck malignancy with free flap reconstruction*

Down Surgical Prize and BAOMS Surgery Prize for 2020

We are also pleased to announce that, following the recommendations of the Endowments Sub-Committee, Council has approved the award the Down Surgical Prize to **Mr Patrick Magennis** and the award of the BAOMS Surgery Prize to **Mr Kaveh Shakib**.

Trainer of the Year / Trainers' Trainer of the Year 2020

The winner of the BAOMS Trainer of the Year was **Mr Stephen Crank**. The winner of the BAOMS Trainers' Trainer of the Year was **Miss Carrie Newlands**

Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Congratulations to **Ms Nezamivand-Chegini (Soudeh)** who was awarded the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Gold Medal by the Intercollegiate Board in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for her outstanding performance at the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery held in Wolverhampton on 4/5 March 2020.

Soudeh is the second woman to be awarded the Gold Medal and at only 33 years old, she is hoping this will inspire other women in OMFS and also perhaps those who feel OMFS is a long training path!

BAOMS News

If you have a news story in the pipeline, please let the BAOMS PR team know as far in advance as possible so they can help to plan for good coverage. Kathy Fan heads up PR for BAOMS and works closely with our PR professional Siân Evans.

They are looking for stories that raise the profile of the specialty. This could be about the publication of a paper in a professional journal such as BJOMS, a fundraising event or a new innovation in OMFS at your NHS Trust, speaking at a medical conference, or publicising a ground-breaking, newsworthy operation in local media that national health media would be interested in too. [Click here for the latest news.](#)

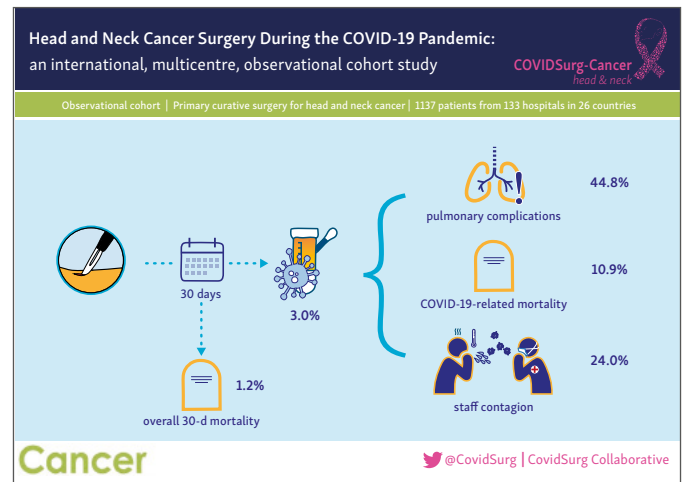
Please contact: **Kathy Fan** via the BAOMS office: office@baoms.org.uk or via kfan@nhs.net

Or: Siân Evans: sian@goodevansmedia.co.uk
 @Goodevansmedia 020 8674 8921 / 07752 41 44 33
 Skype sianeans

They both want to hear from you, so please get in touch.

The COVIDSurg team/collaborative update

MICHAEL HO AND RICHARD SHAW



UK Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Leads International Study Evaluating the Risk of COVID-19 Infection Among Patients Undergoing Head and Neck Cancer Surgery

In March this year, as the first wave of COVID-19 spread across the UK affecting the provision of healthcare irreversibly in the NHS. An international collaborative group of 850 Head and Neck Surgeons from 26 countries collaborated freely through the COVIDSurg Collaborative in an unprecedented initiative. This study developed from the concept of a Head and Neck arm to COVIDSurg on 24 March 2020, to funding promise on the same day, with regulatory approvals and greenlight to recruitment on 3 April 2020.

When non COVID-19 related clinical activities were deprioritised and the emergence of expert opinion discouraging complex surgery in the management of head and neck cancer e.g. avoidance of free tissue transfer reconstruction and de-escalation of the management of oral cancer; this collaborative community of head and neck surgeons persevered to collect high quality data over the period from March to June 2020.

Initial analysis of the treatment outcomes of 1137 patients enrolled in the study has provided evidence that:

- Head and neck surgery is safe for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic even when lengthy and complex. This is significant, as those concerns over patient safety raised in many guidelines appear not to have been reflected by these outcomes, even for those with other serious illnesses or who require complex reconstructions.
- Patients subject to sub-optimal or non-standard treatments should be carefully followed up to optimise their cancer outcomes.



- The overlap between patients and surgeons testing positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus is notable, and emphasises the need for fastidious cross infection controls and effective personal protective equipment.

“Importantly, for the small proportion of patients who did develop post-operative COVID-19, the consequences were severe (pneumonia 45%, death 11%), highlighting the need for stringent COVID-free care pathways and universal pre-operative testing”

This highlights the need for healthcare policies to be evidence based, especially during an era when the pace of change has been almost relentless. The published article sends across the important message that Head and Neck Cancer Surgery is safe in the COVID-19 pandemic environment. This is crucial information as we observe more late presentation of head and neck cancer patients, which will unfortunately have an adverse impact on treatment outcomes for this group of patients. [More information on this important study is included in a Press Release on the BAOMS site.](#)

Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT)

MAIRE MORTON



It is now two years since the [OMFS National report was published](#). In the intervening time we have been working on implementation. When assembling the data for the first round of deep dives it was apparent that as a speciality, we had no national audit outcome data. As a result, Ian Martin got the QOMS project

off the ground. Although there is still no data that can be used in the next round of deep dives, we have started on something significant. The news on the main speciality coding is not so good; most recent data shows little improvement with 20% of head and neck cancer coded to the speciality of Oral Surgery. New to review rates have improved. More Trusts appear to be working in networks although it is hard to get the details!

A new round of deep dives will occur in early 2021. The data packs are just being finalised. The data will be more up to date as we have 2019/20 data. Hopefully you will find the head and neck data more accurate as we have used the metrics developed with the NCIP programme. This time we have also included some TMJ activity. Visits will be virtual this time round and unfortunately we will not be able to do so many visits. I am hoping that by visiting units that are part of networks hubs will be able to invite colleagues from their network so that we can look at data across a number of units in one visit. Unfortunately the questionnaires which were sent out in the summer and asked for information on networks have generally been poorly

completed or even not completed at all so I have been unable to use them to guide the decision on which units to visit. We had also sought information on MaxFax laboratories but that was very incomplete. The laboratory part of the questionnaire was devised by Jason Watson, Chairman of IMPT. We will be inviting laboratory staff to the deep dives so that we can look at laboratory activity, which was a recommendation in the 2018 report.

[GIRFT](#) is currently involved in the Elective Recovery programme which started in London but is now spreading across the country and OMFS are starting to get involved. We are most advanced in the Southwest and are planning a launch Webinar for January. I will be involving the BAOMS regional speciality leads in this work. Your thoughts and ideas on the recovery will be most welcome.

Coding is at the heart of everything. There has been considerable discussion about treatment function codes. Currently nearly all your activity is dumped into Treatment Function Code Oral Surgery (140). There is now thanks to BAOMS a new Treatment Function Code Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (145). Unfortunately, we were unable to delete the existing codes 140 Oral Surgery and 144 Maxillofacial Surgery. Your work should be coded to the new TFC 145, a conversation with your business manager might help drive this change.

Last but not least - money. The old tariff system of payment is supposed to be going from April and is being replaced by a system of blended payments. A number of specialities foresee difficulties with this change. However, it will cause additional problems for OMFS as most of our work is commissioned by NHS England via dental commissioning rather than CCGs, which are now going to be working on an ICS basis.

Maire.morton@elht.nhs.uk

Research update

DOUGLAS HAMMOND
 BAOMS NATIONAL RESEARCH LEAD

Current ongoing Maxillofacial projects Report for RCS Eng Research Committee

SODA Trial

The SODA trial (Steroid administration Outcomes in hospital treatment of Dental Abscesses) is the next stage in determining whether steroids alter outcomes in patients with CFI. The protocol has been refined over the summer and is now nearing full University ethics approval. The trial will initially be a feasibility study, recruiting 50 patients who will be randomised in a 1:1 ratio to steroids + standard treatment or standard treatment alone. Feasibility study primary outcomes will be recruitment, and the full trial will look at pain, nausea, time to normal mouth opening,

and length of stay. The protocol will be submitted to the NHS ethics committee in the coming weeks. Our recent letter in BJOMS highlights the importance of this study.

The analyses of the prospective snapshot audit continue to be published, with the latest pre print appearing in BJOMS in August. Though the collaborating authors do not appear in this document, BJOMS have agreed that they will all be pub med searchable and cited as collaborating authors. We have four further manuscripts accepted (BDJ, BJOMS) and in press (CMF, eOMFS), and when they are fully published (with collaborating authors cited) we will be sharing details of how to cite them.

Facial Feminisation Surgery

This project was also proposed by a second-degree student and aims to map the provision and uptake of facial feminisation surgery across the UK.

This study has so far involved mapping the provision of FFS by the NHS across the UK and carrying out a five-year retrospective audit of FFS in Scotland (where most is funded by the NHS). The results of this have been written into a manuscript which is now undergoing internal review before submission. The next steps for this project are to begin collection of QOL data using a partially validated French tool which has been translated into English for our use. This is likely to begin in Scotland when elective clinics for patients seeking FFS resume.

MANTRA

– Mandibular Trauma and Antibiotic Use

This project was initiated in 2020 and aims to establish the risks and benefits of treating patients with mandible fractures on an outpatient basis. There is variation in practice, with some centres discharging all mandible fractures and carrying out ORIF electively and others admitting for IV antibiotics and emergent treatment. Patient preference, health economics and patient outcomes may vary between these two treatment algorithms. This project aims to use an initial survey of practice, followed by a national prospective audit, to determine current practice and inform design of a trial.

National Wisdom Tooth Study

What is the National Wisdom Tooth Study? The National Wisdom Tooth Study collects information about the treatment of lower wisdom tooth problems and uses it to measure the quality of patient care across the UK. The results will also be used to help surgeons understand more about the best treatments for lower wisdom tooth problems and improve care for patients in the future. What is the purpose of the study? Information from the study will have many uses.

A few examples of these are:

- To find which treatments work best and how care is improving.

- To help plan future services for people with wisdom tooth problems.
- To find patients who could take part research studies.
- To measure the performance of your clinic.

Who is organising the study? The charity Saving Faces - The Facial Surgery Research Foundation manages the study providing the staff to work with your surgeons organising patient participation, collecting, analysing and storing every patient's data safely and securely. Saving Faces is helping the UK lead the world in finding the most effective treatments for all mouth and face conditions and injuries. This work needs your help, and a lot of extra effort by your surgeon. It means collecting data on large numbers of patients, sometimes over many years. We will seek funding for this study from national research organisations and it will probably be sponsored by the joint research management office (JRMO) of the world-famous St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Hospitals (Barts Health).

For further information: mtrecinfo@gmail.com

BAOMS Research Grants

Apply via BAOMS email office@baoms.org.uk

Deadlines for the BAOMS Endowments Sub Committee:

14 January and 1 August

- 0-£1000 small mini grants. Available for a multitude of reasons. Peer reviewed by Douglas Hammond as BAOMS National Research Lead and one other. Agreed without interview process.
- £1000-£10000. Available for equipment required for research. Must be as part of a coherent research project, supported by local units, as well as having educational rigour and back up. Initial application peer reviewed by 3 persons (one of whom is the National Research Lead). Can either be approved with or without interview process depending on what the reviewers feel.
- £10001-£20000. Available for both research equipment and for salary grant. For significant research projects with coherent local unit support and must have appropriate educational supervisor back up. Paper based application. Initially reviewed by three persons and will be interviewed/presentation will be required. Then ratified at a Council meeting. May be renewable for a second year if set targets are met.

PhD fee funds, RCS England

- There will be at any one time three £4000 PhD fee funds available to Oral and Maxillofacial trainees. Depending on success and progression, they will be renewable for up to a total of 3 years (eg total funding is £12000 over



3 years). This will be dependent on application, review and potentially interview.

Please note that there will be variable availability for these each year, as in some years there may be students who are in year 2 and 3 of the grant, and as such no grant may be available in some years. Conversely in some years there may be three grants may be available.

Contact **Douglas Hammond** (via office@baoms.org.uk) for advice on submitting BAOMS research grant applications.

Winners of BAOMS Photography Competition



This year the 'Are you Artistic' competition was a chance for budding photographers to showcase the breadth of OMFS talent and submit photographs that could be used on the BAOMS website and in promotional material. The competition was split into three categories: A Day in the life of an OMFS Surgeon, General and OMFS in Action.

The President, Robert Bentley was very impressed by the high standard across all the entries and thanks everyone who took part for taking the time to send in their entries.

Congratulations to the winners who have each won a £75 Amazon voucher:

A Day in the life of an OMFS Surgeon: Sanaa Al Raisi
– Max Fax ward round with a smile

General: Sumetha Rajendran
– Self Drive Safari in Botswana

OMFS In Action: Deepshikha Kumar
– Looking up from outside ward 62 at QUEH

MaxFaxBites

BAOMS and BJOMS are delighted to continue to offer MaxFaxBites, a new way of e-learning. The aim is to summarise interesting papers from the authors and reviewers to provide a seven minute presentation that you can view on your phone or computer.

Please [click here](#) to see all the Bites.

BAOMS and BJOMS are pleased to share the latest MaxFaxBite-9 of the project: "*Can we reduce excision margins for head and neck melanoma? A 12-year retrospective study.*"

Lead author/presenter: **Rishi Pandya**
Published BJOMS November 2020

Please [click here](#) to view.

We are also pleased to make the access even wider through the WhatsApp group of MaxFaxBites*. You can choose to join the group where the links for MaxFaxBites will be shared including the previous links.

Please [click here](#) if you wish to join the MaxFaxBites WhatsApp group using your mobile device.

*Please note this WhatsApp group is not monitored or controlled by the BAOMS Office.

Best wishes
MaxFaxBites Team

FORTHCOMING MEETING PLANS



BAOMS ASM 2022	EACMFS 2021	AAOMS 2021	ANZAOMS 2021	BAOMS 2021	ICOMS 2023
(2020 Cancelled)	13-16 July	28 Sep - 2 Oct	11-13 Nov	Dates TBC	(2021 Cancelled)
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM	PARIS, FRANCE	NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA	HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA	DIAMOND CENTRE, SHEFFIELD	VANCOUVER, CANADA

Contact BAOMS office at: office@baoms.org.uk or visit www.baoms.org.uk