**D A Mitchell**

**MBBS BDS FDSRCPS FDSRCS FRCS(Ed) FRCS(Eng) FRCS(OMFS)**

Ian S Holland

Honorary Treasurer

BAOMS

Dear Ian,

**Re, Development of an intimacy tool for use in Head and Neck Oncology, BAOMS endowment grant £6,911.**

Thank you for facilitating this grant. I understand it has been processed via the relevant Trust Fund and the first invoice for work and expenses has been raised.

I know the 500-word summary of progress is not yet due but felt I should keep the Endowments Committee updated as we have started to use the funds.

After 6 prequel attempts based on our previously published papers in BJOMS and a harvesting of the available literature we constructed the first questionnaire.

This, in keeping with our protocol, was then subjected to 7 consecutive focus groups and modified accordingly until no significant agreed changes were presented to us. This was carried out by Julie Hoole (a highly experienced H&N Cancer Nurse and qualified Psychosexual Therapist) as principle investigator at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary following internationally accepted protocols for conducting focus group consultations.

This resulted in MHK version 9+2 (attached). As the second part of the validation process could not get initial Regional Ethics Committee approval (because the document they had to approve use of did not at the initial stage exist) we then submitted a follow up amendment request for REC approval (Solihull REC) describing the process and demonstrating the outcome of the initial phase of the study.

This has been approved. All 3 investigators have met and the practical steps for the second part of the validation process have been agreed. This will comprise of a cross sectional study (described in our original submission). We aim to recruit 200 patients and this will start this month with designated clinics in Leeds (Tas, maxfac oncology), HRI (me, maxfac oncology) and HRI (Julie both maxfac and ENT oncology). The addition of the laryngeal and hypopharyngeal patients – especially the unusually young group in the Calderdale area strengthens the process considerably.

At our current rate of progress I would hope to have a completed report available for the October Endowments Committee meeting and possibly a first draft of the manuscript to be submitted to BJOMS, if not I’ll modify this summary for posting on the BAOMS website.

Yours Sincerely,

**David A Mitchell**

Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon

By email. Attached, version 9+2 to be used for cross sectional component of study and invoice covering expenses incurred during initial development and focus group phase.