The theme running throughout my Presidential term has been training and innovation. Two previous BAOMS Presidents together with David Koppel, the OMFS SAC chair, and I published an article in the BMJ Careers in early March about the future of OMFS training. This article catalysed a long series of meetings with government and the GMC and GDC in an attempt to shorten the length of training, and to provide greater support (financial and otherwise) to our trainees doing their second degree. It was apparently a first to have the GMC and GDC talking together in a room about OMFS training, though sadly the outcome was not what we were hoping or expecting. I have written more about this later in this newsletter.

As the annual conference in Brighton approached, I became anxious that the programme, which included many speakers from outside the specialty, might not appeal. I also had more than one dream of the conference being a disaster with speakers not turning up, so had a great feeling of relief to see Miss Clare Marx, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England giving the opening President’s lecture on Surgical Outcomes. Having the President attending a BAOMS conference for the first time undoubtedly set the tone for the rest of the week, and it was such a joy to see so many happy faces during the three days, as well as some sunburned ones too!

The first symposium on the future of surgical training was packed, with standing room only, and the many issues affecting trainees were discussed from all angles in great detail.

At around Sam on Thursday morning, we were awoken by a fire alarm in the conference hotel. Lord Ribeiro who was due to give a talk later that morning on surgeons in politics was seen outside the hotel at the unearthly hour pacing around less than pleased in his robes, though without the ermine!!

It was obvious to a resident pair of gulls nesting on the balcony outside my room that this was a false alarm, so instead of going downstairs, I used the time profitably and wrote a short technical note (with A. Seagull as senior author) entitled ‘Early waking and its impact on surgical performance.’ I did manage to catch sight of the Lord myself in his robes - when he returned to his bedroom and offered my sincere apologies on behalf of BAOMS for being disturbed. Fortunately all ended well as we made fun of the whole event and the technical note before introducing the Lord’s lecture, which he found amusing.

It seems that the highlight of the conference for delegates was the human factors (HF) symposium. The audience appeared mesmerised by Mark Hunter, Olympic Gold Medallist, giving his talk about
performing to a world-class level. Some colleagues were even brought to tears by the moving video of him winning the gold medal. Both David Parry and David Mitchell did a superb job following Mark, and the session was the talk of the town for the rest of the conference.

Rather than having a BAOMS study day later in the year, the HF theme was continued in another symposium at the start of the EACMFS Conference in September. I would like to thank Ian Martin for enabling this joint BAOMS–EACMFS symposium, which included HF experts from National Air Traffic Services (NATS), an Airbus A330 training captain and surgeons. We still have much to learn from other high-risk industries and professionals to reduce human error to a minimum and improve safety for our patients. You may already know that the GMC will be including greater human factors awareness in their Generic Professional Capabilities program to be introduced across medical curricula in the near future.

Mike Davidson and I attended the AAOMS conference in Las Vegas. The visit was a huge educational experience - I have never seen so many slot machines and gambling casinos on such a grand scale right next to the conference centre, which must have been at least 50 times larger than Brighton. I was also able to get to the Australasian meeting held on the Gold Coast, Queensland in October and gave a HF overview presentation there, so have managed to spread the importance of minimising human error further.

The final visit as BAOMS President was to Nijmegen in late November to support an Indian colleague, Dr Gururaj Arakeri, at his PhD defence. He is one of the few overseas colleagues to be awarded two grants by the Endowments Committee, putting the money to excellent use and gaining a PhD by publication. His work is likely to benefit oral submucous fibrosis patients far and wide and testament to what can be achieved despite encountering many obstacles along the way.
Shortly after returning from the USA, the book and educational resource that we wrote for GPs, paid for by the Presidents Fund, was launched at the Annual GP conference held in Harrogate. Mike Davidson kindly attended the conference on behalf of BAOMS. The book itself covers common and not so common presentations including oral ulcers, white patches, facial pain, TMJ, infection and skin cancer to name but a few, with many colour photographs.

Following the launch, a copy was mailed free of charge to all 9,400 GP practices in the UK, together with posters grouping the algorithms contained in the book to help guide appropriate referrals, with red flag warning signs. Early feedback from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) has been overwhelming, and we hope that this unprecedented initiative will not only benefit patients and educate GPs, but also raise the profile of our specialty widely in a unique and educational way, showcasing the diverse range of services that can provide.

An electronic version is also going to be sent by the RCGP to the 50,000 registered GPs and GP trainees, with an option to buy further hard copies at cost price, if required. I am grateful to Alex Goodson, Karl Payne and Arpan Tahim, StRs in OMFS for their help and support throughout this project and of course the BAOMS Council for approving it. The GMC has already suggested that the resource should be made available to medical schools and we think that our core trainees might also like to read it as well as colleagues in primary dental care.

Furthermore, following discussions while in Las Vegas, both the American and Canadian OMFS Associations would like to use the book for their healthcare systems. It was also well received down under and it seems the Australasian Association might want to use it too.

Launch of the BAOMS book: Important OMFS Presentations for the Primary Care Practitioner

Future of training in OMFS

As mentioned above, the BMJ article published in March facilitated a series of meetings in an attempt to try and reduce the length of OMFS training and give our trainees greater support at all levels.

We had an initial meeting at the House of Lords with (Lord) Bernie Ribeiro, who was very sympathetic towards our arduous training pathway. He arranged a meeting with Sir Norman Williams, past President of the RCS England, and personal advisor to the Minister. Sir Norman suggested that in the first instance, we needed to obtain support from both the GMC and GDC. Meetings were arranged independently with both regulators followed by a joint meeting held in London on 5th September.

Mike Davidson, David Koppel and I presented our case to senior GMC and GDC officials and a GMC lawyer was also present. Unfortunately, due to complex legal frameworks and constraints, both regulators were unable to reduce the length of the second degree. Additionally, they could not support our proposal of gaining core competencies during the second degree due to working time directives. We spent several hours trying unsuccessfully to find a way round these issues, and left the meeting feeling very flat indeed.

While this is disappointing news and a considerable set back, we still have the strong support of the four Royal College of Surgeons’ Presidents, and other high profile names including Wendy Reed, Medical Director of Health Education England (HEE). We are currently working on a proposal to provide greater financial support for trainees during the second degree. This could provide salary protection, maintain pension contributions and enable a salaried appointment in much the same way as military trainees enjoy. Once the proposal has been finalised, Sir Norman will get us in front of the Minister; so hopefully all is not lost just yet, but any agreement would need support from all 4 nations in the UK.

I worry deeply about the future of OMFS and the huge financial burden that the second degree places on our trainees. We have already seen a reduction in numbers at national recruitment and I fear that unless we can do something significant and quickly, our specialty is in real danger for the future. Although I shall shortly demit as President, we will do everything possible to try and resolve these continuing issues with OMFS training.

And finally…

I would thank everyone who has been so supportive and helpful during the year of office. The whole experience has been humbling and quite overwhelming. I am particularly grateful to both Sarah and Sue in the BAOMS office for their unfailing support and kindness and for making my life so much easier. Their work in organising the finer details of the conference was simply amazing.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and a very successful 2017 and will join me in wishing Steve Dover every success for his Presidential year.
Chair’s Report

My last report...
This is my last report as the Chair of BAOMS Council so I suppose a period of reflection is in order. Hence I’m sorry if this is longer than usual, please bear with me.

So what are the challenges for the next few years and how should we tackle them? In many ways they are similar challenges to those we faced when I took up post, so forgive any repetition or downright plagiarism from my first newsletter: We have progressed but there is still a lot of work to do.

Commissioning
I feel this could best be described across all of health care as a work in progress. Commissioners will continue to seek the development of care pathways and outcome measures. We must get involved at both local and national level: if we don’t try and influence events, others will.

Orthognathic care
BAOMS has worked with orthodontic colleagues to update the RCS guidelines regarding orthognathic care and these should be available early in the New Year. Ken Sneddon (SSIG Lead for Deformity) is on the CDOs (Chief Dental Officer) working party on national Commissioning for orthognathic treatment. We are closely monitoring commissioning pilots and trying to influence policy.

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) replacement
Commissioning guidance is also being undertaken by Andrew Sidebottom (SSIG Lead for TMJ).

Oral Surgery
Geoff Chiu (SSIG Lead for Dento Alveolar) and Kathy Fan (Council lead for Media and public relations) are working with HEE and the CDO working parties advising on implementation of oral surgery commissioning.

I would strongly urge you to feed back to BAOMS officer’s the specifics regarding commissioning, be it positive or negative as they affect your unit.

Dental Core Trainees
We have worked with COPDEND (Committee Of Post Graduate Dental Deans and Directors) to establish the parameters and clinical governance structure for Dental Core Trainees (DCTs) who work in OMFS units: this is laid out in a joint position statement I would recommend to you and are available in the members’ area of the website.

The national curriculum for Dental Core Trainees is to be published many colleagues but particularly Ian Sharpe is to be thanked for their engagement on this project. Allied to this is the development of national recruitment policy including personal specifications, situational judgement testing etc. for DCTs. I know national recruitment is not universally popular but I feel we must try and engage fully with the process and make it work, if we are to help develop the next generation of clinicians.

Recruitment and Retention of Higher Surgical trainees
The undoubted increased cost to trainees in time and money of a double degree in pursuit of a career in OMFS is recognised. It is likely to have increasing effect on recruitment from as wide a field as possible. BAOMS officers have received a sympathetic ear from policy makers; the difficulty is translating into reduction in length of training, avoidance of duplication and protection of salary and pension. We seemed to be hedged about by various legal and regulatory restrictions on change. We will need to try and find a way forward. This in many ways is the most important area for officer’s activity in the next few years.

Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT)
Maire Morton is working with Health England to identify and collate data regarding OMFS activity. Essentially the aim across all specialities is to identify “what good looks like”; inevitable cost and recourse efficiency will also be considered. I know it might appear threatening, but I hope if we fully engage with this project we should be able to demonstrate how we provide good care for our patients and gain data to support developing resources to raise standards across the country. Also we should be able use the process to develop nationally agreed best practice guidelines; without them we are vulnerable to allegations of poor practice. As yet this is an England only project.

Engagement with Public and wider Medical Profession
Several colleagues have helped raise the specialities profile recently. Peter Brennan and his fellow editors of the handbook for primary care clinicians in managing OMFS conditions has met with very positive responses nationally and internationally. Council are looking into wider distribution of the book.

Some of you will have heard Caroline Mills (SSIG lead for Aesthetics) on “You and Yours” (BBC Radio 4) speaking on certification of aesthetic surgeons and allied matters. We need to expand on this work; if you have been involved locally or media don’t hide your light under a bushel let the office know.

Publication of surgical outcomes
I would suggest that inevitably all OMFS sub specialities will eventually have their outcomes published, so we need to check data collected is accurate and relevant and where possible measures of agreed outcomes exist. In particular work with your local coders to ensure the accuracy of data being collected for your service. Much of your activity is I suspect coded as Oral Surgery. If we don’t get the basics right we will constantly be misrepresented.

BAOMS Website
Andrew Baker (Honorary Web Editor) is working with developers to update our website to improve its accessibility to BAOMS members but also with enhanced information for the general public, the media and other healthcare professionals. We are in need of a window to “sell” ourselves as well as a way of rapidly cascading views to help us develop and support best practice. I am sure Andy’s work will be a major step forward in achieving this aim.
President’s Newsletter

**Chair’s Report continued**

In conclusion...

I should like to thank you for the honour of allowing me to occupy the post on Council for the last five years (including Deputy) it has been interesting and challenging. My job would have been impossible without the support of Council and all the BAOMS officers with whom I have worked. It is impossible to name all but hopefully in my closing weeks I shall be able to thank all personally. The support of Patrick Magennis, Austen Smith and Ian Martin in particular has been instrumental in helping me to carry out the job. I have had the good fortune to work with Presidents who have each provided different skills to drive forward the speciality through the Association. I thank Iain Hutchison, Mark McGurk, Ilanko Ilankovan, James Brown and Peter Brennan.

Without the constant support and corporate memory of Sarah and Sue in the office I would have found my work so much harder, so they deserve public acknowledgement for all their work behind the scenes on behalf of the Association.

I know that Patrick, who will take over the chair’s role from January 2017, with the support of the membership will continue to develop the speciality of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for the benefit of patients in the United Kingdom and beyond.

Thank you all for your support and all the best for the future.

Mike Davidson
Chair of BAOMS Council

**BAOMS Sub Specialty Interest Groups (SSIGs)**

The following BAOMS SSIGs now have leads and deputy leads and there is also a SSIG section on the members’ secure area.

BAOMS holds elections within each SSIG. Each section has its own area on the BAOMS members’ area. If you need reminding of your user name to the members’ section, please contact office@baoms.org.uk

The new website will allow you to reset your own password without contacting the office. We will send you a reminder of your username via email.

**BAOMS Website Members’ Section Post your comments**

Members can now post comments on-line about news or documents. We hope this facility will stimulate interest and improve communication. We have also developed a list of affiliations to further encourage engagement with you.

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Following development during 2016 the launch of the new BAOMS website is imminent. All members will be emailed just ahead of the launch to outline the new features which will include easier access to BJOMS as well as discussion forums via the members’ area. There will be an enhanced patient area, offering advice as well as access to find an OMF Surgeon.

We do hope that you will enjoy the new design and development. If you have any images for the site, perhaps for use in the patient area or just general ideas, then please be in touch with the Honorary Website Editor, Andrew Baker, via office@baoms.org.uk

Recent Council nominations and election results

Following a recent nominations and election process Alistair Smyth has been elected to represent Fellows on BAOMS council from January 2017 for a three year term. Many thanks to Andrew Cronin who demits in December 2016 and to all those who took part in the process.

Two Associate Fellows have also been nominated and appointed to BAOMS Council from January 2017 for a three year term. They are Miss Meera Thavarajah and Mrs Vinita Shekar. If you are interested in applying for Associate Fellowship please contact office@baoms.org.uk

Following a nomination process Ms Ambika Chadha has been appointed as the Deputy Fellows in Training Representative and she will take up her place on BAOMS Council alongside the main representative, Ms Nabeela Ahmed in January 2017. Many thanks to Mr Neil Scott who demits as the Fellows in Training Representative.

Mr Shadi Basyuni has been appointed as the Deputy Junior Trainees and Members’ Representative and Chair of the Junior Trainee’s Group (JTM) and will work alongside Mr James Higgins who continues as JTM Representative for 2017.

From early 2017 all membership applications will be available online via the BAOMS website.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Pat O’Driscoll on the 19th October 2016. He passed away peacefully at Tunbridge Wells Hospital after a few weeks illness. He entered Guys as a BDS student in 1951 and retired as senior consultant in Maxillo-facial surgery in 1999, spanning nearly fifty years at Guys. During this time, he made enormous contributions to the Dental School and Hospital, not only by his clinical expertise and eminence but also by the teaching of generations of students, and the training of scores of budding OMFS specialists. We send our condolences to his wife and our colleague, Professor Patricia Reynolds, a long time member of the Dental Institute staff and vice chair of KCLA.

New website launch

Elections for many of the Sub Specialty Interest Groups (SSIGs) in 2017

We will be holding elections for many of the Sub Specialty Interest Groups (SSIGs) in 2017. BAOMS officers and Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all the lead and deputy leads of the SSIGs for their input.

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Prizes awarded at the BAOMS 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in Brighton

I would like to offer my congratulations to the following prize winners at the meeting in Brighton this year: These will be awarded at the meeting in Birmingham 28-30 June 2017.

President’s Prize 2016
Awarded to: Miss Helen Witherow
For paper: Nasolabial soft tissue changes with Maxillary Osteotomy. The effects and long term stability of the Cinch suture in controlling alar base width

Norman Rowe Clinical Prize 2016
Awarded to: Mr Jahrad Haq
For paper: Implementation of a reduced length of stay service for an identified population of patients with mandibular fractures

Paul Toller Research Prize 2016
Awarded jointly to:
Mrs Clare Schilling
For paper: Development of a non-invasive microvascular imaging system for oral cancer diagnosis
President’s Newsletter

And to Mr Navin Vig
For paper: Investigating the role of the newly described OSCC amoeboid phenotype in metastasis and chemoresistance of oral cancer

Members’ Prize 2016
Awarded to: Dr Danyal H Awal
For paper: Unilateral and bilateral temporomandibular joint reconstruction in children using autogenous costochondral grafting: An outcome study of 60 patients over a 28-year period

Clinical Poster Prize 2016
Awarded to: Miss Cristina Frezzini
For paper: “Is this OMFS last chance?”- NHS commissioning of future surgical services in the UK

Research Poster Prize 2016
Awarded to: Miss Ambika Chadha
For paper: Facial Averageness Score as a measure of Facial Attractiveness in Evaluating a Sequence of Secondary Cleft Surgeries

SHO / Junior Trainee Poster Prize 2016
Awarded to: Dr Louisa Rose
For paper: Do vasoactive agents negatively influence the success of Maxilla-Facial microvascular free-flap surgery?: A retrospective audit

Intercollegiate Prize for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
BAOMS has also been notified by the Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery that the Intercollegiate Prize for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has been awarded to Mr Leandros-Vassilios Vassiliou for outstanding performance in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination.

Deadly Surgery and BAOMS Surgical Prize for 2016
I am also pleased to announce that following the recommendation of the Endowments Sub Committee, Council has approved the award of the Down Surgery Prize to Mr Michael T Simpson and the BAOMS Surgical Prize to Ms Kathleen Fan.

BAOMS is seeking expressions of interest from Fellows

Deputy Chair of the Norman Rowe International Education Foundation (NRIEF)

Mr Shakir Mustafa, Chair of NRIEF, is due to demit in January 2018 and we are seeking a deputy chair to work alongside him for one year before taking over the three year role of chair from January 2018. If you are interested in working with NRIEF in this capacity please email office@baoms.org.uk for further information.

Deadline 1700 GMT 31 January 2017
office@baoms.org.uk

Members’ Prize 2016
Awarded to: Mr Shakir Mustafa, Chair of NRIEF, is due to demit in January 2018 and we are seeking a deputy chair to work alongside him for one year before taking over the three year role of chair from January 2018. If you are interested in working with NRIEF in this capacity please email office@baoms.org.uk for further information.

Deadline 1700 GMT 31 January 2017
office@baoms.org.uk

Winner of the Trainer of the Year 2016
The winner of the BAOMS Trainer of the year was Mr Michael Gilhooly and the runner up was Mr Robert Bentley.

The winner of the BAOMS Trainers’ Trainer of the year was Mr Robert Bentley and joint runners up were Mr Andrew Burns and Mr Jeremy Collyer.

BAOMS BIRMINGHAM 28-30 JUNE 2017
www.baoms.org.uk

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
ONLINE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION NOW OPEN
DEADLINE 12 NOON GMT TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017
INTRODUCTION
From Stephen Dover, BAOMS President 2017

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the International Conference Centre (ICC), Birmingham, for the BAOMS conference, Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 June 2017. There are two purpose built lecture theatres providing plenty of opportunity for papers to be presented covering the whole of the spectrum of our specialty. These presentations will have an important role in determining the overall success of this conference. I would therefore encourage all trainees, trainers and training units from across the UK, Europe and indeed worldwide, to consider submitting abstracts. The ICC is a world-class venue and one of Europe’s most high profile conference centres. The surrounding area has been re-developed since our annual meeting was last held here, under the Presidency of Michael Wake in 1999. There are more than 6,000 hotel rooms within walking distance, and a huge variety of pubs and restaurants along the adjacent canals. Shakespeare’s birthplace of Stratford upon Avon, the picturesque Cotswolds and Ironbridge, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, are all within an hour’s travelling time. London is less than 90 minutes away by train.

PRE-CONGRESS COURSES
Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 June 2017

Supported by Stryker the Platinum sponsors: A two-day cadaveric dissection course to include aesthetic surgery, endoscopic and open procedures to the TM joint, approaches to the orbit and coronal flap exposure of the upper face (Coventry). Two one-day implant training courses (Birmingham).

KEYNOTE LECTURE SUBJECTS WILL INCLUDE
Management of complex trauma, defect repair by distraction or free tissue transfer, aesthetic surgery, cranial vault reconstruction, TM joint reconstruction, research opportunities and higher degrees in training, advances in paediatric, cleft and craniofacial surgery, skull base access. President’s Lecture: Andrew Monaghan

INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE
Jaime Gateno, Andrew Heggie, Gsoda Reddy, Richard Hopper, Louis Mercuri, Ebden Aaagard, Timothy Mellor, Robert Bentley, Nils Gellrich, Alex Schramm, Shahzada Ahmed and Alberto Perreira. There will be a number of Masterclass discussion sessions, with limited attendance.

FREE PAPERS WILL FOCUS ON, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO
Trauma and deformity, including craniofacial and cleft, Skin and aesthetic surgery. Reconstructive techniques including osseointegration. Research opportunities and results, Complications and management.

ONLINE ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION
Poster and free paper abstracts can be be submitted online via www.baoms.org.uk. Deadline for receipt of all abstracts: 12 noon GMT, Tuesday 17 January 2017. Online registration will be available via the BAOMS website in February 2017. There will be special rates for BAOMS members and also those members who are Fellows in Training, medical and dental students, OMFS SHOs, IMPT members, OMFS Nurses and Foundation trainees. Contact office@baoms.org.uk to join BAOMS.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Social events
Wednesday 28 June 2017
President’s Reception: 1800 – 2030 (in the exhibition) at the ICC. All registered delegates and exhibitors welcome – guest’s tickets are available.

Thursday 29 June 2017
Annual Black Tie Dinner at the Town Hall, Birmingham – 1930 for 2000 to include pre-dinner drink, three course meal with wine/drinks.

Medical Exhibition
The medical exhibition will run alongside the scientific programme. All coffee breaks and daytime catering and will take place in the exhibition area. (Please contact the BAOMS office for further details about the medical exhibition and sponsorship opportunities).

Accommodation
Booking instructions for the various hotels will be available on the BAOMS website. The conference hotel will be the Hyatt Regency, Birmingham which is adjoined to the ICC. The success of any conference is as much about the delegates as the speakers. There promises to be an excellent medical exhibition, with plenty of space to meet friends and chat to colleagues. I do hope that you will put these dates firmly in your diary. I look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham in 2017.