



BASO

Newsletter 2020

Welcome

Greetings to all members of BASO~ACS, both consultants and trainees. In November 2019, Professor Robert Kirby completed his term of office as our esteemed President. During the BASO Annual Conference in London last November, we formally welcomed Mr Hassan Malik to be our elected President of the BASO~ACS.

Mr Malik is a Consultant Hepatobiliary Surgeon at University Hospital Aintree with extensive operative experience in liver and retroperitoneal sarcoma resections.

Academically, Mr Malik has developed many research programmes with Liverpool University, Liverpool CRUK Trials Unit, MRC Centre for drug safety, and many regional oncology centres. He has supervised many doctorate students, with more than 100 peer-reviewed publications.

Mr Malik is also the chair of the NCRN Hepatobiliary subgroup and a long-standing member of BASO. He was appointed as the BASO Hon. Secretary in 2014 and was elected as the BASO Vice President in 2017. He is also the Honorary Secretary of the ESSO and Associate Editor of the EJSO.

President's foreword

BASO, as the representative organisation for all surgeons dealing with cancer, is working well with the different surgical specialties and subspecialties - and finding the common ground in surgical cancer management.

As a surgical oncology society, we are actively engaged in decision making with organisations such as **NICE, NCEPOD, Cancer CRG, the Royal College of Surgeons**. This is particularly important as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has cut across all aspects of oncological care. We have worked with stakeholders to develop key recommendations to our members and beyond, upon sustainability and recovery of cancer surgical services during this pandemic. In addition, we have provided a surgical grant to the Global **Covid-Surg Cancer Study**, which will in due course provide crucial evidence on service transformation that is required during and beyond this crisis.

We are a charity with the aim of promoting knowledge about surgical oncology. This is especially important for trainees. We have a very active trainee association (BASO Trainees), who are aligned with other trainees' groups. We are also delighted to support undergraduate surgical societies around the UK.

In November last year, we had a very successful stand-alone Scientific Meeting at the Law Society with the Presidents of all four Royal Colleges in attendance. This year, due to the pandemic, we will host our Annual Meeting in a virtual setting in November.



Whatever the rest of 2020 holds, **2021 will be the 50th Anniversary of the Society**. We would like to invite all our members to join this celebration at the 2021 congress.

Finally and crucially, we rely on our members to get involved in these processes. If you are interested in participating - please contact us at admin@baso.org.uk.

With best wishes for the rest of 2020 and please keep safe.

Mr Hassan Malik

We are delighted and proud to
welcome new members to our
National Committee



Professor Jayant Vaidya is a Professor of Surgical Oncology and Consultant Breast Surgeon. He currently divides his time equally between research and clinical work. With over 200 original scientific publications, his main research aim over the past twenty years has been to improve our understanding and treatment of breast cancer. In 2014, Professor Vaidya released a book “Fast Facts – Breast Cancer”. He has been featured in Time magazine and Reader’s Digest and is regularly invited to speak on the BBC. On the NHS, he works as a Consultant Surgeon in London at the Whittington, Royal Free and University College London Hospitals. We welcome Professor Vaidya as the Ordinary member on the BASO National Council.



Mr Anant Desai has just joined on the National Committee of BASO as a co-opted member. He is a Consultant Surgeon at the Midlands Abdominal and Retroperitoneal Sarcoma Unit, University Hospitals Birmingham. Mr Desai is a Cambridge graduate, followed by his doctorate at Birmingham University. He is on the Editorial Advisory Board for the European Journal of Surgical Oncology, the Chair of the West Midlands Sarcoma Advisory Group and leader of the regional soft tissue sarcoma multi-disciplinary team. He has extensive experience of research and contributes to a number of Journals as a reviewer. He also an active member of the NCRI Sarcoma Research Group.



Professor Aaron Quyn is a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Leeds University. He graduated his primary degree in Edinburgh and obtained his PhD from Dundee University. He was heavily involved with the National Bowel Cancer Screening development with Professor Rob Steele. Professor Quyn’s subspecialty interest is in complex rectal cancer and recurrent pelvic disease. Professor Quyn joined the BASO National Committee as a co-opted member.

BASO CONFERENCE – ‘Standing together for Cancer Surgery’, The Law Society, November 2019



BASO Council and guests @ BASO Annual Gala Dinner

Back Row: (Left to right): Mr David Hunter, Mr Mike Shackcloth, Mr Dhanny Gomez, Professor Graeme Poston, Mr Zaed Hamady, Mr Hassan Malik, Mr John Whiting, Professor Micheal Griffin.

Front Row (Left to right): Mr Edmund Leung, Mrs Rattandeep Jhita, Dr Afsana Elanko, Professor Robert Kirby and Professor Jackie Taylor.

Over the many previous years, BASO has collaborated with NCRI with our annual conference. Following on feedback from our members, in 2019, BASO proudly presented its standalone conference at the prestigious venue of The Law Society in London.

The programme was facilitated by national and international experts in surgical oncology: Professor Dion Morton (Birmingham), Professor Tim Underwood (Southampton), Professor Richard Sullivan (London), the Presidents of all four Royal Colleges of Surgeons and many more.

The BASO Council felt that BASO needed to expand our out-reach to trainees, allied professionals, nurses and medical students, who wish to gain an insight in surgical oncology as a career. The conference was designed with dedicated plenary sessions and “in-conversation” style sessions for the wide range of disciplines, bringing a network of professionals cross-referencing ideas and learning opportunities. Day one began on the Saturday, 16th Nov, dedicated to our trainees – **BASO Skills Day**. Our gratitude must be directed towards Dr Afsana Elanko, whose dedication

and passion in education has transformed this day into one of the biggest highlights of the conference. The day was split into five sections: **Training on Human Factors – non-technical skills for Surgeons** (courtesy of RCSEd for their faculty and materials); our very popular **“Speed mentoring session”** (as before, over-subscribed); **debate on “Credentialing”** between Professor Colin Melville, GMC Medical Director and Ms Deirdre Nally, ASiT President; **Consultant interview skills session** and **prizes for trainees** for their best research paper and audit project.

As mentioned, the conference was themed on **‘Standing together for Cancer Surgery’**. The programme focused on the best of practice of surgical oncology and is designed to provide a unique environment for interdisciplinary learning by bringing together delegates from all cancer disciplines. It was a pleasure to honour some of the internationally

prominent surgeons of our time including **Professor Michael Griffin** (Edinburgh), **Professor Ava Kwong** (Hong Kong), and **Miss Asha Senapati** (St Mark’s Academic Institute). **Professor Vinidh Paleri** (The Royal Marsden) gave us the prestigious ‘Ernest Miles’ presentation. We were also very pleased to announce inaugural of **‘BASO Multidisciplinary Prize’** at the meeting.

Furthermore, our Keynote sessions were facilitated by our guest speakers **Professor Lord Ajay Kakhar** (London) who presented on **‘The Future of Healthcare: a political & professional challenge’**; and the data outcomes from **Professor Jayant Vaidya** (London) on **‘TARGIT – IORT for Breast Cancer’**.

The BASO committee realises that “Surgical Oncology” no longer exists as a surgical specialty in the UK but it does in Europe and Australasia. Conference delegates and BASO

members understand the benefits of exploring working knowledge in cancer surgery outside their own fields and often finding common ground. 180 delegates attended the BASO conference 2019 and the feedback is again very positive. More and more allied professionals, trainees and students attend our conferences. 19 delegates registered to join BASO members at the conference. This is very encouraging for our Meeting Secretary, Prof Michael Douek, and the BASO Committee. The conference in 2019 was only our second stand-alone meeting for some time and we are thriving from strength to strength. Thank you for all the continuing support of our members. Our next

conference of 2020 is going to be through a digital platform due to our COVID situation in UK but we

are confident that our spirits to advance care in surgical oncology will prevail.



An audience with the Presidents of the Royal Colleges:
From (L to R): Dr Afsana Elanko, Professor Ronan O'Connell, Professor Michael Griffin, Professor Jackie Taylor and Professor Derek Alderson

Awards and Prizes 2019

BASO continues to award generously to those have invested interests in cancer research and further their career in cancer subspecialisation; and recognise those whose work has made an earthshattering effect in the field of surgical oncology.



The Ronald Raven Lifetime Achievement Award
Professor Michael Griffin OBE - President of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh



The Uccio Querci della Rovere Award
Professor Ava Kwong - Chief of Breast Surgery Service, University of Hong Kong



The Geoff Oates Award
Miss Asha Senapati - President of Royal Society of Medicine (Surgery section)



The Ernest Miles Award
Professor Vinidh Paleri- Professor transoral robotic surgeon, Royal Marsden Hospital

Awards and Prizes 2019

PRESENTATION PRIZES

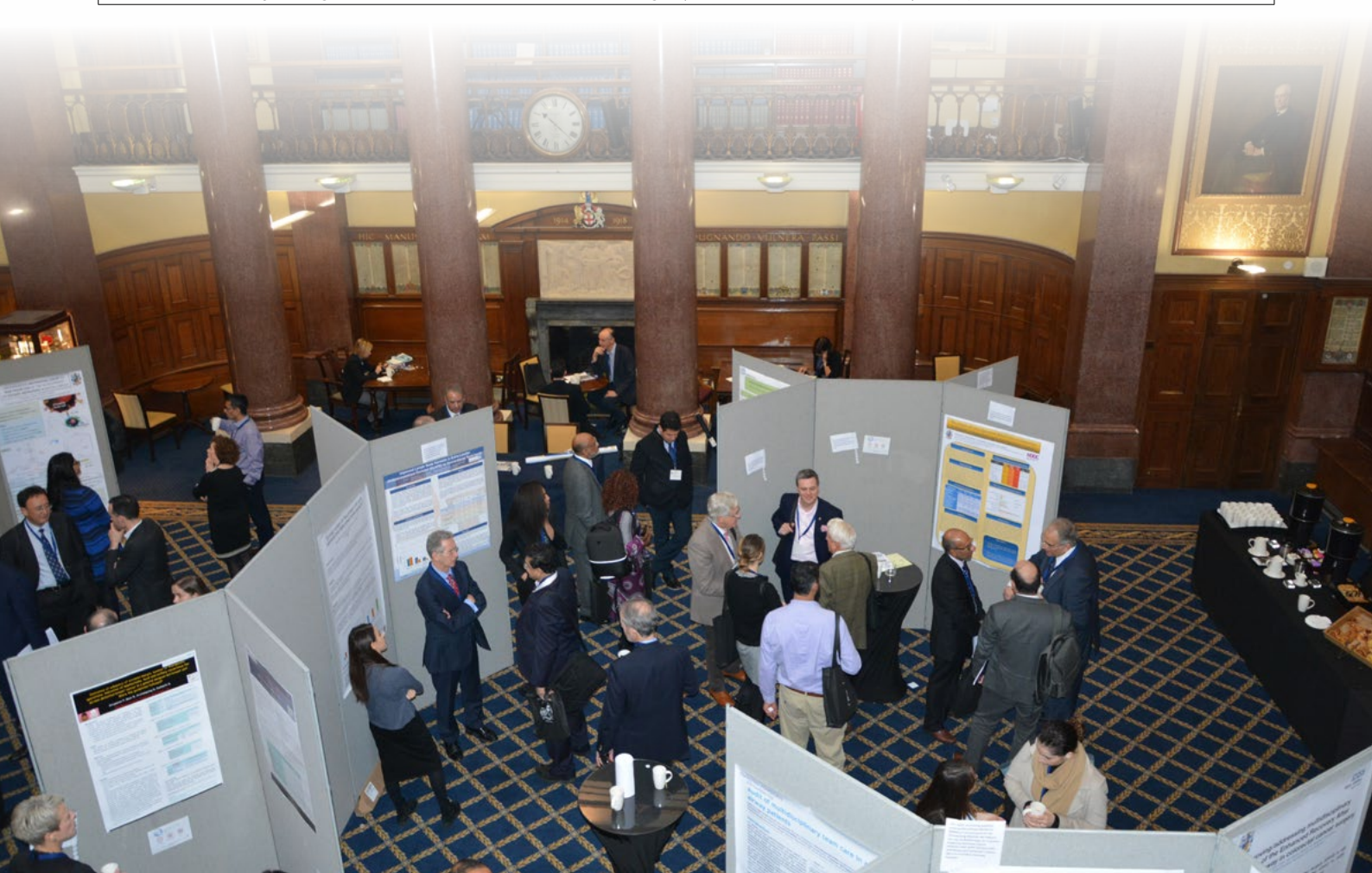
BASO Trainees Oral Presentation Prize	Miss Jennifer Allan
BASO Trainees Poster Presentation Prize	Mr George Simmons
BASO Trainees Audit/QiP Oral Presentation	Mr Paul Sooby
BASO Trainees Audit/QiP Poster Presentation	Miss Samantha Cottom
Ronald Raven Oral Presentation Prize	Mr Saqib Rahman
BASO-ACS Oral Presentation Prize	Miss Rachel Clifford
Alan Edwards Poster Prize	Miss Ritika Gera
BASO MDT Oral Presentation Prize	Dr Lynn Calman
BASO MDT Poster Presentation Prize	Miss Raquel Martin

BASO – NIHR Research Grants for 2019

Mr Edward Caruana, University of Nottingham & University Hospitals of Leicester	Development of a core outcome set for clinical studies of the invasive management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: The COS-iMeso Initiative
Miss Karina Cox, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	Targeted axillary management of DCIS patients requiring mastectomy by pre-operative localisation of sentinel lymph nodes with contrast enhanced ultrasound (CEUS)
Mrs Samantha Downie, University of Edinburgh	Patient factors influencing quality of life outcomes after surgery for bony metastases
Mr Samir Pathak, Bristol Royal Infirmary	Examining locoregional therapy versus standard of care in patients with gastro-intestinal oligometastatic tumours: a feasibility study
Mr Saqib Rahman, University of Southampton	Machine Learning to predict Outcomes after Oesophagectomy using the UK National Oesophago-gastric Cancer Audit Database

BASO Ronald Raven Travelling Award 2019

Mr Paul Sutton, Senior Clinical Fellow - colorectal cancer, The Christie Hospital, Manchester
Miss Deena Harji, Surgical Trainee (ST7)- colorectal surgery, North Tees University Hospital



BASO Statement on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented pressure on the healthcare system creating a need to conserve critical resources and to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that is essential for protecting both patients and staff from intra-hospital transmission. Cancer patients are at an increased risk of contracting the viral infection both because of their underlying disease and the immunosuppression associated with the treatment (e.g. surgery or chemotherapy). There is, therefore, a need to minimise the risk to cancer patients contracting the infection and of avoiding surgical complications whilst making the best use of resources. BASO national committee held many virtual emergency meetings to generate guidance over February and March 2020. The guidance intends to support front line clinicians, who are witnessing an increasing burden of COVID-19 patients, to continue providing essential cancer care. Cancer surgery should go ahead within the "SAFE" practice framework. This was highlighted in the "Advice on maintaining cancer treatment during the COVID-19 Response" document sent to NHS trusts on 30th March 2020. BASO has contributed to the NHS England document "Maintenance of Essential Cancer surgery for adults during the COVID-19 emergency". However, as we have members in the devolved nations, as well as internationally, BASO has also provided a more detailed recommendation to all colleagues.

Whilst balancing the resources for the COVID-19 response, cancer care plans should include compromised treatments consequent to staff or supply shortages. Clinicians need to take the lead at times of cancer services disruption in order to prioritise treatment for those in most need using best practice.

These decisions should be taken with MDT involvement and clearly communicated to patients. It is important to maintain the regular MDT meetings, despite being virtual ones if necessary.

Most research has been discouraged during the COVID era. However, any initiatives that encourage quality improvement in the NHS and require data collection, observational, or potentially randomised interventional trials using innovative pragmatic governance and current technology, should be supported where practicable. "Self-care" and "mental wellbeing" support is imperative. Cancer surgeons and the cancer team members have dedicated their careers to improving cancer outcomes and will now be making different types of difficult decisions.

The Recovery Phase and Sustainability

The media talks about the "new norm" following the COVID-19 era. Experts struggle to predict accurately the timeframe of the recovery phase, warning fear of a second wave. BASO National Council feels that the recovery phase will not be less than 6 months whilst the health service re-organises itself to catch up with the backlog of diagnostics and gradual introduction of waiting lists for benign surgery.

The key for system recovery depends on maintaining a healthy and heartened workforce as well as operative capacity. Extra resources will be needed to cover diagnostic and therapeutic services in order to allow delayed cancer treatments to be carried out without further unnecessary delay. Without this further funding there will be a

greater secondary death rate. During this time, new cancer caseload will present. There were many ideas, which have been put forward to sustain the recovery phase. Some of the ideas are controversial and unpopular such as halting training lists whilst maximising service provision. Primary care and central government need to address the public to selectively use the health service whilst avoiding wastage such as DNAs. Research should be primarily aimed at quality and efficiency improvement for patient care or redeployed to clinical services. Primary care needs to adhere the referral criteria, consider referral to palliative care for those unfit for treatment. Secondary care needs to optimise the use of technology to promote virtual clinics and promote direct access to investigations.

"SAFE" practice framework should be continued to sustain the capacity issue: separating clean and dirty hub within hospital trusts, using external clean hubs (e.g. Treatment centres or private hospitals) for clean and less major surgeries such as skin, breast and endocrine malignancies. COVID testing for all elective surgery days before isolation is encouraged.

The aim of recovery phase is to maintain good oncological outcome. Careful stratification of cases by prioritising near obstructing or poorly differentiated tumours, avoiding oncoplastic reconstruction or bowel anastomosis and wherever clinically appropriate to optimise the use of neo-adjuvant therapy. Such stratification must always be dependent on MDT decisions. Finally, please refer to the BASO website for updated information regarding COVID-19.



AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Articles of the Association are available on
<https://baso.org.uk/about-us/articles-of-association.aspx>

Amendment to Article 22 of the Articles of the Association, in relation to the voting provisions and appointment of the BASO Vice President Position, was approved as a special resolution by the membership at the 2019 BASO AGM held on 17th Nov.

The following amendments have been approved:

- Voting for Vice President (Officer Position) will be open to Full Members of the Association.
- The Full Members of BASO will be provided with a statement on each candidate and be empowered to vote.

The role of the VP would be for a period of two years, offering the

Vice-presidency an opportunity to get a fair understanding of the BASO projects and role of the Council before they take on the BASO Presidency for another two years.

In order to safeguard the process further, a clause was introduced stating that the nominated individual must have previously (at any time) served as a Trustee for at least a period of one year. Also, such a nomination must be

supported by at least one of the current Trustees.

The BASO National Council is thankful to our members for their feedback and is hopeful that this amendment will be a safe and positive change that will add to the BASO member's benefits encouraging their increased engagement with the Society.



EJSO Representative's Report

Our in-house Journal, *'The European Journal of Surgical Oncology (EJSO)'* is progressing extremely well with a rise in quality of submission and downloads of the articles. The EJSO impact factor has moved to 3.959, which ranks the Journal 86th out of 222 journals in the Oncology category of the Journal Citations Reports. This is a remarkable jump in citations and credit must be given to the editorial team lead by our Past President Professor Riccardo Audisio (Editor in Chief).

Membership of BASO~ACS includes the subscription to the EJSO.

Mr Michael Shackcloth

BASO-ACS EJSO Representative

Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

Focus on members



Vice President

With Mr Malik taking up the presidency for BASO National Council, we are pleased to announce that Mr Zaed Hamady has been appointed as the Council's Vice President.

Mr Zaed Hamady is a Consultant Hepatobiliary Surgeon in Southampton. He qualified from the University of Baghdad and moved to the UK to finalise his surgical training. In that time, he was awarded a Royal College of Surgeons Research Fellowship and an MRC Clinical Training Fellowship to carry out research into genetic engineering of a human gut bacterium.

Mr Hamady is currently an examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Edinburgh.



Global Health Award

BASO is proud and delighted to announce that our 'Director of Education', Dr Afsana Elanko, was awarded with the Global Health Medal for her contributions to education and healthcare at the Zenith Global Healthcare Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, 5th October 2019.

The oration for the Global Health Medal was delivered by Professor Robert Kirby, Immediate Past President BASO~ACS, detailing wide range of activities and quality of initiatives that Afsana has & continues to undertake. The medal is awarded every 10 years and is extremely well deserved. Her selfless and indefatigable work in the field of medical education has inspired a generation of colleagues internationally and BASO and RSM members here in the UK. The award recognises her contributions to numerous academic and professional societies, alongside her contribution to policy-making and documentation for victims of torture at Westminster.

National Engagement and Regional Meetings

BASO maintains a strong presence when National Clinical Guidelines are either developed or updated. BASO Trustees Mr Hassan Malik, Professor Derek Manas and Mr Zaed Hamady have been appointed as Specialist Advisors for the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE)'s Interventional Procedure Programmes. BASO Trustees have been stakeholders contributing to numerous consultations and are active members of the different Cancer Commissioning Groups.

BASO continues to market and sponsor many regional courses up and down the country. Danny Gomez, BASO Regional Representative for East Midlands, has been running The Nottingham Surgical Skills Foundation Course for a few years with excellent feedback. This course is tailored for final year medical students and Foundation year doctors. It covers various topics, in particular, managing common general surgery presentations and

complications of surgery. Besides short tutorials, this workshop also consists of hands-on experience such as knot tying, suturing skills, using stapling devices, handling mesh for hernia repairs, exposure to different liver haemostatic agents and developing laparoscopic skills via the simulators. Individual attention has always been emphasized, and hence the large faculty. The aim of this course is to encourage and motivate more junior doctors into a career in surgery. In 2019, BASO has also sponsored a prize for the best delegate.

Edmund Leung, former BASO Regional Representative for West Midlands and Acting Hon. Secretary for the National Council, have been conducting many BASO sponsored surgical examination courses with emphasis of surgical oncology for years. Members attended receive either reduced or waived registration fee. In 2019, Subspecialty FRCS courses in Colorectal and Breast

surgery were once again subsidised by BASO and the feedback was entirely positive. In January 2020, in collaboration with Wesleyan Society, BASO sponsored the "Radiology for surgeons at MRCS level" course in Birmingham city centre. It was oversubscribed and the feedback received was again very encouraging.

This year, COVID-19 has devastated not just cancer care for patients, also education and training on a national scale. All conferences, seminars and courses are cancelled. Despite these challenges, BASO, in association with Smith & Nephews, is sponsoring a surgical oncology Webinar "Reducing complications in Cancer Surgery" in August 2020. This Webinar has invited several international figures including Mr John Murphy (Manchester), Mr Gareth Irwin (Belfast), Professor Hana Birke-Sorenson (Denmark) and our current international representative for BASO, Mr Edmund Leung (New Zealand).



The Nottingham Surgical Skills Foundation Course





2020 BASO Annual (virtual) Meeting

21st – 23rd Nov

TO REGISTER VISIT: www.baso.org.uk

Meeting Theme: Education

BASO SKILLS DAY: 21st Nov

We understand how difficult it has been for all health professionals and in particular surgical trainees in the recent months and have set aside the BASO Skills day on the 21st November 2020 to concentrate on trainees.

Poster Viewing: 22nd Nov

We will be supporting virtual oral and poster presentations.

- Range of prizes awarded during the conference.
- Dedicated Prizes for Trainees and MDT colleagues.

BASO Annual Meeting: 23rd Nov

We are excited to invite you to BASO's first virtual Meeting. The meeting will be facilitated by experts in the field of cancer research, care and treatment. The programme will cover:

- Breast Cancer IORT
- Global Surgery – the COVID effect
- Improving the cancer journey: a surgeon as a patient
- Medico-legal issues in COVID times: when things go wrong, who are the victims?
- Q&A
- Abstract Oral Presentations

6 CPD points have been awarded by the ASGBI

Meeting is FREE for all BASO and BASO trainees Members.

To register, visit www.baso.org.uk

Non-members rate: £150

Trainees: join BASO Membership for £10 and get free registration to the meeting.

Consultants: special offer, convert your registration fee to BASO Membership Subscription for a year.

For details, email admin@baso.org.uk

2020 BASO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 23rd November 2020 at 16.35-17.35hrs.

BASO AGM will be held online, meeting is open to BASO Full Members only. For meeting link, email admin@baso.org.uk



BASO ~ THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER SURGERY

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Join BASO and be a part of a growing community of cancer surgeons and trainees engaged in supporting advancement in cancer care, education, research & training. Visit www.baso.org.uk