

**Minutes of the BASO~ The Association for Cancer Surgery
Surgical Oncology Trainee Association (SOTA)
Annual General Meeting**

Held on Sunday, 18th November, 2012 at 6pm
Drexler Room, Royal College of Surgeons of England

Present: Miss K Adams
Mr A Alalade
Miss M Alfa-Wali
Mr W Al-Sarakbi, **Co-Chairman**
Miss S Bains
Mr C Chan (BASO~ACS Meetings Secretary), **Co-Chairman**
Dr S Daniels
Mr D F J Dunne
Miss D Edgbeare
Dr N A Faure Walker
Mr M Hallissey (BASO~ACS President)
Mr J Horsnell
Mr B Jackson
Mr R Jones (by telephone)
Ms K Lynes
Dr V Mariotti
Miss C Norman
Mr D Rew (BASO~ACS National Committee Member)
Ms H Walker
Mr B Zeidan

In attendance: Mrs M Woolf

1. Welcome

Mr Chan welcomed those present to the 2012 AGM of SOTA, which immediately followed the first SOTA Conference.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ed Fitzgerald, John Hammond and Sofiane Rimouche. It was noted that Rob Jones (via telephone) was the new SOTA representative for the

AUGIS group in place of John Hammond.

3. Report on SOTA membership and activities

Mr Chan reported that the current membership of SOTA stood at 177. He undertook to contact those organisations, such as educational trusts, that he felt could help increase the size of the membership.

Mr Chan added that it was hoped to make the annual SOTA Conference a standalone educational day and he would welcome feedback and input from all members on the Conference (held immediately prior to the AGM) and on proposed topics for future discussion and presentation at SOTA meetings. He emphasized that BASO~ACS was very willing to provide support and backup for SOTA, but that the direction of the organisation and the form it took should be directed by the SOTA membership with the aim of filling the current “gap in the market” in oncology training and to create a useful forum for information sharing.

Mr Al-Sarakbi proposed that there should be two meetings of the SOTA committee per annum, in addition to sitting in on the BASO~ACS National Committee meetings (held in February, May, July and October each year). Mr Al-Sarakbi suggested that the SOTA committee could comprise a Secretary, two joint Chairs, and a number of specialty representatives.

There was a short discussion on whether SOTA representatives should be sought from each speciality, which Ms Edgbare felt would create an unduly large and unwieldy committee. However, not all representatives would be able to attend each meeting and representation of a wide range of specialisms was felt to be desirable, especially as each specialism had its own association, whereas SOTA would be focused on oncology.

Mr Chan added that, as a priority, SOTA should be developed and established so as to be in a position to forge links with the specialist associations. Mr Jones noted that the ESSO Surgical Training Group was a good model for this, and had been very successful in forming links with other trainee groups.

It was agreed that an emailed call for nominations would be sent out to all members, seeking nominees for four committee officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Education & Training Representative. Mr Al-Sarakbi undertook to provide Mrs Woolf with the appropriate wording which she would then circulate, and Mr Al-Sarakbi would then conduct an electronic election via Survey Monkey. The officers would be elected by early 2013. It was noted that all levels of SOTA member would be eligible for

nomination, regardless of grade or specialism, including trainees who had not yet decided on a specialism.

Action: CC, WA-S, MW

4. BACS~ACS SOTA Prize

Mr Chan reported that a BASO~ACS had agreed to sponsor a prize for SOTA members. Each specialist group could put forward a paper for consideration and the winner would receive £200 and a certificate. The author of the winning paper would be invited to present it at the BASO~ACS annual Scientific Conference in November and to receive their prize either at the BASO~ACS annual dinner (held during the Conference) or at the annual meeting of their specialist group.

5. Any other business.

There was no other business.

6. Future meeting dates

Following the election of the four SOTA Committee members, future meeting dates would be set by them and notified to all members. Mr Al-Sarakbi suggested that these should be held on the same day as the BASO ~ ACS National Committee meetings so that a SOTA representative could attend and report to the National Committee. It was felt that the first workable date would probably be **13th May, 2013**, being the second NC meeting of 2013 (venue RCS London).

Mr Hallissey closed the AGM by asking for a show of hands of those who had found the SOTA Conference to be of use and interest. He also asked those present to encourage their colleagues to become involved in SOTA, and to put forward their ideas for developing the Trainees Association.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm and was followed by a dinner for SOTA members.