



## BASO Newsletter

*BASO@NCRI in Liverpool, an update*



We have now come to the end on another extraordinary conference. To those of you who were here in Liverpool with us, we thank you for making the 2016 joint BASO\_NCRI Cancer Conference a great success and we look forward to welcoming you all to next year's conference in November 2017.

The joint meeting was a great success with an attendance of over 1527 delegates, of these approximately 200 were surgeons. Here is a glimpse of the Conference with an overview of the key note lectures.

# BASO~ACS PLENARY AWARDS

## THE BJS LECTURE

**Professor Cheng-Har Yip,  
Malaysia**

**Challenges in the management of  
breast cancer in low and middle  
income countries**



Cheng-Har Yip from Breast Surgery International in Malaysia captivated the audience with the challenges facing breast cancer management in low and middle income countries. Breast cancer incidence is on the rise in low and middle income countries and mortality rates in Southeast Asia are higher than in the West.

Professor Yip explored the barriers to diagnosis and treatment which included; lack of screening programmes, a culture of avoidance and denial, preference for alternative therapy in some cases, delays in decision making and financial barriers. Disparities exist between people who receive treatment through different healthcare systems and by bringing mortality rates in line with more developed countries could save 100,000 women a year dying from breast cancer.

## ERNEST MILES AWARD

**Mr Brendan Moran, *Consultant  
Colorectal Surgeon, Basingstoke***

**Oncological surgery: Learning from Miles**

Mr Brendan Moran has been one of the leading figures in advancing the care of colorectal cancer patients over the past few decades. His work on rectal cancer management and the pioneering advocacy and practice of peritoneal cytoreductive surgery have been ground breaking. Mr Moran gave a fascinating lecture about the work of Ernest Miles, who was a pioneer in the management of rectal cancer at the Royal Marsden Hospital over 100 years ago, popularising the joint abdomino-perineal approach. Mr Moran is a worthy recipient of this award: a cast, limited edition, bronze medal of Professor Miles' profile whose award is in the gift of the Royal Marsden Hospital.



## **UCCIO QUERCI DELLA ROVERE AWARD**

**Mr Richard Rainsbury,  
Consultant Oncoplastic Breast  
Surgeon, Hampshire**

### **Foundations, Bridges and Challenges in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery**

The Uccio Querci Della Rovere Award was presented to Mr Richard Rainsbury by Professor Kirby, Vice President of BASO~ACS. Dick Rainsbury is a Consultant General and Breast Surgeon, in Winchester, Hampshire and has had a major role in the development of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery in the United Kingdom and he presented on his work and career at the BASO Meeting.

The founder chairman of the BASO-BAPRAS Interface Group in 2001; and one of the important achievements of the group was to secure DoH funding for a national Oncoplastic Fellowship training scheme. Over 110 fellows have been appointed from a background of general and plastic surgery, and over 60 are now oncoplastic breast consultants in the UK or overseas. Dick has had major educational roles at the Royal College of Surgeons. He was Breast Tutor 1996-2001 and the College's Director of Education (2003-2008).

Dick Rainsbury was President of our sister organisation, the Association of Breast Surgeons, 2011-2013. He has delivered over 120 National and 100 International presentations on reconstructive, training and educational topics, and is senior author of some 50 papers and 13 book chapters. He chaired the UK National Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Audit, and edited the latest UK National Guidelines for Oncoplastic Breast Reconstruction.



## **RAVEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Professor Robert Grimer  
Professor of Orthopaedic Oncology,  
Birmingham University**



Professor Robert Grimer was a most deserving recipient of the Raven Lifetime Achievement award for his massive contribution to the development of sarcoma services in the United Kingdom and for his work at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham. To those within the sarcoma community, Professor Grimer has been a leading figure for many decades, striving to improve rates of limb conservation with innovative surgery for limb salvage, pioneering endoprosthetic joint replacement, multidisciplinary protocols for complex sarcoma management and playing a leading role in the creation of the British Sarcoma Group. Professor Grimer gave a superb presentation cataloguing the progress in this field during his career and the massively improved outcomes and quality of life that sarcoma patients now enjoy as a result of surgical progress in the field.

## THE GEOFF OATES AWARD

**Prof OJ Garden,**  
*Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery,*  
*Edinburgh*

### **A liver surgeon's view of colorectal cancer**



Professor Oliver James Garden holds the Regius Chair of Clinical Surgery at the University of Edinburgh and is past president of both AUGIS as well as the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association. Professor Garden received the Geoffrey Donald Oates award for his work in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer. In his lecture he described the history of liver surgery as well as his apprenticeship in this craft, under the tutelage of Professor Bismuth. His lecture however was especially poignant approaching Armistice Day, as it was also homage to the memory of his grandfather and mother both of whom were decorated for services in the wars.



*Professor Yip giving her plenary oration in the main congress lecture theatre in front of over 400 delegates*



## **BASO~ACS PRIZES**

The Joint conference BASO-NCRI has been a real success and a true inspiration for surgeons who attended NCR1 presentations and for researchers who were present at surgical seminars. The first parallel sessions of the meeting (**The BJS prize paper session** and **the Raven Prize Paper session**) held on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November was inspirational and well attended.

### **The Raven Prize for Best Proffered Paper**

An excellent field of candidates submitted for this prize and 6 of the best were selected for oral presentation. The Raven Prize Papers session was chaired by Prof Robert Kirby, BASO Vice President, and Mr Hassan Malik, BASO Hon. Secretary. A series of excellent papers were presented by surgeons from the Sarcoma Unit of The Royal Marsden Hospital, the London Breast institute, UHNM in Stoke on Trent, Kings College, London and Frimley Health. The Raven Prize was awarded to Massimiliano Cariati, Kings College London for his paper "A first in human feasibility study of 18F-FDG Cerenkov luminescence imaging for intraoperative assessment of tumour resection margins in breast-conserving surgery".

### **BJS Prize for Best Proffered Paper**

Five presentations were made on topics ranging from some of the molecular biology behind resistance of pancreatic cancer cell lines to gemcitabine, risk factors for

developing complications following pancreaticoduodenectomy, through using multimodal image fusion to plan prostate cancer surgery, and onto the long-term outcomes of minimally invasive oesophagectomy.

Dr Kulbir Mann explored the impact that the reduction in ribonucleotide reductase subunit expression has in inducing gemcitabine resistance. Ms Esther Platt discussed the long term outcomes of the impact of minimally invasive resection for oesophago-gastric cancer. Mr Andrew Nickinson explored predictors of postoperative complications following pancreaticoduodenectomy. Mr Bilal Alkhaffaf explored the methodology to standardize outcomes reporting in gastric cancer surgical trial.

Due to the high standard quality content of the papers, it has been difficult to score them and the prize went to Mr Madhavi Natarajan who retrospectively analysed positive surgical margins and biochemical recurrence following open and laparoscopic radical prostatectomy. The conclusion of the retrospective analysis showed that positive surgical margins following radical prostatectomy is affected by stage and grade of malignancy, patient characteristics and also by surgical expertise.

## Posters

This year we had a high volume of abstracts submitted for the conference. Of these, 119 were published in the EJSO, November 2016 issue. The poster walks were excellent and showcased an eclectic mix of the best of the submitted BASO papers on surgery related topics interspersed with clinical and medical oncology and some very ground breaking basic science papers.



# *BASO\_AUGIS Session*

*Chaired by Mr Hassan Malik and Mr Giles Toogood*



The joint BASO session with the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal surgeons (AUGIS) was co-chaired by Mr Giles Toogood, president elect of AUGIS. This session was well attended and there was ample opportunity for the audience to interact with two speakers who are world renowned authorities in their area of expertise.

Professor John Neoptolemus, The Owen and Ellen Evans Chair of Surgery at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, gave a masterclass lecture delving into research in pancreatic cancer from “bench to bedside”. Pancreatic cancer is a disease which has traditionally been associated with abysmal prognosis. However, practice changing data just released from the ESPAC 4 study revealed a 5-year survival in the order of 35% in selected patients receiving doublet chemotherapy in the adjuvant setting. Furthermore, he updated the audience on ground breaking work on tumour organoids that has the potential to develop personalised treatments in this challenging area of cancer management.

Professor Oliver James Garden holds the Regius Chair of Clinical Surgery at the University of Edinburgh and is past president of both AUGIS as well as the International Hepatopancreatic biliary association. Professor Garden who had earlier received the Geoffrey Donald Oates award for his work in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer, gave an inspirational lecture on the subject matter of distance learning. Professor Garden who leads the surgical sciences MSc programme demonstrated the positive impact of this programme upon pre-FRCS UK trainees. The success of the UK programme has led to in excess of 35 active international students, many from sub-Saharan Africa. The Edinburgh College and university are continuing to developing stronger links in these countries in order to support sustainable surgical education and development at a local level.

# Local Treatment for Metastatic Disease

*Chaired by Prof Garth Cruickshank and Mr Mike Shackcloth*

The past decade has seen the start of a paradigm shift in the way we treat patients with metastatic disease. This was previously regarded as the largely the province of palliative care teams and medical oncologist and surgeons had a very limited role. We are now treating this group of patients much more actively and increasingly surgical and ablative therapies are seen to have a role, both in palliation and, in some cases, in effecting cure. This session was devoted to the advances and changes in practice that are occurring in the field of stage IV disease.

**The sessions started with an overview of the management of Bone Metastases: looking at the Indications for Surgery and the New UK Guidelines, presented by Mr Robert Ashford, (BASO Trustee), Consultant Orthopaedic and Sarcoma Surgeon.** He provided a valuable comprehensive and insightful guide to current management of bone metastases emphasising that early discussion with the team is crucial. The cases he presented made a strong argument for the concentration of specialist surgical roles and an exciting and challenging prospect for the orthopaedic surgeons of the future. The full guidelines can be accessed here: [http://www.baso.org.uk/media/61543/boos\\_mbd\\_2016\\_boa.pdf](http://www.baso.org.uk/media/61543/boos_mbd_2016_boa.pdf)



In his presentation on **Cranial Metastases: IMRT/SRS or Surgery: A treatment algorithm for best practice and overview of outcomes** Mr Michael Jenkinson, Senior Lecturer in Neurosurgery, Liverpool asked us: whether we would rather die of brain metastases or systemic metastases – perhaps not surprisingly the straw vote in this Hobson's choice was in favour of systemic disease as the lesser of two evils. The increasing role of neurosurgeons in the management of intracranial metastases in conjunction with radiation oncologists and stereotactic radiosurgery to provide both increased survival as well as protected quality of life are opening up the options for patients.



**Liver metastases in breast cancer: Do surgery or ablative therapies have a role?** Professor Long Jiao from the Hammersmith Hospital described the advances in our understanding of the pathophysiology of liver surgery to permit the successful management of patients with metastatic disease. He provided interesting up to date data on radiofrequency assisted liver resection and outcomes that specialist units might be expected to achieve. Again, demonstrating that the options for patients from surgical intervention in this area are at least as promising as those offered by that of molecular, genetic and immunocellular treatments.

## *Surgical Research Trial Showcase*

*Chaired by Professor Richard Shaw, Professor of Head and Neck Surgery, University of Liverpool*

One of the main motivations for holding a joint meeting with the NCRI was to try and increase research engagement by surgeons which has fallen in the past few decades due to the lack of necessity of a research degree, clinical workload pressures and the progressive loss of clinical academic units. The NCRI congress brings together all disciplines of research into cancer, fostering multidisciplinary research and also has a very strong basic science heritage. Professor Shaw presented an update of surgical trial activity in the UK, with 8,800 patients recruited to NIHR portfolio Surgical Oncology Trials last year, across 126 trials - that is 1:6 of all cancer patients recruited. There is evidence of high quality studies – good data on recruiting to complex RCTs and to time and target (at least comparable to the rest of the cancer portfolio). The data for this year so far are encouraging with a significant increase in recruitment. However this still represents only 4 or 5 patients per year per consultant cancer surgeon and there is also a huge (ten fold) disparity of recruitment, and hence access to studies for patients, between specialties and regions suggesting some units are underperforming substantially.

To showcase some of the excellent surgical research that is now underway in the UK, Professor Shaw then presented a session including some of the brightest talent in academic surgery including 3 important recent trials: Professor John Primrose presented the FACS trial (Follow-up after colorectal surgery), Professor Jim Hill (Manchester) presented the CREST study results (Colorectal Endoluminal Stenting Study) and Professor Paula Ghaneh, (University of Liverpool) presented the PET-PANC study which is looking at the diagnostic accuracy of PET scanning in pancreatic cancer.

Following this the CREST awards for Cancer Research Excellence in Surgical Trials were announced and presented to the team from the Mermaid Centre of Cornwall to

Sadie Mitchell, Philip Drew and Iain Brown and their team of research nurses and clinicians (Sheikh Ahmad, Polly King, Rachel English, Imran Abbas, Kalavathi Kumaresan, Kali Potiszi, Miklos Barta and Aaron Gould, pictured below). Commendations were also awarded to Michael Shackcloth (Liverpool) and Richard Berrisford (Plymouth) and their teams.



For further information about the CREST awards, visit to the [NCRI Awards Page](#).

## Robotic Surgery Symposium

***Chaired by Mr William Cross, Consultant Urologists, Leeds***

Robotic surgery is no longer a dream for the future. Increasing number of procedures are being performed every year in the UK. This session provided a unique opportunity to learn about the application of robotic surgery within different surgical specialties. There were excellent talks from Thoracic, Urology, Colorectal, Gynaecology and Head and neck surgery. Each surgeon gave an update of robotic surgery in their specialty, allowing cross fertilization of ideas.

After an outline of robotic surgery in their speciality, each speaker then discussed a more generic aspect of robotic surgery. These included how to set up a robotic surgery programme, the learning curve, evidence for robotic surgery and the cost of robotic surgery.

Following these talks there was an opportunity for delegates to learn or practice their robotic surgery skills on the new Da Vinci Xi system in a simulated environment kindly supported by Intuitive Surgical.



## *The Breast Track*

*As a significant number of our members have a special interest in breast surgery the meeting contained a full track of sessions devoted to breast surgery with some leading speakers presenting on the latest issues.*

### **Professor Robert Mansel, Emiritus Professor of Surgery (Cardiff University) and Past President of BASO**

Professor Mansell discussed current European initiatives in breast cancer treatment and European breast cancer service guidelines. The 27 countries comprising Europe have different cancer service structures and challenges affective the delivery of breast cancer care. The method used for developing guidelines is robust but there are challenges over how these will be delivered across Europe. The current standard of breast cancer services in Britain is amongst the highest in Europe but not the highest. There are thus several areas we could improve on and we should look at these guidelines once they are published.

### **Dr Charlotte Coles, Consultant Radiation Oncologist (University of Cambridge)**

Dr Coles discussed current interest and trials of pre-operative radiotherapy in the management of breast cancer. Pre-operative radiotherapy with a short course of 5 fractions, is currently used in the management of rectal cancer. There is interest in administering pre-operative radiotherapy in breast cancer in order to avoid the 5 months of delay in administering radiotherapy in patients who require primary chemotherapy, to down-size tumours using a shorter course of radiotherapy and to

avoid the side-effects of radiotherapy when it is administered to the reconstructed breast in patients receiving immediate breast reconstruction. The primary radiotherapy and DIEP flap reconstruction (PRADA) study, will evaluate the surgical safety of performing complex surgery (breast removal and breast reconstruction using transplanted abdominal fat) before or after chest wall radiotherapy (RT).

### **Mr Richard Rainsbury, Consultant Breast Surgeon (Winchester, UK)**

Mr Rainsbury discussed the oncological safety of oncoplastic surgery. There are a wide range of surgical procedures used to treat patient suitable for breast conserving surgery. The suitability of patients for these procedures are increased with the use of extreme oncoplastic techniques. These may impact on subsequent radiotherapy planning. The use of clips to mark the surgical cavity, surgical documentation, histopathological reporting and use of intra-operative radiotherapy were discussed.

### **Professor Isobel Rubio Val D’Hebron University Hospital Barcelona**

#### **Nipple Sparing Mastectomy**



Professor Rubio, one of the leading European Breast Surgeons, presented on the issues surround skin and nipple sparing mastectomy including the oncological considerations, the risk factors for failure and the technical aspects of these challenging techniques. This generated a lot of questions and debate. She went on to announce the launch the opening of a new European initiative, the INSPIRE project to collect data from across Europe about nipple sparing mastectomy. If anyone is interested in taking part in the multinational audit, they can find more details here: <http://www.essoweb.org/eurecca-inspire/>



**Ms Siobhan Laws**

**Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon, Winchester Breast Unit**

Ms Laws gave an excellent overview of the potential role of lipomodelling and how this has taken off in the past decade as a valuable adjunct to oncoplastic and reconstructive surgery. Oncological safety is now well established and she gave an overview of the indications and risk factors for this technique.



## ***BASO\_BAHNO Session***

***Chaired by Prof Garth Cruickshank***

***Professor Margaret Stanley, OBE***

**HPV vaccines how to get the maximum protection**

We were honoured and delighted to open this session with **Prof Margaret Stanley, OBE** who delivered a fascinating, enlightening and persuasive talk on “HPV vaccines how to get the maximum protection” against HPV related cancers. We marvelled at her intelligent use of humour in a complicated and moral-laden field to show the value of the ‘herd’ protection afforded by universal access to HPV vaccination, particularly by illustrating what happens when good policies, as in Denmark go, astray due to popular misunderstanding. Her command of the data and her insightful interpretation make this talk one of the highlights of the BASO sessions.

**Prof Terry Jones, Professor of Head & Neck Surgery, Liverpool**  
**‘The management of oropharynx cancer in the HPV Era’**

Professor Jones outlined the increasing size of the clinical problem and the need for a more systematic approach. He presented the evidence underpinning the clinical management and approaches to surgery in this group of patients. For surgeons he illustrated that good results can be obtained with precise local surgery and supported his arguments with telling disease related survival data.

**Prof Mark McGurk, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial**

**‘Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy in Head & Neck Cancer: Good ideas need proper Trials.**

Professor McGurk gave lucid and well-argued cases in favour of SLN biopsy in the H and N setting. In early trials he and colleagues had highlighted where the operator issues lay but that the value of such an approach outweighed the technical learning hurdles for the surgeon in favour of improving the potential outcomes for patients. Good ideas do not always attract good funding but those attending are now better placed to argue in favour of support for this promising innovation.

## *BASO Trainees Meeting*

***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016***

***Chairs: Afsana Elanko and Brian Kelly***

Learning opportunities, ESSO initiatives and learning outcomes for the day were introduced by Afsana. This was followed by a Presidential address by Brian, who highlighted the BASO trainee benefits and the various opportunities for further involvement.

Mr Zaheer Shah presented an insight into the Emergency Surgical Oncologists. He went through the practicalities of the working environment and the importance of the team; and how these impact on delivery of care. He provided a wealth of knowledge from his military background and related it in practical terms to his work in the NHS.

The importance of human factors in effective working of the MDT was discussed by Mr Hassan Malik. There was a dissection of the decision making process and the Surgeon's role in the MDT was discussed; in addition to the overview of the quality standards development.

Declan Soden discussed the Medical Device Innovation for Surgical Oncologists and focused on the use of Electroporation as a therapeutic tool with some excellent examples of practical uses.

There was a lively debate introduced by Afsana and Brian on the topic of "This house believes there is a need to undertake structured research training (PhD/MD) prior to commencing speciality training". Mr Richard Bryan provided a synopsis of advantages including learning analytical skills, developing expertise in a focused research area and flexibility in the career path. Mr Brian Kelly presented the converse argument that skills may be learnt in other areas, but at the cost of essential skills required to be a surgeon and thus inadvertently increasing the time in training and placing further financial burdens on the trainee. This was followed by a debate from the delegates and voting, where the 59% said they disagreed with the statement and 41% said they agreed with the statement.

Mr Robert Ashford discussed the current challenges for surgical oncology trainees in light of the Greenaway report. He described the how the shape of training would be effected and the surgical implications. It was enlightening to hear it is not all doom and gloom, but that there are opportunities and challenges to be mastered along the way. The session closed with a synopsis of how to take consent from the patient efficiently and the future of surgical oncology.

The afternoon concentrated on funding for research and trials. Martyn Coomer, from the RCS, provided an insight into the fellowship process and guidance to trainees of how to find good projects, the application and selection process. This linked in with Rachael Panizzo's session of funding opportunities from CRUK and the application process. The day was brought to a close with Mr Mohammad Kamarizan (BASO Trainees Prize winner) presentation.

## *European Journal of Surgical Oncology*

### *An Update on the EJSO*

The European Journal of Surgical Oncology (EJSO) continues to go from strength to strength under the current Editorship of former BASO~ACS President, Professor Riccardo Audisio. The current impact factor for 2015 is stable at 2.940, up from 2.892 in 2013. A decision has been made to continue Professor Audisio's tenure as 'Editor in Chief' for a further three years.

Last year the journal received over 1000 manuscripts submitted for consideration of publication, up by nearly 200 on the previous year. This is the highest number ever received in a year. As in previous years, the majority of submissions were original research articles, but there were an increasing number of review articles, short reports and editorials. The average turnaround time for manuscripts is less than 7 weeks, making it a very attractive journal for members to submit their papers.

Most BASO members now receive the EJSO as an online subscription (a print copy is still available at a small extra cost). It can be accessed at [www.ejsso.com](http://www.ejsso.com). Also available is the new EJSO App (android and iOS) that is available to all BASO members, enabling easy access the journal on your mobile devices.

The Android App can be accessed at

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.elsevier.stmj.jat.newsstand.yejso>

The iOS app in iTunes is

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ejsso-european-journal-surgical/id1064703740?ls=1&mt=8>.

## Plans for 2017

Following the success of the BASO/NCRI collaboration and the hugely positive feedback, the AGM unanimously voted in favour of renewing our collaboration with the NCRI for 2017.

**We hope to see you there and more details will follow shortly**

**Date for your Diary:**

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Liverpool**



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