In this edition of our society’s newsletter, Mr. Brian Bingham, President Elect, stands in for Professor Narula, to whom we all send our best wishes.

BACO 2015 attracted over 1200 delegates; read on for a summary from Ian Mackay, BACO Master, as well as a report from the BACO clinical skills centre, which was extremely popular and a huge success.

It’s an exciting time for academia in ENT, with the launch of GENERATE imminent, and an opportunity to be involved in recruiting patients to the National Trial of Tonsillectomy in Adults (NATTINA) study.

Emma Stapleton
Deputy Editor

Mr Brian Bingham
President Elect, ENTUK

From the President Elect’s Desk

Our President, Tony Narula, has unfortunately had a recent illness. He was admitted to hospital in early September. He is making slow but steady improvement. On behalf of all members of ENT UK we wish Tony a prompt and successful recovery. We hope that he will be back in action later this autumn.

This summer we had a very successful BACO with planning for 2018 in Manchester already started. This summer the current English secretary of state for health decided to pick a fight with the medical profession about 24/7 working and junior doctor contracts.

Your ENT UK executive, through the Federation of Surgical Specialty Association, responded to the 24/7 working proposals. That response, in short, was that we fully support 24/7 emergency care but consider that there is not the funding or the trained staff to deliver 7 day a week elective care.

Junior doctor contracts will be discussed at the October FSSA meeting. It is likely that a position statement supporting improvement in the quality of work/life balance for junior doctors will follow together with support for retention of good terms & conditions.

My daughter is a core medical trainee and many of her friends have departed for Australia. I have very mixed feelings about this antipodean exodus. On one hand I can understand the desire to move for improved work conditions and quality of life compared to the NHS. On the other hand we need you clever young doctors to look after us senior people, as we get old! (Literally, academically and administratively!) Your ENT executive will support our junior doctors in this contract conflict and we will work to improve your conditions.

I finished as chair of the intercollegiate fellowship examination board at the end of 2014. I am pleased that our ENT fellowship examination is highly rated and that is due to the hard work of all the examiners and board members. John Hill is the new chairman and already he is applying the “cycling principle” of multiple incremental improvements. That should deliver an ever-improving fellowship examination.

I have been very impressed and at times quite in awe at the work and the amount of work that the ENT executive undertakes on your behalf. We have weekly telephone conferences. Every week we are called upon to help/resolve/advice on 3 to 4 issues that affect different subspecialities of ENT from different geographical areas.

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Your ENT executive comprises President Tony Narula, Secretary Nirmal Kumar, Assistant secretary Anirvan Banerjee, Treasurer John Rubin, Assistant treasurer Chris Potter, Director of Education Derek Skinner, SAC chair Andrew Robson, Webmaster Shahed Quraishi and myself your President elect.

Your executive is also evolving strategies both educational and supportive for ENT UK members and you will hear more of these initiatives this autumn/winter. One example would be outlines for appraisal and revalidation. This year my appraiser was a senior anaesthetist who went to the ENT UK website and then matched me to all that was on the website!! Obvious really for someone outside ENT to do that and, therefore, we need to upgrade and refine our website on what is reasonable for ENT appraisal and revalidation. Remember, of course, that we are supportive of ENT surgeons and not the regulator!

Have a good autumn. Enjoy the world cup. Please do not hesitate to speak to me or email me if there is an issue you want to bring to the attention of the ENT UK executive or myself.

Prof. Nirmal Kumar
Honorary Secretary, ENTUK

Mr. Tim Woolford
Consultant ENT Surgeon

Clinical Skill Centre, BACO, 8th – 10th July 2015

The BACO academic committee planned a CSC to provide a good environment for hands on training after the successful pilot of the 1st CSC in Glasgow, 2012. This was targeted not just at trainees but also consultants and other professionals who attended BACO such as audiologists, speech therapists, nursing and allied professionals. There was also a dedicated session for medical students and FY's. More than 400 delegates booked on to skills sessions which was mainly equipped with equipment from companies such as Storz, Medtronics, Zeiss and specialist suppliers as listed below in the individual sections.

Paediatric ENT
The aim of this station was to teach and refresh consultants' and trainees' emergency airway and resuscitation skills in a fully supported environment. The station included part-task trainers for teaching the use of ventilating bronchoscopes and tracheal foreign body retrieval. Simulators were used to allow the participants to lead the management of resuscitation scenarios. An up to date knowledge of APLS was not required as the participants were provided with the necessary knowledge as they progress through the station. There were some elements of the successful ENT UK Paediatric ENT Skills Course for Consultants (PESCC) (https://entuk.org/paediatric-ent-skills-course-consultants).

Facial Plastics
The aim of the facial plastic skills centre was to provide training to ENT trainees in basic steps of rhinoplasty using plastic models. Pig trotters were used to provide training in various skin flaps such as advancement, rotation, bilobed, rhomboid flaps and Z-plasty.
Otology
Otology workshop allowed delegates to practice otological techniques including cartilage tympanoplasty, ossiculoplasty with autologous and alloplastic materials, stapedectomy using laser techniques and mastoidectomy on both plastic temporal bones and simulated bones. There was also an opportunity to carry out auditory implantation including cochlear implants, BAHA and Bonebridge. Hands on training on Virtual Reality simulators including Voxelman and VES systems was available.

Laryngology (Injection & Laser)
This session mimicked an ENT theatre environment where candidates could perform micro laryngeal surgery and use a CO2 laser. Candidates were able to perform every step of the procedure including insertion of the laryngoscope, set up the microscope and use laryngeal micro instruments. This was an unique opportunity to perform simulated laser surgery before moving on to live patients.

A structured approach to balance assessment and rehabilitation
The workshop was designed to provide a clear and systematic approach to the management of patients with balance disorders. It was run as a MDT of neurotologist / clinical scientist / physiotherapist. The sessions included advice and instructions on structured and targeted history taking, clinical examination, current and newer bedside tests and appropriate therapeutic manoeuvres along with practical and video demonstrations. This was appropriate for established consultants, trainees and allied health professionals alike.

Endoscopic ear surgery
This was a session to introduce basic concepts and instrumentation in Endoscopic Ear Surgery (EES). There were videos of endoscopic cadaveric dissection from external to internal acoustic meatus but the main focus was in the middle ear anatomy and principles of EES. This was followed by endoscopic ear dissection practice on plastic temporal bones using equipment from Storz to allow delegates hands on experience of endoscopes for ear surgery and anatomy.

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT)
This multi-professional session was aimed at nurses, and other healthcare professionals, as well as SLTs.
Practical nasendoscopy skills for swallow/voice assessment: how to obtain the best images
Assessment of swallow function: including Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallow (FEES) protocol and Videofluoroscopy procedures; relative benefits of each : illustration of normal swallow function and image interpretation of disordered swallow (illustrative cases)
Stroboscopic evaluation of the larynx and its place in assessment of voice disorders
Interpretation/discussion of Illustrative complex cases

Medical Students
The medical student workshop provided the opportunity for students to practice common procedures undertaken by FY and CT doctors. This included flexible endoscopy of the upper airway, grommet insertion, tonsillectomy trainers, epistaxis management, tracheostomy and suturing techniques.

Verbal feedback from delegates and sponsors suggested a CSC that was very well received and provided good educational value. Formal written feedback from delegates is being analysed and there will be further report and presentations on the outputs with a comparative analysis of the CSC’s at BACO 2012 and 2015.

In conclusion, BACO 2015 was a resounding success with over 1200 delegates and the Clinical Skills Centre was deemed by many to be the "jewel in the crown" with more than 400 conference delegates having practical hands on training. This was useful to help trainees and consultants develop and maintain skills for emergency management of ENT conditions while learning new techniques at the forefront of ENT and in a multi-disciplinary setting. The clinical skills centre also promoted inter-professional development, and working in the new milieu where simulation offers an important route to enhanced patient safety as shown in the CMO’s report calling for this to be integrated in the health service.
Mr. Ian Mackay  
*BACO Master, 2015*

**BACO 2015 – A Conference to Remember**

The 15th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology took place at the BT Convention Centre Liverpool from 8th to 11th July, attracting a record number of 1,238 registrations. Prof Shakeel Saeed organised an extensive academic programme with over 300 speakers from the UK and abroad and keynote lectures from Prof Sir Ian Gilmore, Prof Randall Morton, Prof Erwin Offeciers and Prof Markus Hess.

Andrew Swift as the local organiser not only ensured that everything ran smoothly at the BT conference centre, including the very successful live anatomy demonstrations, but also organised a most enjoyable social programme with the Masters Reception at the historic St Georges Hall and the Conference Dinner at the Maritime museum, both were relaxed and friendly events and provided a marvellous opportunity to network with old and new friends alike. Andrew together with Chris Potter also ensured that the finances were kept successfully under control. The traditional BACO pre-conference golf match was organised very successfully by Max McCormick.

As with previous years, fellowships were awarded to deserving delegates and this year 14 were awarded to applicants from India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland and Romania. We were grateful to the JLO, SOS, BRS, MIO, SWEAM and NOEENT for their generous sponsorship.

We received over 800 poster submissions, generally of a very high standard and for the first time an electronic system was used to display these with some of the best in each section being given the opportunity to present within the main conference sessions.

The very successful Clinical Skills Centre, first introduced in 2012 at the Glasgow BACO, was retained again this year with an even larger area at the centre of the exhibition hall being provided. Organised by Nirmal Kumar and Tim Woolford, this year it featured: Paediatric ENT, Otology, Facial Plastics, Laryngology (injection & Laser) and Endoscopic and ‘A structured Approach to Balance Assessment and Rehabilitation’ sessions. These were booked to capacity, in advance, attracting 428 delegates over three days.

The traditional mix of breakfast meetings included an opportunity to attend YCOHNS, BSAO & evident, e-learning, NAPDENT, Our Health, Generate, Women in ENT, Independent Practice, British Cochlear Implant Group and BLA and the ever popular University Challenge occupied the lunch break.

The trade exhibition was the largest yet with more exhibitors than any previous BACO. Exhibitors appeared to be happy with the arrangements for coffee, lunch and tea breaks to be taken in the exhibition area and the fact that the Clinical Skills Centre was situated in the centre was an additional draw. We are very grateful to all our exhibitors and Sponsors for their generosity and to Janet Mills, our exhibition organiser.

Apart from the numerous members of ENT UK, who have in many instances spent an enormous amount of time and energy organising various aspects of this meeting, we would also like to thank Anne Haylock our professional conference organiser together with her colleagues and Lyndy Pullen with the Admin team at ENT UK, but most of all, the 1238 delegates who made this meeting such a success.
WENTS – Inspiring, empowering and supporting women in ENT around the UK

WENTS was formally launched at BACO 2015 with a very successful breakfast meeting which was surprisingly well attended given the timing after the conference dinner.

Although women now make up the majority of medical graduates, we remain under represented in surgery, academic and clinical leadership roles, as well as in National Clinical Excellence Awards.

Female doctors are more likely to suffer with depression, commit suicide or have marriages that end in divorce, compared to their male counterparts. Perhaps of greatest concern, at BACO we heard that the decline in competition for entry to Specialist Training has been attributed to the feminisation of the workforce. This is even more important in surgery as it is still not considered as an attractive career by many of our female medical students. If we fail to attract the best medical graduates to our specialty, it will be to the detriment of ENT as a whole in the future.

WENTS hopes to provide friendship, encouragement and mentoring to help to reverse this trend.

For those of you who attended the breakfast meeting you may have realised we’ve had a name change! Feedback from the meeting suggested ‘WENTCh’s’ although intended as an ironic take on a derogatory term, may be too aggressive and discourage attendance. So, we have a new name, ‘WENTS’, but with the same aim – to encourage women to achieve their full potential at all stages of their surgical career.

We are currently forming a committee to organise events, and hope to hold a dinner in the coming months.

WENTS is also using a range of social media to support our aims. Make sure you follow us on Twitter @UKWENTS where we are highlighting interesting news and spreading the word about our group. Our private Facebook group ‘WENTS’ is very interactive. Although it is private, any member can add other members so please ask your colleagues or us to add you! Surgeons, trainees and students are welcome and anyone can post positive things. So far posts have covered topics including ENT, women in surgery, the NHS, social events, research questionnaires, interesting news articles, suggested conferences, and inspiring women for other professions. If you don’t use either Twitter or Facebook don’t despair, email us at UKWENTS@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list so we can keep you up to date with news, meetings and social events.

If anyone would like to be more active within WENTS or to help run our social media, please send us a message on Facebook, tweet us on Twitter or email us at the address above.
Mr. Derek Skinner

Director of Education

Director of Education Report, September 2015

1) Under-graduate Curriculum:
As a method of trying to raise the profile of the Curriculum two specific strategies are being considered:
(a) Audit of under-graduate ENT activity/curricula at the different medical schools and comparing against the ENT UK curriculum used as the evidence based standard by the committee members. This would look specifically at the 10 most important topics. Publicising the ENT UK Under-Graduate Handbook could be publicised in association with the re-audit. Some intended consequences may include publicising the ENT UK curriculum as well as SFO UK and engaging the local SFO UK Representatives.
(b) Joint meeting with BSAO (through Carl Philpott) to explore the level of ENT teaching nationally and look at methods of raising profile and within medical schools. Meeting possible in March 2016.

2) Medical Students and Junior Doctors ENT UK website:
The Website for the SFO UK continues enthusiastically within the ENT UK website, content includes podcasts about careers in ENT and videos with eminent ENT surgeons. Educational podcasts about common clinical conditions. Advice on ENT electives, ENT prizes, competitions, courses, resources, event diary, links to eLearning and much more. Videos for the website were undertaken at BACO 2015 and hopefully should be available soon.

3) Career Fairs 2015:
The equipment for setting up a stand at career fairs remains available for use through Lyndy Pullan, ENT UK General Manager. Various new fairs will include ENT UK representation later in the year including for the RSM and several deaneries. Lyndy Pullan can advise on new procedures to ensure successful transport of the equipment to and from venues.

4) PDF ENT Guide Book:
The Medical Students’ and Junior Doctors’ ENT Guidebook designed to support Foundation doctors whilst in their first ENT post. This booklet is almost completely formatted and should be available very soon as a downloadable booklet later this year. We are looking for sponsorship to aid conversion into an App.

5) Medical Students and Junior Doctors Annual Conference:
Following the success of the 2015 conference on 27th April 2015, the 2016 Annual conference will take place on 21st March 2016 at the RCS England.

6) SFO UK and BACO 2015
The SFO UK had a full day of activity at BACO 2015 on Friday 10th July including a session from 2:15 - 3:30pm with invited presentations, and a skills workshop from 9:30-11:00am. There was also a poster competition (>50 posters entered so far). 65 undergraduates registered, 54 attended on the Friday, 34 attended the morning skills session and 37 students had E-posters on display. Feedback from both sessions was excellent, There is little doubt that this activity should be repeated for BACO 2018.

7) SAS committee:
The Annual Update meeting is booked for Thursday 1st October and the programme is progressing with speakers booked and sponsorship arranged. There is some concern that few delegates have booked so far and this will need review over the next few weeks. The SAS session at BACO seemed very successful with a full session and good question and answers with the panel.
CPD committee:
The new web-based CPD system should be launched soon after the last bugs are removed from the beta version. This will provide approval from ENT UK for courses, rapid turnaround of CPD points allocation, robust quality assurance, with course inspection and evaluation. Online application system for CPD recognition which includes ENT UK coordinated delegate feedback (no need for course organisers to collate), ENT UK coordinated distribution of attendance certificates and ENT UK kite mark quality certification mark. This is an exciting new development which has been gradually broadened and extended to its present format. The CPD committee are starting their Quality Assurance course visits shortly the assessment team includes: Declan Costello: voice, Russell Cathcart: rhinology, Richard Williams: trainee/thyroid, Paul Nankivell: trainee/H&N and Assem Shayah: balance/otology. In the first wave of course visits, each course will be visited for 1 day and the course organizer will be informed prior to the visit, However after this initial cycle, visits will take place without warning to ensure a full QA process.

e-lefENT Project
Candidates for the role of Clinical Lead for e-lefENT having been applying following a membership communication by Victoria Ward, who will be conducting interviews shortly for this post. The website upgrade is now almost complete and this provides some new sections and new content as well as a mapping/linkage with ISCP to aid educational opportunities through the national curriculum via the ISCP website. Educational collaboration with PESCC course is also being explored with video material related to paediatric airway difficulties aligned to a an educational process that allows optional outcomes to be explored by the trainee. This will require some development time over the next few months. A strategy to allow various organisations to subscribe a group of their members to elef-ENT for set periods, for example 12 months, is being explored. This is a response to UCL medical library and the Australian ENT Society enquiring about short term subscriptions for the use of the e-Learning website.

Director of Education:
It is anticipated that this post will fall vacant at the end of December 2015. The present incumbent completing 4 years in post. This post has recently been advertised.

Simulation and Courses Committee:
The Paediatric ENT Skills Courses for Consultants (PESCC) continues to attract an enormous amount of interest and are always fully booked very early. Iain Bruce and his faculty continue to enthusiastically support this work.

Courses in 2015 include:
Leicester, 23rd January 2015
Bangor, 30th January 2015
Belfast, 5th June 2015
London (Royal London) 2nd December, 2015
Brighton, 11th September, 2015
Further courses anticipated include London (RNTNEH), Glasgow (2016), Sheffield (2016)

At present these course remain free to ENT UK members and are being provided solely for ENT UK consultant members working in the UK. The PESCC faculty provided simulation experience for paediatric airways at BACO 2015 skills centre and this included some educational research to aid the development of the courses for the future, in line with the recent provision of £10000 for this work. There may be the prospect of a course aimed at international delegates in view of the international interest in courses for paediatric airways. Adverts have been emailed to find a replacement for Tim Woolford, chairman, with the closing date 11th September 2015.
Mr. Guna Reddy-Kolanu

Cochlear Implantation Fellow, Nottingham

The future management of advanced otosclerosis

Most patients with otosclerosis have good sensorineural function and can expect a dramatic improvement in hearing following stapes surgery. In the small number of patients with bilateral very advanced otosclerosis, cochlear implantation is likely to greatly improve hearing.

In between these two levels of hearing loss there remains a group of patients whose bone conduction thresholds are at a moderate or severe level with the added conductive loss dropping their hearing further, without dropping it to a level at which cochlear implantation is offered.

Currently these patients may be managed with hearing aids alone or with stapes surgery, to close the air bone gap, and hearing aids. The hearing outcome of these patients with either of these options may remain poor particularly when some frequencies are affected much more than others. In recent years, a few European centers have been trialing a device which actively mechanically stimulates the cochlear fluids. With this device there is an external component much like a cochlear implant. This links to the implanted component which has a piston to mechanically stimulate the cochlear fluids through a stapedotomy.

This technology is not used in the UK and at the moment there is no data on the number of patients who could potentially benefit from it or whether Otological surgeons or Audiologists would endorse its use. In the coming months the Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Unit is looking to answer some of these questions through an expert opinion day, surveys of surgeons and audiologists and a patient panel day. This work aims to establish whether a full national trial of the device would be feasible.

Should you wish to find out more or indeed wish to be involved please visit the Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Unit website (http://www.hearing.nihr.ac.uk/) or contact Padraig Kitterick (Padraig.Kitterick@nottingham.ac.uk) or Guna Reddy-Kolanu (guna@doctors.org.uk)

Prof Janet Wilson

President, BLA

British Laryngological Association

An association is only as strong as its democracy. The recent BLA Council Elections took place in May this year.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The following candidates were voted by the membership to represent the membership on the BLA Council for a term of three years effective from May 2015.

Martin Birchall, Declan Costello, Khalid Ghufoor, Meredydd Harries, Kate Heathcote, Sam Majumdar, Julian McGlashan, John Rubin

The elected representatives join the following
OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES
Prof Janet Wilson, BLA President
Mr Guri Sandhu, BLA Treasurer (until April 2016)
Mr Yakubu Karagama, BLA Secretary (until April 2016)
Mr Chadwan Al Yagchi, BLA Meetings Secretary (until April 2016)
Sue Jones, Speech and Language Therapist Representative
Nimesh Patel, BVA Representative
Michelle Wyatt, BAPO Representative

Jonathan Fishman was elected as Trainee Representative to the BLA Council. The post has a two year term of office in the first instance.

ANNUAL MEETING AND AGM
The BLA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, 05 November 2015 at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London. The BLA Annual Meeting has been accredited by ENT UK with 6 CPD

The Meeting will welcome Laryngologists, Trainees, Speech and Language Therapists and Allied Health Professionals to discuss the latest advances in research and technology. BLA Members will be offered a discount on Registration Fees. To join the BLA please email Dion Bassett, BLA Administrator at enquiries@britishlaryngological.org

The overall theme of the Meeting, although not exclusively, will be swallowing disorders. There will also be 2 parallel sessions (Laryngology and SLT) as well as free papers.

This year, we are delighted to welcome both Prof Shaheen Hamdy and Prof Daniel Sifrim as our Keynote Speakers.

Registration is NOW open – PLEASE NOTE Early Bird Registration closes on Monday, 21 September at Midnight. Register now to save £££s. To register please visit www.britishlaryngological.org

Other courses that may be of interest…. PLEASE VISIT http://www.britishlaryngological.org/ for more information

THEIL CADAVERIC ADVANCED LARYNGEAL & PHARYNGEAL SURGERY WORKSHOP INCLUDING LASER SAFETY TRAINING
A 2 day advanced course designed for senior trainees and practising surgeons wanting to develop their skills in laryngeal and phonosurgical skills
Thursday, 24 September 2015 to Friday, 25 September 2015
Cuschieri Skills Centre, University of Dundee

ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS IN THE VOICE CLINIC
This two day course will cover the theoretical and practical aspects of working in a multi-disciplinary voice clinic. Led by experience Voice Clinic Teams from the UK
2-3 MARCH 2016

9TH MANCHESTER PHONOSURGERY & NEUROLARYNGOLGY DISSECTION COURSE
This course is aimed at ENT doctors who want to further their knowledge in the field of laryngology
MONDAY 14 - TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016

2ND MANCHESTER DYSPHAGIA & TRANS-NASAL OESOPHAGOSCOPY & BALLOON DILATION CP, OESOPHAGUS AND TRACHEA HANDS-ON WORKSHOP AND LECTURES
WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016
GENERATE: Patients, Professionals and the Public in Partnership

ENT UK has been delighted to work with its members, the BSA and BAA on GENERATE, setting the UK research agenda for ENT, Hearing and Balance care. GENERATE has been a great success, with widespread involvement of healthcare professionals from all disciplines working together in partnership with patients, the public and funders. The GENERATE research agenda will be launched on 3rd December 2015 at a central London venue.

Developing the research agenda is only the beginning of the story; implementation of GENERATE needs to follow. In order to do this we need a better idea of what is currently happening in research in our field. To facilitate this we have appointed Dr Allison Reid to map current UK research activity in ENT, Hearing & Balance. She will be based with Prof Anne Schilder and Ms Natalie Bohm at UCL who have been facilitating GENERATE.

Allison will be contacting you soon with the MomENTum Survey on what research activities you and your group/department are undertaking, and with whom you are currently collaborating. Please take some time to fill out this survey. The information that you provide is key to our Specialty being able to work towards a coordinated national research program. It will also form a valuable database for ENT UK members wishing to look for expertise or collaborators when initiating a research project.

For further information please contact Dr Allison Reid by phone 020 3108 5956 or email research@entuk.org

ENT UK and HPV

ENT UK members, through the ENT UK Council have recently reviewed the evidence relating to HPV infection in males. Since this cancer can potentially be avoided by use of the quadrivalent vaccine currently available, it was the unanimous decision of our ENT UK Council that HPV vaccination in the UK should be offered on a gender neutral basis. On 29 July 2015 ENT UK joined HPV Action (HPVA), a collaborative partnership of 41 patient and professional organisations that are working to reduce the health burden of HPV. HPVA are delivering an advocacy campaign that aims to achieve gender-neutral HPV vaccination. This means that children of both genders will be routinely offered vaccination against HPV at the age of 12/13.

HPVA believes that boys should now be included in the programme for the following reasons:
1) To ensure the maximum possible protection of women against cervical cancer.
2) To protect both men and women from other HPV-related cancers (anal, penile, oropharyngeal, vaginal, vulval).
3) To protect against genital warts and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP).

ENT UK attended a parliamentary meeting about HPV vaccination for boys on 16 September 2015 hosted by John Baron MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer; Mike Freer MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS, and Baroness Gould of Potternewton, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health in the UK.

The meeting included the launch of two documents – a new Case for Action report and a statement of support from over 100 experts in the field. The meeting drew strong support from those who attended on the need for a faster decision to vaccinate boys and the immediate progress on vaccinating men who have sex with men. The meeting has made it possible for MPs to exert more pressure on ministers and the JCVI on vaccination. Danny Kinahan, MP Ulster Unionist Party, has now tabled an Early Day Motion on gender-neutral vaccination. We will keep readers informed on the progress of this campaign in future newsletters.
National Trial of Tonsillectomy IN Adults (NATTINA): a clinical and cost effectiveness study

What is the real value of tonsillectomy in recurrent sore throats?

You may already be aware of NATTINA, an NIHR HTA funded clinical trial randomising adults who fulfil current SIGN guidance for elective tonsillectomy (http://www.sign.ac.uk/pdf/sign117.pdf) to immediate or deferred surgery.

Following a promising feasibility study and internal pilot, we have the support from HTA to proceed. NATTINA was originally planned to work only with selected high volume sites. However, we are delighted that several additional sites have volunteered to help since our Portfolio launch.

Recruitment challenge varies across the UK – areas of parsimonious referral pre-screening have particular problems. Thus, HTA supports a wider, national participation by consultant otolaryngologists– this might mean you! In total we need to screen 2000+ elective referrals with recurrent sore throat to identify sufficient participants. This is a big task which needs considerable input from ENTUK members to succeed.

If you think you might be interested in joining NATTINA, visit our website, www.nattina.com and watch our information video aimed at potential patients, GPs and members of the wider public.

Team NATTINA looks forward to hearing from you!

Janet Wilson
Professor of Otolaryngology, Chief Investigator j.a.wilson@ncl.ac.uk

“"A lot of decisions are being made about how to treat patients with recurrent acute tonsillitis which don’t have a robust evidence base behind them.” (ENT Staff member)

“I think this is a very significant question that is being asked by NATTINA in terms of the effectiveness of tonsillectomy in an adult population. The opportunity to be able to be involved in something which will hopefully …..provide this new research is really quite exciting.” (ENT Consultant)

Contact our Trial management team who can address your individual queries.

Rebecca 0191 208 3819
rebecca.harrison@ncl.ac.uk