Association of British Neurologists

Annual Report
2019-20
President’s Introduction

This introduction serves to review the activities of the Association in 2019–20. The ABN mission “to promote excellent standards of care and champion high-quality education and world-class research in neurology” is underpinned by the ABN 2018 strategy, which has three core strategic aims covering services, education and research, enhanced by the crosscutting themes of leadership and sound financial management. This review will report against the framework of the current strategy document whilst focusing on the issues from the last year, not least the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which certainly put the agility and resilience of our structures to the test.

To improve clinical neurological services

Improving clinical neurological services and providing leadership in neurology services delivery in the UK is a core aim of the ABN. The Services Committee chaired by Cath Mummery and the Quality Committee chaired by Chris Kipps coordinate the delivery of this aim.

The ABN works closely with external groups including the Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group (CRG), the National Neurology Advisory Group (NNAG) and the NHSE GIRFT (Getting it Right First Time) programme which aims to bring about higher-quality care in hospitals, by reducing unwarranted variations in outcomes, services and practices across the country. Since the beginning of the current COVID-19 crisis the ABN has worked with the Royal College of Physicians and other institutions to deliver guidance and support to the neurological community and beyond in a timely and practical way. The ABN website was adapted, including the creation of a COVID-19 membership category, to enhance rapid access to vital information for neurologists and allied health professionals alike. This information was updated on a regular basis, as our knowledge of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic increased.

The ABN Advisory Groups (AGs) continue to provide responses to consultations and meeting requests from a wide variety of sources, in particular NICE, NHS England and the Department of Health. They also provide ABN representatives on the editorial board of Practical Neurology, on EAN Scientific Committees, and as NHS Choices contributors. We are grateful to all advisory group members for the substantial support they provide. We are extremely grateful to the AG membership for their rapid turnaround of requests and the high quality feedback they provided during the COVID-19 crisis.

The ABN continues to build its working relationship with other neuroscience and health related organisations, including the British Paediatric Neurology Association, The Society of British Neurological Surgeons, the British Neuroscience Association, the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience, the British Neuropsychiatry Association, the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology and the Neurological Alliance.

To champion outstanding training and education in neurology

The education committee chaired by Matthew Jones, who was appointed in the last year, leads on the delivery of this objective.

The Annual Meeting in Edinburgh was attended by 756 delegates and received excellent feedback. As in previous years up to 100 bursaries were available for junior presenters to attend the meeting. This is now a regular feature of the ABN conference and we are grateful to industry partner Novartis which sponsored the 2019 bursaries. The Autumn Meeting, held in London welcomed 158 delegates.

The ABN Trainee committee led the successful introduction of the ABN Acute Neurology Bootcamp which attracted 71 delegates. Free to ABN members, this meeting was aimed at incoming ST3 trainees and those returning from a period of time out of training to prepare them for triaging and managing acute neurological disorders on call. Thirty undergraduate medical students attended the October 2019 student educational day in Bristol, held in cooperation with the student group NANSIG (Neurology and Neurosurgery Interest Group). Work is in progress to deliver both events in virtual format during 2020.

The Shape of Training continues to demand significant input and we are grateful to Tom Hughes, Chair of Neurosciences SAC, for his leadership in taking this forward as SAC neurology chair. We continue to work with the SAC and others to ensure all aspects of neurological training are fully covered in the transition to the Shape of Training system, including the protection of gaining research experience.
The Neurology Formative Test Questions, collated and edited by the ABN team in South Wales, have been made available for the fourth year running in association with ebrain and the European Academy of Neurology.

Our Special Interest Groups conducted their own well attended sessions during the 2019 Annual Meeting. Sadly the postponed 2020 meeting means we will be unable to host Special Interest Groups this year, but we look forward to their renaissance at our Belfast meeting in 2021.

To promote world class research in clinical neurosciences
The third core strategic aim of the ABN is to promote world class research in the clinical neurosciences. The research committee, chaired by Martin Turner, leads on the delivery of this objective. The ABN Clinical Research Fellowship scheme appointed a further three fellows in 2020 in partnership with the Guarantors of Brain and the Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust. We congratulate Ingrid Hoeritzauer, Grace McMacken, James Hrastelj, Anne-Catherine Huys and Thomas Massey who have all completed their fellowships since the 2019 annual meeting.

The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund continues to benefit from voluntary donations made with annual subscriptions payments from Ordinary and Associate/Affiliate members. We are grateful to our members, our industry and charitable partners, and interested friends for their continued support.

The Rare Diseases Ascertainment and Recruitment (RaDAR) programme continues to facilitate research recruitment in rare neurological disorders. In response to the recent pandemic, the system was rapidly adapted to include a COVID-19 study. A maximum of eight studies are now available for referral with a default 3-year limit on each.

To provide leadership in neurology
The ABN aims to provide leadership in the above areas of neurology services, education and research in the UK.
To effect this, the ABN has continued to build upon its relationships with other neuroscience, health related and neurology patient organisations including the CRG, NNAG, NICE, NHSE and NA as mentioned above. We have submitted proposals for an ABN plenary session at the 2021 BNA Festival of Neuroscience and we look forward to a joint meeting with our colleagues from the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience in Belfast, May 2021.

To represent and promote the aims of the Association internationally
The ABN works with international colleagues to co-create meetings and to develop international initiatives. The first ABN/World Federation of Neurology fellow was appointed in 2019 as part of the WFN programme to train neurologists in Africa and we were delighted to award another ABN Australasian Fellowship, giving a UK registrar the opportunity to spend time training in the southern hemisphere. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of our joint session at the Société Française de Neurologie meeting in Lyon; however, we hope this may be reinstated at a later date. The ABN continues to interact closely with the European Academy of Neurology, providing speciality and other representatives.

Financial management
The Finance Audit and Risk committee, comprising the Honorary Treasurer, President, President Elect, Research Chair, Lay Trustees and Executive Director met to review investments, administer fellowship funds and approve staff remuneration. The ABN reported a surplus from its annual meeting and strong investment growth during 2019. However the financial implications of COVID-19 require a prudent approach going forward as ABN investments fell by 28% during the first 3 months of the year.

Other issues
The Practical Neurology co-publishing agreement with the BMJ has again resulted in a net surplus to the ABN after deduction of Practical Neurology subscription fees. Paper copies are posted to ordinary/associate/affiliate members and online access to both Practical Neurology and JNPN is available free of charge to all members via the membership section of the Association’s website. We are working with the BMJ to identify opportunities to extend the journal’s geographic and intellectual reach.

David Nicholl, resigned as Honorary Secretary in October 2019 in order to stand for Parliament in the December 2019 elections. We are grateful to Honorary Assistant Secretary, Jon Sussman, who assumed the Honorary Secretary role 6 months early, and to Richard Davenport, who swiftly made his mark as Interim
Meeting Secretary, pending elections later this year. We thank Kevin Talbot for the commitment and contribution shown during his four years’ service as council member, preceded by two years as Honorary Secretary. And we welcome back David Nicholl as a newly elected council member 2020-2024. Finally we thank Mary Reilly for nine years of dedicated service to, and guidance of, the ABN as council member, President Elect, President and Immediate Past President. On a personal note, I will really miss Mary’s experience and wisdom on our Executive and Council calls and meetings. She has had an incredible eye for detail and for always “doing the right thing”.

The Speciality Certificate Examination in neurology, a project jointly with the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, continues to flourish and in 2019 generated over £10,000 surplus for the ABN. As in previous years, the money will be directed towards educational activities for trainees, junior doctors and medical students.

The COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the obvious, sombre health and workforce implications, has seriously weakened financial markets, postponed conferences and cancelled the 2020 ACCEA (Advisory Committee for Clinical Excellence Awards) awards for England and Wales. There will not be a single member reading this who has not been affected by the pandemic in myriad of ways.

Finally, and by no means least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the ABN office, Dawn Moore and Fardousa Musa (both now 3 days per week), Jess Holdgate (one day a week financial admin), Maya McCourt (IT Project Coordinator - 2 days per week), Faheemah Patel and Joanne Lawrence. The commitment of the office staff to the ABN, their adaptability to deliver an effective service under very challenging circumstances, and the very high standard of their work is something we should all recognise and be grateful for. I would like to thank members of the ABN Executive and Council for their hard work, generous time commitment and invaluable support. Each year seems to get busier for the ABN, set against ever increasing NHS service pressures. I am especially grateful for the willingness of executive and council colleagues to deal with urgent issues, often with very challenging timelines. David Nicholl and Jon Sussman have delivered timely consultations and topical ABN meeting programmes, respectively, as well as engaging enthusiastically in all ABN projects. Jon Sussman committed immense amounts of time to shaping a series of documents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tom Warner and Martin Turner have brought exciting new ideas to the Education and Research committees, respectively. As newly appointed Chair of the Education Committee, Matt Jones is bringing a wealth of experience in medical education to the role, and has already coordinated some top quality educational offerings. Cath Mummery and Chris Kipps are broadening the Services and Quality committee remits with a range of transformative innovations and fly the ABN flag enthusiastically on a series of external committees and groups, extending the influence of the ABN and better linking us with other disciplines and national bodies. All of this work is enhanced by the ABN Advisory Groups, whose 120 members provide expert help with consultations and with a wide range of service, education and research issues across the whole of neurology.

All of the above is underpinned by the wisdom and guidance of our Honorary Treasurer, Neil Robertson. Tom Hughes sits on Council as SAC neurology chair. We are all indebted to Tom for his ongoing work to deliver the best curriculum for neurology within Shape of Training.

The ABN fellowship scheme continued to break new ground in 2020, including successfully implementing its first ever virtual interview panel in the initial days of lockdown. Dafydd Thomas, chair of the ABN Fundraising Committee, continues to makes a great contribution to the sustainability and quality of the fellowship scheme, giving generously of his time, wisdom and connections. Finally I thank our lay trustees, Elisabeth Baltay and Stanley Fink, for their valuable and ongoing support for the Association. Their expertise is invaluable.

David Burn
President 2019 -2021
1. Council
1.1 Election of Council member 2020-2024
1.2 Officers of Council for 2020-2021
   Professor D Burn  President  2019-2021
   Professor T Walker  President Elect  2019-2021
   Dr J Sussman  Honorary Secretary  2019-2022
   Professor N Robertson  Honorary Treasurer  2019-2023
   Dr C Mummery  Chair Services Committee  2017-2020
   Dr M Jones  Chair Education Committee  2019-2022
   Professor M Turner  Chair Research Committee  2019-2022
   Dr C Kipps  Chair Quality Committee  2017-2020
   Dr R Davenport  Interim Meetings Secretary  2019-2021

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 22 May 2019, Edinburgh
2.1 Matters Arising

3. Membership of the Association
3.1 Nominations for membership
3.2 In memoriam

4. President’s Report

5. Treasurer’s Report
5.1 To consider and adopt Annual Accounts
5.2 Appoint GSM as auditors
5.3 Authorise Directors to agree auditors’ remuneration for forthcoming year

6. Honorary Secretary
6.1 Advisory groups
6.2 To discuss and vote upon proposed amendments to the Rules

7. AOB
7.1 Date of next Annual General Meeting: 20 May 2021, Belfast
Annual General Meeting

President Mary M Reilly (MMR), welcomed delegates to the AGM, noting that the annual report is now available to view on the ABN website, meeting app and hard copies are also available.

MMR congratulated David Burn, who will now take over as President, and also Tom Warner, Sofia Eriksson and Biba Stanton on their recent elections to the role of President Elect and council representatives. MMR thanked Trevor Pickersgill, Jacqueline Palace and John Paul Leach for their work as Honorary Treasurer and Council Representatives and Neil Robertson who will now be taking over as Honorary Treasurer.

Proposed by Tom Solomon
Seconded by Colin Mumford

1. Election of President Elect 2019-21, President 2021-23
1.1 Election of 2 x councillors 2019-23
1.2 Officers of Council for 2019-20

President: Professor DJ Burn 2019-21
Past President: Professor MM Reilly 2019-20
President Elect: Professor T Warner 2019-21
Honorary Secretary: Dr D Nicholl 2017-20
Honorary Assistant Secretary: Dr J Sussman 2018-20
Honorary Treasurer: Professor N Robertson 2019-23

Chair, Services Committee: Dr C Mummery 2017-20
Chair, Quality Committee: Dr C Kipps 2017-20
Chair, Education Committee: Professor T Warner 2016-19
Chair, Research Committee: Professor M Turner 2016-19

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Thursday 10 May, Birmingham
The minutes were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting.

Proposer: Stephen Wroe
Seconder: Geraint Fuller

3. Membership of the Association
3.1 Nominations for membership
MMR referred members to the list of new members in the Annual Report.

Proposer: Tom Solomon
Seconder: Colin Mumford

4. President's Report
4.1 General update including the Research Opportunities Forum
MMR provided a brief update on work of the ABN in the last year including the first Research Opportunities forum in Edinburgh on Tuesday 21st May.

4.2 Members’ Survey
MMR presented top level data from the Members’ Survey. The data is still undergoing analysis.

4.3 In memoriam
Delegates observed a minute’s silence for Gerald Stern, Past President of the ABN, and other deceased members.

4.4 Presentation of President’s medal and handover of chair
MMR passed the medal to DB who took over as President of the ABN.
DB thanked MMR and congratulated her on two years of exceptional developments in the ABN.

5. Treasurer’s Report
5.1 To consider and adopt Annual Accounts/appoint GSM as auditors/authorise Directors to agree auditors’ remuneration for forthcoming year

Honorary Treasurer, Trevor Pickersgill (TP) presented the 2018 accounts. 2018 has been a relatively successful financial year. He noted that the ABN’s financial reserve was stable with unrestricted income of £857k, broadly from our meeting in Birmingham, the Joint ABN and SBNS meeting, and members subscriptions. The total meeting income was 450k and spend approx. 370k. There was £141k income to the restricted ABN clinical research training fellowship funds.

Company sponsorship from pharma is healthy. The co-publishing agreement with the BMJ, of Practical Neurology journal contributed £57,133 to ABN funds. Additional income also accrued from the continued growth of the Speciality Certificate Examination in neurology. The accounts show a net surplus, before investment income, of £130k(unrestricted) and £66k(fellowship).

ABN investments suffered in line with the UK market in 2018, declining in value by £64k after 5 years of steady growth. The ABN’s unrestricted reserves increased from £904k at the beginning of the year to £970k at the end. In line with financial and legal advice, the ABN will continue to maintain a reserve of around one to two times its normal annual expenditure. Our funds remain within this window but year-on-year improvement affords increasing flexibility. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund and the Roger Bannister fellowship fund together received £141k in 2018. This included contributions from the Stroke Association, the Dunhill Medical Trust and the Sobell Foundation, each funding 50% of a fellowship.

5.2 Annual subscriptions
TP proposed the below increase to annual subscriptions:

Ordinary £15
Associate/Affiliate £5
Overseas/Junior £5

Members agreed to appoint GSM as auditors, authorised directors to agree auditor’s remuneration for the forthcoming year and agreed to the increase in subscription fees.

6. Honorary Secretary
6.1 General update: To discuss and vote upon proposed amendments to the Rules.

Joanne Lawrence presented the proposed rules changes to regions:
Current:
x.2.2. Members: A further seven Ordinary or Senior members of the Association elected by members each to represent constituencies of two specified strategic health authorities (Scotland and Northern Ireland, North East and Yorkshire & the Humber, North West and West Midlands, East of England and East Midlands, London, South Central and South East Coast, South West and Wales) to serve for three years each with possible re-election for one further term.

Proposed:
x.2.2. Members: A further nine Ordinary or Senior members of the Association elected by members each to represent constituencies of the following regions (Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East and Yorkshire & the Humber, North West and West Midlands, East of England and East Midlands, London, South Central and South East Coast, South West, and Wales) to serve for three years each with possible re-election for one further term.

Proposed: Geraint Fuller
Seconder: Colin Mumford
6.2 Advisory Groups
David Nicholl thanked the work of the advisory groups. In 2018, 92 consultations were completed in comparison to 70 in 2017. The consultations have come from NICE, RCP and Department of Health etc.

6.3 ABN website
Joanne Lawrence provided an update on the new ABN website, project managed by Maya McCourt, which will be launched at the end of June. Applications for membership will now be made online. Phase two will begin in the Autumn to include new functions eg mapping and a jobs board.

Committee Updates

7. Education
7.1 Undergraduate survey
Tom Warner presented a summary of the data from 29 of 31 UK medical schools. Further details will be published later. TW thanked the education committee regional representatives and the co-opted members.

7.2 Shape of Training
DB introduce Tom Hughes (TH), SAC Chair to provide a short update on the Shape of Training. TH acknowledged and thanked past chairs, Anthony Pereira, Richard Butterworth and Sam Shribman for their work. TW provided an update on the shape of training and the curriculum structure. TH described the proposed structure for neurology training and he encouraged members to engage with other disciplines regarding this issue.

DB thanked TH for his presentation and invited questions from delegates.

8. Research
8.1 Fellowship
Martin Turner thanked the Research committee members and provided an update on the fellowship process. There have been 28 fellows to date, of which 17 are currently in the scheme. MT thanked the ABN office for the support in the fellowship process and Dafydd Thomas (Chair, Fundraising Committee) for his work on raising funds.

RaDAR scheme formally BNSU, has been limited to 8 studies which will run for 3 years, however, if there has been no recruitment then the study will be removed.

8.2 Introduction of fellows
Martin Turner requested the all ABN fellows to stand and the members applauded them.

9. Quality
9.1 Job plan
Chris Kipps (CK) thanked members of the Quality and Services committee who were involved in developing the job-planning document. CK noted that the document was updated from the previous 2014 version and is available to view on the ABN website.

9.2 Guidelines
CK stated that the quality committee have been involved in reviewing all ABN guidelines and publications. CK noted that all documents older than 5 years were archived. The new website will be efficient in keeping guidelines in check.

10. Services
10.1 Services committee project updates
Cath Mummery (CM) noted the projects that the services committee were currently undertaking. She stated that NeuroAtlas and online mapping tool, will be available to all members on the new website.

10.2 Variations in training
Variability in Trainee experience (attached) – published last week in Practical Neurology and was taking the GMC survey data and looking at the data to find the top four bottom and top performing trust. Then visiting these trusts to ask a series of questions.
10.3 Getting it Right First Time – Geraint Fuller
Geraint Fuller provided a short summary of the GIRFT project. All data has been collected and the team is now visiting all sites in England for the second time. The data is yet to be analysed.

11. AOB
11.1 Date of next Annual General Meeting: 14 May 2020, Bournemouth
### Membership: New, Changes and Deaths 2020

#### Affiliate

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<th>Dr</th>
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<td>Dr Oladotun Abidakun</td>
<td>Bristol Royal Infirmary</td>
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<td>Dr Salheen Alatash</td>
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<td>Dr Andrew Carberry</td>
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<td>Dr Abhijit Das</td>
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<td>Dr Sophie Frey</td>
<td>Oxford Centre for Enablement</td>
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<td>Dr Alexandra Gillingham</td>
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<td>Dr Hugh Jones</td>
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<td>Dr Olivera Martinovic</td>
<td>Princess Royal University Hospital</td>
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<td>Dr Andrew McHattie</td>
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<td>Dr Sarah Miller</td>
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<td>Dr Hamzah Mohammed</td>
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<td>Dr Kabir Nazeer</td>
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<td>Dr Annette Preest</td>
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<td>Dr Sk Mamun Ur Rashid</td>
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<td>Dr Mallika Sarker</td>
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<td>Dr Arif Shukralla</td>
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<td>Dr Solomon Ugoya</td>
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#### Associate

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<td>Dr Ali Al Samak</td>
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<td>Dr Umair Aziz</td>
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<td>Dr Aravindhan Baheerathan</td>
<td>Imperial College Healthcare Trust</td>
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<td>Dr Rubika Balendra</td>
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<td>Dr Guendalina Bonifacio</td>
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<td>Dr Cameron Brown</td>
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<td>Dr Giovanna Campagna</td>
<td>The Walton Centre</td>
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<td>Dr Ginette Crossingham</td>
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<td>Dr Christina Englezou</td>
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**Junior**

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<td>Huiyi Esther</td>
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<td>Muhammed</td>
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Dr Charles Nye North Bristol NHS Trust
Dr Hui Ching Ong NHNN
Dr Abidemi Otaiku Colchester Hospital
Dr Thomas Quinn Leeds General Infirmary
Dr Dominika Raciborska Cambridge
Dr Iman Saeed Milton Keynes University Hospital
Dr Danielle Sequeira Royal Marsden Hospital
Dr Thurkaa Shanmugalingam Romford
Dr Danielle Sherman Sheffield
Dr Babak Soleimani Edinburgh
Dr Prakhar Srivastava Northwick Park Hospital
Dr Soorya Sureshkumar Worceshershire Royal Hospital
Dr Sean Tan Addenbrooke’s Hospital
Dr Stephanie Taylor John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr Robyn Terry Rossendale
Dr Rachel Thomas John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr Mithila Vijay Singleton Hospital
Dr Kate Wannop Chelsea & Westminster Hospital

Overseas
Dr Charungthai Dejthevaporn Bangkok
Dr Muhammad Halabia Jeddah

Student
Mr Ahmad Ali Edinburgh Medical School
Mr Robin Borchert Bukala
Mr Bernard Carr
Mr Harry Clark Barts and The London
Mr George Davies
Miss Katherine Geoghegan Southampton Faculty of Medicine
Mr James Hazelwood
Mr Christopher Kui
Mr Haoxuan Li Queen Mary University London
Mr Koy Chong Ng Kee Kwong Edinburgh
Mr Marius Posa
Miss Abigail Rees
Miss Sarah Shanmuganathan University of Glasgow
Mr Ni Widyani
Mr Grant Zhong

Affiliate to Associate
Dr Daniyal Daud James Cooke Hospital

Associate to Affiliate
Dr Michelle Balaratnam Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Michael Devine NHNN
Dr Cosimo Maggiore Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
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<th>Dr</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Rutaba Eshita</td>
<td>Ann Varghese</td>
<td>Associate/Affiliate to Ordinary</td>
<td>Southampton General Hospital</td>
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<td>Dr Paul Gallagher</td>
<td>Dr Alexander Shah</td>
<td>Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Dr Natalie Birch</td>
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<td>Dr Vamsi Chinthapalli</td>
<td>Dr Karen Doherty</td>
<td>Reta Lila Weston Institute</td>
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<td>Dr Yasser Falah</td>
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<td>Dr Matthew Harris</td>
<td>Dr Brython Hywel</td>
<td>Wessex Neurological Centre</td>
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<td>Dr Dheeraj Kalladka</td>
<td>Dr Seema Kalra</td>
<td>Charing Cross Hospital</td>
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<td>Dr Pamela Sarkar</td>
<td>Dr Apeksha Shah</td>
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<td>Dr Michelle Simoni</td>
<td>Dr Hannah Steele</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Symmonds</td>
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<td>Dr Chisha Weerasinghe</td>
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<td>Dr Joseph Hutchinson</td>
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<td>Dr Deepti Marchment</td>
<td>Dr Kerala Adams-Carr</td>
<td>Junior to Associate</td>
<td>Royal Free London NHS Trust</td>
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<td>Dr Piriyanthan Ananthavarathan</td>
<td>Dr Faizan Aslam</td>
<td>Romford</td>
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<td>Dr Liam Carroll</td>
<td>Dr Jonathan Cleaver</td>
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<td>Dr Nikunj Davda</td>
<td>Dr Samia Elkommos</td>
<td>Queen Alexandra Hospital</td>
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<td>Dr Sacha Gandhi</td>
<td>Dr Simon Heller</td>
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<td>Dr Mark Maskery</td>
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<td>Dr Laura Midgley</td>
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<td>Dr James Mitchell</td>
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<td>Dr Mitsuko Nakajima</td>
<td>King's College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Pyae Phyo San</td>
<td>University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire</td>
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**Ordinary to Affiliate**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof David Foster</td>
<td>Sch.of Electric&amp;Electrical Engineering,</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
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**Ordinary to Overseas**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jane Alty</td>
<td>Leeds General Infirmary</td>
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<td>Dr Anu Jacob</td>
<td>The Walton Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr James Overell</td>
<td>F. Hoffmann La Roche, Basel</td>
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**Ordinary to Senior**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jeremy Brown</td>
<td>Addenbrooke's Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Penelope Eames</td>
<td>Leicester General Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Richard Peatfield</td>
<td>Charing Cross Hospital</td>
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**Student to Junior**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Claudia Zeicu</td>
<td>UCLH</td>
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**Retired**

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<tr>
<td>Dr Jeremy Dick</td>
<td>Hope Hospital</td>
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**Resigned**

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<tr>
<td>Dr Veena Aggrawal</td>
<td>Gloucestershire Royal Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Akrem Shueb</td>
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<td>Dr Vivien Li</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Suraj Parikh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Cameron Mann</td>
<td>Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow</td>
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**Deaths**

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<tr>
<td>Dr Senthilkumar Shanmugam</td>
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<td>Dr Alastair Young</td>
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<td>Dr Judith Hockaday</td>
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<td>Dr Roger Cull</td>
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REPORTS

Honorary Secretary

Jon Sussman

The ABN completed 138 consultations and meeting requests in 2019 (compared to 92 in 2018) which included NICE Scoping Consultations, Guidelines and Quality Standard reviews as well as Technology Appraisals, and providing opinions on documents from the RCP, DH and other bodies. Once again our members, and in particular the ABN Advisory Groups, rose to the challenges associated with these consultations, often with very short timelines, and delivered high quality feedback. The ABN is increasingly the first point of contact for a range of organisations wishing to improve their knowledge of neurological conditions, and has given us the opportunity to advocate successfully on behalf of our patients.

The COVID-19 resulted in a flurry of urgent consultations in collaboration with other specialist societies and the Royal College of Physicians, on the risk from the virus to neurology patients with a range of diagnoses as well as the risk that might arise from a variety of treatments. This was an example of the ABN at its best as members of the ABN Advisory Groups developed policy in preparation for the pandemic. Our guidance passed through 6 versions within a few weeks. We are now developing policy for the restoration of services. Services have changed beyond recognition in just a few weeks and the ABN is working to ensure that the best of these changes are locked in for the long-term benefit of our patients.

The Specialist Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to run independently of the council appointed Advisory Groups. Some SIGs now hold educational events outside the ABN meetings. Please contact the SIG Chairs directly if you are interested in joining one of these groups. We would like to involve as many ABN members as possible in one of the SIGs.

Working with a highly efficient office makes the life of the ABN Secretary so much easier and I would like to express my appreciation to Joanne, Fardousa, Faheemah in particular for their help over the past year.

Honorary Treasurer

Neil Robertson

In 2019, the ABN’s incoming resources were £998,513 (£879,858 unrestricted income, £117,724 to the restricted ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund and £931 to the Roger Bannister Fellowship fund). Total resources expended were £919,243 (£810,595 unrestricted, £108,648 from the ABN CTRF fund) giving a net surplus before revaluation of investment assets of £79,270. Contributory factors towards the growth in income included a successful annual meeting in a highly accessible location and ongoing rigorous control of income and expenditure. ABN investments grew in line with the UK market in 2019, increasing in value by £151,186. The ABN’s unrestricted reserves increased from £969,852 at the beginning of the year to £1,190,301 at the end.

In line with financial and legal advice, the ABN’s objective is to maintain a reserve of around 1-2 times its normal annual expenditure. This is considered a safe margin which would allow for what had previously been considered remote contingencies, such as the financial failure of an annual meeting. The COVID-19 pandemic, which emerged in early 2020, has brought such hypothetical risks much closer to home. At the time of writing the UK is in lockdown and the ABN 2020 annual meeting has been postponed from May until October. Although it is hoped that the October meeting will go ahead, this is by no means certain and work is progressing in parallel to develop a virtual programme if required. In addition to any potential loss related to the annual meeting, ABN reserves fell by 28%, in line with the UK stock market, between the end of 2019 and April 2020. At the end of 2019 the ABN had planned to transfer £200,000 to the restricted fellowship fund. However, due to the COVID-19 related financial uncertainty, it was agreed that this would not be appropriate. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund received £117,724 in 2019. This included contributions from the Stroke Association, the Dunhill Medical Trust and the Sobell Foundation, each funding 50% of a fellowship, plus funding from members, individual supporters, charitable and industry partners.
Meetings Committee

Chair: Jon Sussman (May 2017 to October 2019)
Richard Davenport (October 2019 to present)

Committee: David Burn, Tom Warner, Mary Reilly, David Nicholl (to October 2019), Neil Robertson, Cath Mummery, Martin Turner, Amy Ross-Russell, Chris Kipps, Joanne Lawrence, Dawn Moore, Keith Brews (Affinity Events).

2019 was another successful year for ABN meetings. The 2019 Annual Meeting was held at the EICC in Edinburgh on 21-23 May, with 756 delegates. 309 abstracts were submitted, contributing to excellent platform and poster sessions. Pamela Shaw delivered the Medallist lecture ‘Translational neuroscience to improve outcomes for motor neurone disease: the blessings and challenges of the journey’. The Gordon Holmes lecture was given by Charles Thornton from Rochester, New York, speaking on ‘Prospects for developing treatment for myotonic dystrophy’ and Robin Ferner gave the 2019 Practical Neurology lecture on ‘Harm from medicines’. The social calendar included a lively ceilidh at the Prestonfield House Gala dinner.

The May formal meeting was preceded by a training and development day for foundation year trainees, STs and those interested in a research career. A ‘Neurology update for Acute Physicians’ session was held in cooperation with the Society for Acute Medicine.

The inaugural ABN Acute Neurology Boot Camp was held on Monday 8 July 2019 at Queen Square attracting 71 delegates. The Neurology for Medical Students training session was held in The M Shed, Bristol, in association with Neurology and Neurosurgery Student Interest Group (NANSIG) on 23 October 2019 with 30 delegates.

The Autumn meeting was held on 17 October 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London and attracted 157 delegates. Simon Shorvon delivered the John Walton Lecture on ‘British neurosurgery before the NHS, its skirmishes with neurology and eventual emancipation’.

At the beginning of 2020, plans were well developed for the May and October ABN meetings. By March, our world had changed and ABN Council was obliged to postpone the Annual Meeting, scheduled for 13-15 May 2020 in Bournemouth, until 15-16 October. The event will replace the planned one day Autumn meeting and take place over 2 days rather than the original three; contingency plans are being evolved should this postponed date also prove impossible. To bridge the gap until October, the ABN has begun a series of Lockdown lectures, webinars based on the trainee day programme, to be followed by another first, a Virtual Acute Neurology Bootcamp in June.

Other casualties included the ABN joint session with the Société Française de Neurologie, due to take place in April. It is hoped to reschedule in 2021.

We are greatly looking forward to our joint meeting with the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience which, pandemics permitting, will take place in Belfast 19-21 May 2021.

Services Committee

Chair: Cath Mummery
Deputy Chair: John Woolmore
Administrator: Fardousa Musa


Council Officers: Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary), Amy Ross Russell (ABNT Chair), Lucy Kinton (Ex Officio) Coopted members: Georgina Carr (Neurological Alliance)
Vacant Regional Posts: Trent, NE Thames, Mersey. If interested in becoming a SC representative, please contact the office or Cath Mummery to discuss.

External groups SC links to
RCP Joint Clinical Neuroscience Committee (SC Chair)
RCP Expert Advisory Group on Commissioning
RCP workforce and specialties board – currently replaced by RCP COVID Specialties board
National Neurological Advisory Group
Neurological Alliance
Neurosciences Clinical Reference Group
NHSE Transformation Programme

The past year has seen ongoing high levels of activity from the SC. We have worked closely with the Royal College of Physicians, London, the ABN Quality Committee and national bodies such as the Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group and National Neurological Advisory Group throughout the year, intensifying in recent weeks as we developed a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Royal College set up a fortnightly cross specialty COVID meeting which SC chair sits on, and enables neurology to respond to and try to influence multiple NHSE/PHE guidelines at a rapid rate. The SC and QC chairs published a report on the initial neurology response to COVID in Clinical Medicine, including examples of service change reported by committee members.

Joint working with the Quality Committee has increased, with a combined approach to understanding service reconfiguration and quality impact of the rapid restructuring that has occurred due to the pandemic. This work is ongoing and will provide data on the implemented changes. It will also link with work done by the Neurological Alliance on patient experience and with external bodies such as the CRG to develop a comprehensive perspective on our current neurology service and how to drive it strategically towards the future.

We are committed to understanding and improving neurology service in the country, supporting our members in enabling provision of high quality services. Our emphasis in recent weeks has been to support members and the wider neurological community in developing timely and functional guidance in response to the ever changing demands of the current health crisis. Please contact your regional representative or the ABN office if there is an issue causing you concern in your work, any examples of excellence you wish to share, or if you have any suggestions regarding suitable topics for review in relation to services that impact patient care.

Over the last 12 months, the Services Committee chair and membership have been actively involved in the following:

Acute neurology
Following presentation of the acute neurology papers on variation in training and the geographical variation in services paper at the ABN 2019 Annual meeting, work is underway to combine this research with the ABN Workforce Survey.

Neuroatlas
The next phase of the ABN website development involves plans to build a visual representation of neurology services, developed in collaboration with GIRFT, as an interactive, searchable element of the site.

Outpatient referral triaging
The ABN review and subsequent work on a document providing guidance to help members develop triaging services that are effective and safe became, if possible, even more relevant at the start of the COVID-19 crisis. This is posted on the web and is an active document, accumulating evidence from the UK and worldwide on pro-active referral management. Services committee members also contributed to a number of guidance documents, including a Template for Temporary Restructuring of Neurology Services during COVID-19 crisis.

Workforce Issues
There remain parts of the country with persistent vacancies in their areas. The SC is working with GIRFT and regional representatives to develop a clearer picture of where there are hard-pressed areas and what might improve matters.
Invited Service Review
The ABN SC has continued its work with the RCP on a number of ISRs providing expert input into clinical service review. The methodology developed by the RCP and ABN is being assessed as a tool for more general use in services by the RCP/ABN jointly.

RCP Physicians for Africa event
ABN Services Committee chair and President Elect met with East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (ECSACoP) at RCP London to discuss how we might support and help build their training platform.

Neurosurgical links
Following the successful joint ABN/SBNS conference in September 2018, work has progressed in determining priority areas for neurosurgery and neurology cooperation; headache, spinal and vascular have been identified as key areas as well as oncology which already links up. The first area, headache, links with pathways being developed by the Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group, into which we the SC feed.

Getting It Right First Time
The GIRFT methodology document was published online in September 2019, co-authored by the SC chair on behalf of the ABN. GIRFT trust provider visits are ongoing.

Neurological Alliance co-working
The NA works closely with the ABN, in particular the SC to triangulate patient and neurologist experience. The 2019 Patient Experience Survey report ‘Neuro-Patience’ was published in July, presenting an up to date picture of the experiences of people living with a neurological condition in England. The current survey of patient experience in the pandemic is being aligned to the SC/QC survey and work to provide a rounded picture of what has worked in terms of innovation, what has been detrimental and areas of vulnerability.

Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group/ National Neurological Advisory Group
The ABN is represented on these groups by Cath Mummery (deputy chair CRG), Chris Kipps and David Burn. The SC feeds into various projects led by the CRG including:

a) NHSE Neuroscience Transformation Programme: which aims to develop an efficient, high quality service across neurology and neurosurgery. Initially three areas were prioritised to determine ‘what good looks like’ across the whole pathway - MS, epilepsy and neuroinflammation. This has now extended further to include PD, MND and neuromuscular disorders, headache, functional neurological disorders. These pathways need to map core elements across them not multiply into multiple different pathways duplicating. There have been two national workshops with good representation from the ABN where a range of stakeholders from commissioners both specialist and local, medics including neurology, radiology, managers and other groups helped further shape the pathways. The optimal pathways are now being revisited in light of the pandemic as clinical pathways will require different management for the foreseeable future. The importance of appropriate tariffing for remote working is being assessed.

b) Outcomes away day: planned for June 2020 this has now been rescheduled for April 2021. It aims to bring together the pathway / Advisory Group leads from the pathways described above, and areas of neuroscience where outcomes are well measured. Led by NNAG, the objective is to bring together different stakeholder and professional groups to guide development of work needed for outcomes for people with neurological conditions.

c) National Workshops for multidisciplinary areas: The most recent was on mental health, run with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and highlighted the lack of mental health resource across multiple areas and the need for better pathways in multiple chronic diseases including dementia. Alzheimer’s Research UK is developing with Alastair Burns a further workshop specific to dementia.

d) Neurotech Summit: a 2 day summit on technological advances in neurology had been planned by members of NNAG with ABN and N Alliance. The objective was to look at use of technology/AI in neurology from a population level, down to the individual patient, and explore themes including data, virtual clinics, artificial intelligence, population health, digital tools. The chair SC sits on the summit steering group and inputs into programme development. The event has now been postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled.

e) Coding: Hedley Emsley is leading a working group using a number of pilot sites across the UK. Sites have been agreed but obtaining resource has been an issue so this has been paused.
Quality Committee

Chair: Chris Kipps
Administrator: Fardousa Musa
Council Officers: Lucy Kinton (Council Rep; 2017-21), David Burn (ABN President), Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary; 2019-22), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee; 2017-20)
Coopted members: NA

The Quality Committee is responsible for all matters relating to quality, quality improvement, innovation, audit and revalidation. The Terms of Reference for the Committee are available on the ABN website

Guidelines and resources project:
Guidelines policy: it has been agreed that all ABN guidelines must be reviewed, replaced or withdrawn after 5 years (review by Quality Committee in first instance after 4 years). This was completed for all guidelines during 2019.

Resources project: committee reviewed guidelines/articles from Practical Neurology, identifying 57 for inclusion on ABN website, with BMJ approval. After further selection, relevant articles will be summarised and linked to the Practical Neurology site. It is intended that this will create a useful and practical resource for clinicians.

Burnout Survey: During Q3 and Q4 2019, the entire working membership of the ABN was surveyed (neurologists and trainees) about their work practice, using the Maslach Burnout Inventory and supplementary questions. A total of 563 responses were obtained (45%). Results have been analysed and an abstract was accepted for the ABN Annual Meeting. The findings will be communicated in due course if not possible to present at the modified Annual Meeting.

Safety Survey: Pre COVID plans in development to benchmark services and individual practice. This will be modified and form part of a quality and safety survey to be distributed in the coming weeks. The intention is to identify whether there is a significant change in these parameters across the UK as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NeuroTech: Working with Services committee and patient charities to develop a NeuroTech summit, now on hold due to COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 work: Quality committee continues to contribute to the development of guidance for neurologists both in delivery of neurology service during the initial phases of COVID-19 lockdown and in the plans for restoration of services. The Committee is working closely with the Services committee to link quality and safety to service provision.

Education Committee

Chair: Matt Jones
Administrator: Faheemah Patel
Regional Representatives: Robert Powell, Daniel Blackburn, Matt Jones, Mirdhu Wickemaratchi, Josef Alawneh, Paul Jarman (deputy chair), Edward Newman, Sybil Stacpoole plus Emma Tallentyre (co-opted member and LTFTW representative)
Council: Lina Nashef (Council member), Cath Mummery (Chair of Services Committee)
Other: Adam Zeman (co-opted to work on neuropsychiatry-neurology training), Tom Hughes (SAC), Richard Rees (ABNT) and Amy Ross Russell (ABNT).

1) General:

Committee changes: Robert Powell elected unopposed for second term (Wales)
Ed Newman elected unopposed for second term (Scotland)

Other regional rep election activity paused due to COVID-19 crisis
2) Shape Of Training:
Work on developing the curriculum is currently underway within the Neurology SAC. Each of the 8 CiPs have been drafted and reviewed at SAC meeting in Feb. Next draft currently being put together by SAC Chair and then will be sent out for wider review and consultation

FAQs for trainees and trainers regarding ShoT were posted on ABN website March 2020.

Interviews for Aug 2020 ST3 posts were cancelled at short notice due to COVID-19 crisis. At very short notice appointments were made based on a modification of the scores used in shortlisting. This had the unintended consequence of reducing the impact research achievements made to overall score. The ABN expressed its dissatisfaction with this process to the relevant bodies and we have received assurances that the same thing will not happen in any future rounds.

3) Australasian Fellowship:
This year four good quality applicants were interviewed in February 2020. Sarah Healy (Mersey deanery trainee) was appointed and has chosen the post at the Alfred in Melbourne.

4) Undergraduate Prize
This year there were twelve clinical case entries, six audit entries and 17 research entries received – an increase in the number of audit entries vs last year. Winners selected by EC reps co-marking entries.

Winners:
- Audit: Kajal Patel
- Clinical: Georgia Wright
- Research: Georgia Wright

5) Undergraduate teaching day
The ABN organised a teaching day for students in Oct 2019, hosted in Bristol, and attended by 30 delegates. The programme consisted of talks from local speakers, neurology careers advice and selected platform presentations from the students.

6) ABN Self Assessment
The ABN/eBrain formative assessment has been successfully running over the last few years thanks to Emma Tallantyre and the team at Cardiff. Clinton Mitchell at Cardiff has succeeded Emma in the role. The 2020 self-assessment questions are live via eBrain until 10 June.

7) Other
The COVID-19 crisis will have a significant, but as yet unquantifiable, impact on all aspects of medical education and training. Examples include:

a) Undergraduates – all clinical placements suspended in March due to COVID-19 so some undergrads will have inevitably missed neurology teaching/experience. Each medical school will have to mitigate this somehow and plan for the next academic year with considerable uncertainty over what will be possible in clinical placements.

b) Neurology STs – due to the rapidly changing situation STs have been asked to cover different duties and access to much scheduled teaching has been restricted – Most courses/conferences cancelled, Calman training days put on hold, ARCPs streamlined, SCE cancelled/postponed. Usual job plans have been altered to prioritise frontline acute care. At the time of writing different UK regions are at different stages of returning neurology STs to normal duties. For the immediate future ‘normal’ duties are quite different with a greater emphasis on telephone / video consultations which brings with it new education and training challenges. In response to this the ABN Education committee in cooperation with the ABN Trainees committee has begun a series of ‘Lockdown Lectures’ providing weekly online webinars based on topical subjects and the planned training day from the postponed ABN annual meeting. A virtual Acute Neurology Boot Camp is planned for summer 2020.

c) Consultants – CPD opportunities restricted due to mass cancelling / postponement of courses and conferences as well as restricted access to study leave for the immediate future.
8) ABN strategy review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To champion outstanding training and education in neurology</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop Undergraduate education</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Develop Postgraduate training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve neurology standards in Internal Medical (IM) Specialities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide leadership for neurology training policy development and delivery locally and nationally, as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide input to development of neurology training internationally as appropriate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Committee

Chair: Martin Turner
Deputy: Oliver Bandmann

Regional members:
Oliver Bandmann (North East & Yorkshire & the Humber 2016-2020)
Camille Carroll (Wales & South West 2016-2020)
Cris Constantinescu (East of England & East Midlands 2016-2020)
Colette Donaghy (Scotland & Northern Ireland 2016-2020)
Alexandra Sinclair (North West & West Midlands 2018-2021)
Simon Rinaldi (South Central & South East Coast 2016-2020)
Jonathan Schott (London 2016-2020)

Additional members:
Neil Robertson (Hon. Treasurer)
Sofia Eriksson (Council Rep)
Peter Goadsby (NIHR CRN)
Gargi Banerjee (ABNT)

ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship scheme
The 19/20 scheme received 14 high-quality applications from London, Cambridge, Belfast, Bristol, Lancaster, Manchester, Nottingham, Salford and Sheffield.

Three new ABN Fellows were appointed, and we are grateful for the continued support of The Guarantors of Brain and Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust:

- Zanna Voysey, Cambridge Guarantors of Brain: The relevance of sleep abnormalities in Huntington's Disease to disease onset, clinical expression and progression
- Samia Elkommos, King's College Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust: Investigating physiological changes, premonitory symptoms and seizure occurrence in Epilepsy and Dissociative seizures
- James Mitchell, Liverpool Guarantors of Brain: Development of a Core Outcome Set for use in randomised controlled trials in adult epilepsy

Encouraging Academic Neurologist engagement with ABN
The ABN's first “Research Opportunities Forum” took place during the Edinburgh annual meeting in May 2019. Eight Principal Investigators took the opportunity to introduce their consultant and trainee colleagues to the benefits of research in their centre or sub-speciality and the event provided a positive addition to the meeting. Plans to run a similar session in 2020 have had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis but will feature in 2021 and beyond.
**Rare Diseases Ascertainment & Recruitment (RaDAR)**

Currently 7 studies are listed, most recently a collaborative COVID-19 study involving 5 different centres. There is a 3-year limit on all studies (reviewed after one year with case for continuing required), and a total limit of 8 at any one time.

The studies listed at the time of writing are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Primary investigator</th>
<th>Date started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspected neurological complications in confirmed case (or cases) of COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>Dr Ian Galea, Dr Rachel Kneen, Dr Benedict Michael, Prof Sarah Pett, Dr Rhys Thomas</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticobasal degeneration/syndrome (CBD/S)</td>
<td>Prof Huw Morris</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with seizures and antibodies to LG11 or CASPR2</td>
<td>Dr Sarosh Irani</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary angiitis of the central nervous system</td>
<td>Dr Desmond Kidd</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyneuropathy, Organomegaly, Endocrinopathy, Monoglonal gammopathy, Skin disease</td>
<td>Dr Mike Lunn &amp; Dr Stephen Keddie</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spino cerebellar Ataxia, Familial Late-Onset Ataxia and Familial Episodic Ataxia</td>
<td>Dr Emer O’Connor &amp; Prof Henry Houlden</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed diagnosis of Wilson’s disease</td>
<td>Prof Tom Warner</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABN strategy review**

3. To promote world class research in clinical neurosciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improving internal ABN structures to reflect strategic objectives</th>
<th>Revision of Fellowship application forms and eligibility criteria; More active fundraising efforts with a growing number of Fellowship scheme funders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing engagement with members’ research interests</td>
<td>Research Opportunities forum at main meeting for research-focused neurologists to pitch for fellows and wider showcase of regional activity for ABN members; Diverse interests and increased engagement of RC regional members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting early career researchers</td>
<td>Close involvement with ABNT and JRCPMTB to support Academic Career pathways; Registered as a charity with NIHR to access specific CRN support for ABN CRTFs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing input to research developments internationally as appropriate</td>
<td>Active engagement with EAN, and inviting leading international speakers to ABN meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Regular RC reports to Exec and Council and liaison with RC members; Increased involvement of RC members in main meeting abstract scoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Association of British Neurologists Trainees Committee

Chair: Amy Ross Russell
Committee members: Amy Ross Russell (Chair), Angeliki Zarkali (Secretary), Hena Ahmad (Treasurer), Gargi Banerjee (Research Rep), Richard Rees (Training and Education Rep), Mike Kemp (Liaison Rep), Jason Appleton (BASP Rep), Helen Grote (Media).

Regional representatives: Ed Needham (East of England), Guru Kumar (Kent, Surrey and Sussex), Stephen Keddie (East London), Rachel Brown (North London), Rhian Raftopoulos (South London), Camilla Clarke (Southwest London), Aravindhan Baheerathan (West London), David Lewis Smith (North East), Emily Pegg (North West), Martin Harley (Northern Ireland), Diane Swallow (West Scotland), Peter Fernandes (East Scotland), Oliver Leach (South West), Adam Handel (Thames Valley), Marc Edwards (Wales), Tom Cox (Wessex), Will Scotton (West Midlands), Shristi Gupta (East Midlands), Matthew Tanti (Yorkshire and Humber)

Elections
Amy Ross Russell was elected chair. Richard Rees was elected as training and education rep, which left research rep unfilled. Gargi Banerjee was appointed to research rep. Mike Kemp was appointed to liaison rep. Helen Grote was nominated and appointed to media rep without election as the post had been advertised twice without nominations.
Regional representation has increased, with representation now present in all areas.

Neurology recruitment
Medical specialty recruitment was managed remotely in 2020 after interviews were cancelled due to COVID-19. ARR has been in touch with affected trainees where identified. The ABN has expressed concerns about the limitations of the emergency process on, in particular, research trainees and has received reassurance that the process will be amended for subsequent years.

SAC/Curriculum/Shape of Training
The ABNT (ARR and RNR) has reviewed all 8 Competencies in Practice in the first round of curriculum writing. The SAC has subsequently collectively reviewed all and they have been redrafted with suggestions from SAC and returned to Tom Hughes, Chair SAC.
There has been encouraging progress re transition with protection of current trainees, and those delayed in training after 2020 start. ABNT is monitoring potentially vulnerable groups. A FAQ document has been prepared for the ABN website and this will be updated/amended as new information comes in.

Academic training pathways
The ABNT contributed to discussions, via Tom Warner, about its concerns regarding the impact of Shape of Training on research and the need to protect academic training pathways.
There has been an assurance that Out of Programme Research (OOPR) prior to 2022 will not require trainees to transition to the new curriculum, although it seems likely that those who would have stepped out prior to SpR training will be more likely to try and get a National Training Number now.
New rota designs with Internal Medicine Training may mean it will be harder to accommodate OOPR, especially in smaller deaneries, and very difficult to guarantee that all those with proposal and funding go. Gargi Banerjee (ABNT research representative) is now on NIHR Neurological Disorders Specialty Group as early careers representative and will working with NIHR, and committee to identify and develop sustainable ways to promote trainee involvement in research.

Regional Variation project- next steps
Work on the Regional Variations in Training project continued and responses from trainees across all deaneries collated. The document was presented to the SAC and responses sought from TPDs to ensure full coverage of data.
The work had been accepted as a poster for Bournemouth 2020, but the presentation of this is now delayed.
Appendix

ABN Advisory Groups

**Acute Neurology**
Chair: Holger Allroggen
Members: Adrian Wills, Anish Bahra, Arani Nitkunan, Barry Seemungal, Khalid Ali, Martin Sadler, Max Damian, Tatiana Mihalova, Tom Hayton

**Cognitive Disorders**
Chair: Jeremy Brown
Deputy Chair: Jonathan Schott
Members: Andrea Cavanna, Elizabeth Coulthard, Kirsty Harkness, Jeremy Isaacs, Matthew Jones, Paresh Malhotra, Rhys Davies

**Epilepsy**
Chair: Sanjay Sisodiya
Deputy Chair: Rajiv Mohanraj
Members: Heather Angus-Leppan, Sofia Eriksson, Tony Marson, Nicholas Moran, Rob Powell, Christopher Price, Graham Warner, Stephen Wroe

**Headache and Pain**
Chair: Nicola Giffin
Deputy Chair: Alex Sinclair
Members: Alok Tyagi, Anita Krishnan, Brendan Davies, David Bennett, Fayyaz Ahmed, Jane Anderson, Manjit Matharu, Nick Silver

**Movement Disorders**
Chair: Oliver Bandmann
Deputy Chair: Tom Foltynie
Members: Donald Grosset, Anette Schrag, Kailash Bhatia, Mark Edwards, Michael Samuel, Paola Piccini, Ralph Gregory, Tabish Salfee

**Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroinflammation**
Chair: Alasdair Coles
Deputy Chair: Waqar Rashid
Members: Anu Jacob, Brendan Mclean, Bruno Gran, Helen Ford, Olga Ciccarelli, Robert Brenner, Siân Price, Siobhan Leary, Victoria Williams, Katy Murray

**Neurogenetics**
Chair: Henry Houlden
Members: Ammar Al-Chalabi, Edward Wild, Esther Sammler, Hugh Markus, Huw Morris, Nick Gutowski, Oliver Bandmann, Richard Orrell

**Neuro-oncology**
Chair: Fiona McKeivitt
Members: Allyson Parry, Emanuela Molinari, Jeremy Rees, Katia Cikurel, Robin Grant

**Neuromuscular Disorders**
Chair: Michael Lunn
Members: Alexander Rossor, Chris McDermott, Jacqueline Palace, James Holt, James Stevens, Karen Morrison, Michael Hanna, Rita Horvath, Robert Hadden, Wojtek Rakowicz

**Neurorehabilitation**
Chair: Andrea Lowman
Deputy Chair: Stephen Sturman
Members: Rachel Farrell, Ellen Merete Hagen, Robin Grant, Siobhan Leary, Clarence Liu, Engelbert Puschmann, Nicholas Ward.
**Stroke**  
Chair: David Werring  
Deputy Chair: Hedley Emsley  
Members: Alakendu Sekhar, Thomas Hughes, Nicholas Ward, Anthony Kenton, Gavin Young, Hugh Markus, Martin Punter, Keith Muir

**Traumatic Brain Injury**  
Chair: Paul Cooper  
Deputy Chair: David Sharp  
Members: Clarence Liu, Colette Griffin, Engelbert Puschmann, Jonathan O’Riordan, Rhys Davies, Richard Greenwood, Richard Sylvester, Sivaraman Nair, Tom Hayton.
## Members of ABN Council 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Prof David Burn</td>
<td>2019-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Prof Tom Warner</td>
<td>2019-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Secretary</td>
<td>Dr Jon Sussman</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Prof Neil Robertson</td>
<td>2019-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Services Committee</td>
<td>Dr Cath Mummery</td>
<td>2017-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Quality Committee</td>
<td>Dr Chris Kipps</td>
<td>2017-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Education Committee</td>
<td>Dr Matt Jones</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Research Committee</td>
<td>Prof Martin Turner</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr Lina Nashef</td>
<td>2017-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr Lucy Kinton</td>
<td>2017-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr Arani Nitkunan</td>
<td>2018-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr Biba Stanton</td>
<td>2019-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr Sofia Erikssan</td>
<td>2019-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Councillor</td>
<td>Dr David Nicholl</td>
<td>2020-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Association of British Neurologists Trainees</td>
<td>Dr Amy Ross Russell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-opted, Chair SAC Neurology</td>
<td>Dr Tom Hughes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Trustee</td>
<td>Lord Stanley Fink</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Trustee</td>
<td>Ms Elisabeth Baltay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ABN Office – Members of Staff

### Joanne Lawrence
Executive Director
Full-time
Appointed January 2013

### Dawn Moore
Meetings and Membership
Part time
Appointed April 2006

### Fardousa Musa
Committees Coordinator
Part time
Appointed February 2016

### Faheemah Patel
Committees Coordinator
Full-Time
Appointed May 2018

### Jessica Holdgate
Finance Administrator
Part-time
Appointed April 2018

### Maya McCourt
Project Co-Ordinator
Part-time
Appointed December 2018
Council minutes 2019

Meeting of Council, Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 0930hrs
ABN Offices, Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, WC1N 3JZ

Present: Mary M Reilly (President), David Burn (President Elect), David Nicholl (Honorary Secretary), Jon Sussman (Honorary Assistant Secretary), Trevor Pickersgill (Hon Treasurer), Neil Robertson (Treasurer Elect), Tom Warner (Chair, Education Committee), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Chris Kipps (Chair, Quality Committee), Sam Shribman (Chair, ABNT), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Elected Council), Jacqueline Palace (Elected Council), Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council), Joanne Lawrence (Exec Director), Elisabeth Baltay (Lay Trustee), Donal O’Donoghue (RCP, Registrar)

Phone: Tom Hughes (SAC), Geraint Fuller (GIRFT), Adrian Williams (CRG/NNAG), Sarah Vibert (Neurological Alliance), Dafydd Thomas (Fundraising Chair), Sanjay Sisodiya (Chair, Epilepsy Advisory Group)

1. Introduction
Mary Reilly (MMR) welcomed the council and introduced Donal O’Donoghue, RCP Registrar. MMR thanked council for input to and support of the joint ABN/SBNS meeting.

1.1 Apologies for absence: Lucy Kinton (Elected Council), Stanley Fink (Lay Trustee), Tom Robinson (BASP, President)
1.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting 18.09.18 – It was noted that there was an error on item 2.7 – additional letter mid-sentence.

2. President update
2.1 MMR noted forthcoming elections (President 2021-23, 2x council 2012-23) would be managed electronically, via Electoral Reform Society, for the first time.

ACTION: Office to ensure that future election emails mention ABN in subject to minimise loss in spam filters.

2.2 Epilepsy: MMR noted high level of activity in last month’s re epilepsy, cannabis and valproate. MMR acknowledged huge contribution from Sanjay Sisodiya and support from council.

2.3 Members’ Survey: MMR noted that survey has received 596 responses so far.

ACTION: All Council members to email Members’ survey link to around their contacts.

2.4 Neurological societies:
2.4.1 SBNS: Joint meeting in September was successful. MMR subsequently met SBNS President, Neil Kitchen, and agreed three strategic aims:
1) Joint meeting 2023

ACTION: ABN and SBNS office to agree preliminary plan
2) ABN/SBNS to set up a neuro-oncology joint working group with 3-4 representatives from each society. ABN neuro-oncology advisory group will lead for ABN.
3) Patient pathways: joint working group to produce a guidance document for patient pathways to neuroscience centres. Cath Mummery (service committee) Chris Kipps (quality committee) to lead from ABN. ABN executive team approved the above objectives. Once NK obtains SBNS approval, we will be taking this forward.

2.4.2 Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health: The British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA) expressed concern that the Shape of Training implementation might adversely affect Paediatric Neurology as a specialty. ABN is sharing learning with the BPNA.

2.4.3 BPNA: ABN and BPNA presidents wrote to Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, following Sunday Times article re impact of Brexit on drug availability, offering support in developing necessary protocols. DoH responded.

2.4.4 Neuropsychiatry: ABN has collaborated with the Royal College of Psychiatrists in a working group lead by Martin Rossor, including MMR and TW to develop a joint document re psychiatry and neurology.

2.4.5 RCP: MMR noted good relationship with the RCP of London, Glasgow and Edinburgh.
2.4.6 **Other:** ABN working with RCPCH, RCGP and RCPsych on joint document re the implementation of MHRA guidance on valproate. Sanjay Sisodiya is leading, and draft document will be circulated for council approval before sign off.

2.4.7 MMR confirmed that the ABN has agreed a joint meeting with the Irish Neurological Association in Belfast in 2021. MMR noted that Raeburn Forbes, Services committee member and regional representative for Northern Ireland will continue in his role.

2.4.8 The Department of Health and Health Education England is liaising with the ABN for help with neurological issues.

2.5 **Research and ABN:** MMR emphasised importance of clinical academics involvement in the ABN and announced a Research Opportunity Forum (ROF) to be held at the Annual meeting in Edinburgh. The ROF will be a great way for consultant and trainee neurologists to become involved research including clinical trials.

2.6 **Shape of Training:**

Tom Hughes noted that the ABN was assigned to Group 1, dual training in medicine and neurology. The SAC/ABN then pitched for 5 years of training: 4 neurology and 1 internal medicine. We now learn there are questions regarding funding. The JRCPTB has been asked to justify why some specialities eg neurology and palliative medicine, are being put into Group 1 (meeting scheduled 29th January). TH has written to Mike Jones, JRCPTB medical director. Mike Jones has been asked to justify these decisions to the curriculum oversight group, a conglomeration including the GMC and Health Education England.

MMR noted that TH has consulted SAC members from around the country. The ABN membership did not support doing internal medicine and agreed that 4 years of neurology is needed. TH working with the SAC to develop a curriculum including internal medicine.

DoD suggested TH contact Gerrard Philips, Medical Director, Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK.

**ACTION:** Council members to email TH with written feedback regarding JRCPTB letter.

3. **Education Committee (Tom Warner)**

3.1 **General update:**

TW thanked the Education committee for its support and provided an overview of its work (appendix 1).

3.2 **Shape of training**

See above.

3.3 **Medical School Survey**

TW reported that survey-assessing provision of clinical neurological training received responses from 29 of 31 schools. (appendix 2).

**Action:** Education committee to review 2015 undergraduate curriculum document and recommendations and come up with a simple guide.

**Action:** TW to liaise with Neil Kitchen re neurosurgery training personnel.

3.4 **Australasian fellowship:** One application received and applicant invited for interview.

3.5 **Undergraduate prize:** 37 applications received.

3.6 **ABN self-assessment:** TW thanked Emma Tallantyre whose involvement has contributed to success of this project via the EAN website.

4. **Research Committee (Martin Turner)**

4.1 **General update**

Martin Turner (MT) provided an update of the Research Committee (appendix 3).

4.2 **Fellowship scheme 2019:**

MT confirmed that Ataxia Telangiectasia will fund 50% of an ABN fellowship. 3 ataxia applications received but need to score in top 3 at interview to received fellowship. MT noted that peer reviews will
not be shared with the interview panel until after the interview to minimise risk of bias. 2019 applications from 12 different centres.

**ACTION:** MT to review terms and conditions for 2020 fellowships for council approval.

### 4.3 RaDAR

It was agreed that there should be no more than 8 current studies. 3-year review for each study to be applied. Studies, which recruit no cases in 12 months, will be ceased.

### 5. Services Committee (Cath Mummery)

#### 5.1 General update

CM provided an update of services committee members and the last committee meeting (see appendix 4). Stefan Hinze will be demitting, replaced by Enrico Flossman. Gillian Stewart replaces Francesca Crawley as LTFT rep. CM working to fill a few vacancies within the committee. CM noted proposal to have meetings every 4 months rather than every 6 months.

#### 5.2 Mapping project (appendix 4) Aim

Is to work with new website (Project Synapse) and maintain maps via the SC committee.

#### 5.3 Acute Neurology

CM reported on ABNT Acute Neurology projects, building upon data from the 2017 study. SSH to update on trainees variation experience around the country, 2 other projects (Peter Fernandez, geographic variation in neurology, and Salwa Kamourieh & Jonathan Best, Acute Neurology provision). All hope to report in Edinburgh.

Vacancy mapping: John Woolmore is liaising with GIRFT.

#### 5.4 Referrals

CM requested input from council re referral management document (including in appendix 4) produced by Stefan Hinze with Joanne Lovett, Nick Silver and Jon Sussman working as a sub group. Stefan has obtained regional input and made a number of recommendations with the working group in the draft document.

**ACTION:** SH to produce final document with recommendations to be placed on ABN website once approved.

**ACTION:** Council to provide feedback to CM.

#### 5.5 Getting it right first time programme (GIRFT, Geraint Fuller)

Geraint Fuller noted increasing understanding of the wide range of data available. GIRFT census, followed by site visits continues. Findings vary hugely across regions.

**ACTION:** GF to be given time to speak at AGM/Business session.

#### 5.6 CRG/NNAG (Adrian Williams)

AW noted high level of interest in service review.

Telephone meeting scheduled 17 January 2019 to progress work in links between Neurology and mental Health.

MMR queried proposed changes in CRG to require all members and chairs to reapply. Also proposal for Pain to be added to Neurology CRG. MMR expressed concern that Neurology might get submerged in proposed expanded Neuroscience and Pain CRG. AW agreed.

**ACTION:** ABN to respond to the CRG consultation.

#### 5.7 Neurological Alliance (Sarah Vibert)

SV noted that the NA is working on three main areas:

1) Patient experience survey – over 4000 responses so far. Full rollout in clinics begins w/c 21 January 2019 with results end of March. Aiming for 10,000.

2) Brief analysis of the NHSE long-term plan which came out the previous week. Challenges in regional implementation. NA limited in what can do as small organisation.

3) NeuroNumbers update planned of national data on neurology. Targeted publication date during Brain Awareness Week in March.
6. Quality Committee (Chris Kipps)

6.1 General update

CK provided an update of the quality committee’s 3 current projects. (see appendix 5)
ABN guidelines: reviewing all current guidelines. ABN policy is that all guidelines should be reviewed at 5 years and decision made to retain, update or archive. New website should include alert facility for when review due.

2) Safety survey: held back due to members’ survey. Proposal is to send first to advisory groups. Generic template that could be federated across all of the neuroscience centres to look at national picture on audits.

3) Job planning document: joint study with services committee to review the Job planning document (2014). Initial impression is that it mainly remains relevant to today, minimal change required but scope to updated and strengthen key statements.

**ACTION:** CK to provide further update at February council telecon.

7. ABN Trainees (Sam Shribman)

7.1 General update

Sam Shribman thanked council for support of the ABN Trainee committee (see appendix 6). Main theme of ABNT meetings remains Shape of Training. SSh is working with Tom Hughes on an approved courses list.

**Acute Neurology Boot camp:** SSh is leading this project to develop a course for new neurology trainees and for those returning to training after break for research, parental leave or other reasons. ABNT members currently being surveyed to determine optimum content and potential speakers for the course.

**Mentoring Scheme:** Sian Alexander has been working on the mentoring project. Participant numbers have doubled. We now have 30 junior doctors paired with trainee and consultant mentors.

**IT Project:** Amy Ross-Russell is representing ABNT on the ABN IT Project team.

7.2 Regional variations in training

ABNT subgroup investigated variation in neurology training across the UK, with support from members of the ABN Council (CM, TW) and SAC (TH and Anthony Pereira). SSh, AZ and SA visited 4 top and 4 bottom performing trusts (a/c to GMC 2018 survey) and conducted semi-structured interviews with trainees and trainers. Successful approaches for delivering training in neurology at a local level have been identified. Results and plans for dissemination of findings was discussed. SSh, AZ, and SA wish to express their thanks to the ABN for supporting travel costs. DoD expressed interest in the wider application of the project’s findings for other specialties.

**ACTION:** To produce a Practical Neurology publication in the next few months.

8. Meetings committee (Jon Sussman)

8.1 General update

JS provided brief update of meetings committee form previous day. Joint SBNS meeting in September 2019 was very successful.

8.2 Edinburgh 2019 22-23 May

The pre-meeting/training day will also include an acute physicians section. The programme is near complete with only the CPC left to finalise. Invited speakers include Charles Thornton, Pam Shaw and Robin Ferner. The conference app will include feedback forms as usual. JS noted that they may be a walk and tour and Colin Mumford has suggested a cycle trip. ABN’s management of the Assisted Dying debate was discussed. Following the “modern dilemmas” session in Edinburgh, members will be contacted to gauge views on whether ABN should follow findings of RCP census or generate their own survey to assess member perceptions.

**ACTION:** David Burn to send title of presidential lecture.
8.3 London 2019 17 October
Draft programme has been approved. The 2019 Lord John Walton lecturer will be Simon Shorvon.

8.4 Bournemouth 2020 12-15 May
Confirmed for 2020.

8.5 Belfast 2021
Confirmed for 2021.

8.6 Undergraduate Day
Options discussed for the stand alone undergraduate medical student day scheduled for autumn 2019. Proposed locations included Newcastle and Bristol.

9. Honorary Secretary
9.1 General update
9.2 Advisory Groups
DN provided an update of the recent meeting with Advisory group chairs (see appendix 7). He noted that the chairs have been working hard to complete consultations and lead their teams.
MMR described the role of advisory groups to Donal. DN suggested we also gain a closer relationship with the SBNs advisory group to help with Neuro-oncology consultations.

ACTION: DN to let MMR know which advisory groups require BPNA input then MMR will email Finbar O’Callaghan.

JL announced that there were 80 consultations in the last year. The number of consultations has been pretty steady year on year.

9.2.1 Epilepsy update (Sanjay Sisodiya)
MMR thanked Sanjay for all his hard work regarding Epilepsy, Cannabis and Valproate.

SS:
Valproate: a continuously changing situation. MHRA coordinate a number of meetings
- Valproate Stakeholders Network: strong patient representation
- Expert group: less family representation
SS attends the VSN on behalf of ABN and RCP. He noted that there is very little flexibility from MHRA re: representations made by the professional organisations, he felt that the patient organisations have good representation.

SS and others have been pressing to make the ARAF more flexible and realistic. A new form has been developed which allows consultants to state that the pregnancy prevention programme is not necessary for the individual patient. He hopes this will be adopted. SS has been working with Judy Shakespeare from the Royal College of GPs to produce a pan-college statement on Valproate. The document is now fairly advanced document with input received from most relevant organisations

ACTION: SS to send draft document to ABN council for comment. The ABN office will publish on website once formally available.

Cannabidiol: SS noted that 30 prescriptions are to be made available by GW pharma for adult patients under the Early Access Programme. Epilepsy advisory group was very helpful in developing a strategy for distribution of the prescriptions. 6 centres were chosen in the 4 nations. Each centre need to gain trust approval.

9.3 Risk Register
JL presented and described the risk register, which has been updated to include the new IT project. JL described the impact and likelihood of a risk occurring.
9.4 Consultations
DN asked to use the Neurology and mortality document prepared by Chris Kipps, to respond to the UK public health consultation. DN noted that he is collating comments regarding the Scottish National Action Plan.

9.5 Elections 2019: ref item 2 above


10.1 2018 draft management accounts
TP noted an increase in meetings income as both the Annual and Autumn meetings were clinically and financially successful. Investment value declined by £64,000, in line with general market trends, although some recovery in early 2019.

ABN finance committee: TP, NR, EB, SF and JL agreed that the title should be a finance audit and risk committee with Treasurer, President Elect, Lay trustees and one elected council member as members.

ACTION: council member to volunteer for the Finance audit and Risk Committee and email TP.

10.2 Fellowship fund

10.2.1 Report on fundraising activity
Dafydd Thomas provided Fellowship fund update. There are sufficient funds for 4 fellowships. Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust (x1), Guarantors of Brain (x2) and AT UK (50%). Rosetrees Trust has a donor interested in supporting a fellowship into lifestyle, MS and marijuana.

ACTION: DT and JL to find out more and forward information onto Exec. DT noted that Oxford athletics, a team of 8 would be running to raise funds for the Sir Roger Bannister fellowship. DT noted that Hugh Brasher would like to organise a commemorative mile for Sir Roger and all proceeds to go towards the fellowship. The In memoriam campaign is continuing.

MMR thanked DT for all his hard work.

10.3 Practical Neurology (co-publishing/co-ownership)
Cost per annum £40,000. 2018 income estimated as over £50,000. The ABN currently co-publishes but does not co-own.

ACTION: JL/Elizabeth Baltay to review the contract with Practical Neurology.

10.4 Staff salary review – Council discussed staff reviews.

11. International relations (DB)

11.1 WFN fellowship
David Burn reported that the ABN has committed to fund 5 years of a fellowship in Africa. The first ABN fellow was appointed in Autumn 2018

11.2 Funding for overseas meetings/travel bursaries
As agreed the formal funding of speakers to the Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists ceased from 2018. Council agreed that the travel bursaries should be revived in support of new opportunities in developing neurological services globally.

ACTION: council to discuss ideas on new projects.

International meetings:
BNA 14th – 17th April.
EAN in Oslo 29th June - 2nd July.
WFN in Dubai 2019 – MMR will be attending.
Lyon 2020 – DB to attend

12. Items for Discussion:

12.1 ABN Strategy update to be compiled from committee updates. (see appendix 8)

12.2 Project Synapse (new IT system)
JL noted that the project team consists of Cath Mummery, Chris Kipps and Amy Ross Russell. Maya McCourt (MM) has been recruited to coordinate the project working 2 days per week with initial focus on membership and subscriptions.

12.3 Ethics (JP)
Jackie Palace noted the RCP survey on Assisted Dying would be live in February. Uma Nath will give a balanced view regarding assisted dying at Edinburgh.

12.4 Honours committee
Requested not to be include in minutes.

12.5 Any Other Business

12.5.1 MMR updated council that she has had preliminary meetings with representatives of the British Society of Clinical Neurophysiology. It has been agreed that there should a working group to look at various issues. A proposal has been received by the ABN.

ACTION: JL to follow with Adrian Fowle, President BACN

12.5.2 Sam Shribman: proposed that the ABNT be renamed as the Trainee committee.

ACTION: Council to consider name changes as part of Rule changes for 2019 AGM

12.5.3 Lina Nashef: suggested the ABN own a property.

Council dates:
The following dates have been agreed for the next council meetings.
- Jan 22nd 2020
- April 1st 2020
- Sept 23rd 2020

Meeting closed 1.20pm
Meeting of Council, Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 0930hrs
ABN Offices, Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, WC1N 3JZ

Present: Mary M Reilly (President), David Nicholl (Honorary Secretary), Jon Sussman (Honorary Assistant Secretary), Trevor Pickersgill (Hon Treasurer), Neil Robertson (Treasurer Elect), Tom Warner (Chair, Education Committee), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Chris Kipps (Chair, Quality Committee), Lucy Kinton (Elected Council), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Elected Council), Jacqueline Palace (Elected Council), Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council), Sam Shribman (Chair, ABNT), Joanne Lawrence (Exec Director), Elisabeth Baltay (Lay Trustee), Stanley Fink (Lay Trustee), Donal O’Donoghue (RCP, Registrar), Geraint Fuller (GIRFT), Tom Hughes (SAC), Sarah Vibert (Neurological Alliance).

Phone: Tom Robinson (BASP)

1. Introduction

1.1 Apologies for absence: David Burn (President Elect), Adrian Williams (CRG/NNAG), Dafydd Thomas (Fundraising Chair)

1.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting 16.01.19
Action: Faheemah Patel to add ‘Preliminary’ before meetings section 12.5.

2. President update

Members’ Survey
Mary M Reilly (MMR) provided a brief update on the members’ survey. She noted that there had been 670 responses in total and that top level data will be presented in Edinburgh.

Research Opportunities Forum
MMR noted that research was part of the ABN mandate, therefore important to include academic researchers in conference. The Edinburgh meeting will include a Research Opportunities Forum where invited members will be able to ‘sell’ their area for 5 minutes max. MMR noted also that it could be beneficial to review the structure of the training day, possibly including SIGs.

Epilepsy & Valproate
MMR recognised the level of anxiety regarding Brexit and drugs, particularly with respect to Epilepsy. A helpful letter had been received from Health Secretary Matt Hancock. A pan college document, supported by multiple societies from different disciplines (ABN, BPNA, EPNA, FSRH, GMC, GPwERs, iHV, MHRA, NHS:I, RCGP, RCM, RCN, RCOG, RCPCH, RCPsych) was published in March.

Cannabis
Sanjay Sisodiya (SS) represented the ABN at the Health and Social Care committee review of medicinal cannabis in Parliament, supported by MMR and JL.

Action: FP to find out when NICE guidelines on cannabis will be published.

Other societies
MMR noted that the ABN has good relationship with the Royal Colleges in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh. There is to be a joint meeting with the SBNS in 2023 – MMR and NK will meet in 6 month’s time.

Tom Warner is working on a joint paper with the Neuropsychiatrists on neurology and neuropsychiatry.

MMR announced that a joint meeting with the Irish Neurological Association has been agreed for Belfast in 2021.

MMR thanked the demitting members, John Paul Leach, Jaqueline Palace and Trevor Pickersgill for their hard work and support. She announced the newly elected members Biba Stanton and Sofia Eriksson who will join council after the AGM.

MMR noted that the session on assisted dying in Edinburgh, would include talks by Uma Nath and Jacqueline Palace, chaired by David Burn.

Action: non-elective roles to look to fair representation.
3. **Education Committee (Appendix A)**

3.1 **General update:**
Tom Warner (TW) provided an update of the committee members and stated that Joseph Alawneh had stepped down, replaced by Sybil Stacpoole.

3.2 **Shape of Training**
Tom Hughes (TH) updated council that neurology will hopefully have the 3-year (IM) and 5-year (ST) model of which one year of ST would be general internal medicine. Once confirmed, the JRCPTB will complete the curriculum.

3.3 **Medical School Survey**
TW provided an update on the data and which is currently being cleaned.
Action: TW to provide a short statement for the Edinburgh meeting.

3.4 **Australasian fellowship**
Two candidates were interviewed. Josephine Mayer was appointed for the 2020 fellowship.

3.5 **Undergraduate**
TW stated that the next student day will be held in Bristol and is due to meet with Joanne Lawrence to discuss further.

3.6 **ABN self-assessment**
TW noted that the 2019 Neurology formative questions are now live and the deadline is in a months’ time. He thanked Emma Tallantyre for all her help and support.

4. **Research Committee (Appendix B)**

4.1 **General update**
Martin Turner (MT) noted that there are no change to the membership. 3 fellows had been appointed: Guleed Adan (Liverpool), Negin Holland (Cambridge) and Robin Brown (Cambridge)

4.2 **Fellowship scheme 2019 and changes**
Council agreed with the below proposed changes to the fellowship rules.
1. Peer review to be sent out to all applicants before interviews (panel still blind until after interviews scored)
2. Change to T&Cs to state cannot apply more than two consecutive years in row
3. Change to T&Cs to state that involvement of commercial partners must be made very clear as a barrier to funders

4.3 **RaDAR**
As confirmed at the January council, all studies prior to 2015 have been removed from RaDAR.

5. **Services Committee (Appendix C)**

5.1 **General update**
CathMaps is now NeuroAtlas; once the new website is live, this will be visible to all members. Comments and input are valuable.

Invited service review: Helpful building pathway with RCP re how to deal with ISRs. Neuro-oncology: CM is liaising with Neil Kitchen (SBNS)

5.2 **Acute Neurology**
CM teamed up with ABNT and have three current projects:

1. Geography – a clean geography of how neurological service look like in the UK
2. Acute neurology - best-equipped neurology services and mapping them on the national perspective. Jonathan Best and Salwah Kamourieh – will be presenting at the ABN annual meeting.
3. Variability in Trainee experience – will be presenting at the ABN annual meeting.

It would be great to work with ABNT and trainees especially when the GIRFT data is available.
5.3 Referrals
Stefan Hinze started this process a year ago, scoping various people in the committee and others about current systems being used. A workshop assessed good and bad aspects of current practice and set up a working group to refine further. SH is working on a document, which is not yet finalised.

Action: CM to disseminate the referral document to council.

5.4 CRG/NNAG
Adrian Williams has re-applied for CRG role.

5.5 Neurological Alliance
SV provided an update on NA projects. She stated that the Patient Experience Survey had now closed and they had received over 10K responses. A report will be launched on 10th July.

Action: Neuro Numbers poster for Edinburgh, SV and JL to discuss.

6. GIRFT
Geraint Fuller provided an update on GIRFT and presented an overview of data collected. As brief update will also be given at the ABN conference in Edinburgh.

7. Quality Committee (Appendix D)
7.1 General update
Chris Kipps (CK) stated that Anand Trip replaced Simon Hickman on the committee. The QC hopes to gain more members and fill the regions.

CK stated that the QC has organised and sorted all ABN guidelines.

Action: CK to provide a summary on guidelines due for review at next council meeting.

7.2 Job planning document
CK stated that the Job planning document has now been updated to reflect the changes in the past 5 years. MMR thanked council members for their input and comments.

Action: Job planning document to be published and uploaded to the website on day of AGM.

7.3 Burnout survey: Council agreed to invest in Maslach survey to be incorporated in the ABN burnout survey.

**ACTION:** Survey to be discussed at Quality meeting in Edinburgh.

8. ABNT (Appendix E)
8.1 General update
Sam Shribman (SS) noted that this would be his last council meeting. Elections for the new chair and other committee vacancies will be run in the summer. He observed that concerns amongst the trainees regarding Shape of Training continue; particularly neurology staffing and the balance between internal medicine and stroke. The last SAC meeting advised of a new GMC rule/guidance that every current trainee must go onto the new curriculum within two years of its introduction. JRCPTB agrees that this is not appropriate for neurology.

Action: SAC course list – SS and Tom Hughes to update and send to the ABN office

Action: MMR to announce the Acute Neurology Boot Camp in her president’s message for the next newsletter.

Action: Council to consider change in position of ABNT committee to become a formal committee of ABN.

8.2 Regional variations in training: paper
This will be presented as a platform at the ABN annual meeting in Edinburgh.

9. Meetings committee
Jon Sussman (JS) provided brief update of the upcoming meetings, and thanked the ABN office for their support.

Upcoming meetings:
- Edinburgh 2019 20-23 May
- London 2019 17 October
- ABNT Boot Camp 8 July
- Bournemouth 2020 12-15 May
- Belfast 2021

JS noted that the Joint SBNS meeting in September 2018 was very successful and thanked everyone for their support for Edinburgh. The Programme for the Acute Neurology Boot Camp is yet to be finalised.

9.1 ABN Student Day end Oct, Bristol
JS noted that a date had not yet been set and is to be discussed soon.

Action: MT, TW and JS to update council in September and place all ideas in a document regarding content of training day.

10. Honorary Secretary (Appendix F)
10.1 General update
David Nicholl (DN) noted that the number of consultations have risen in the last year.

Action: To present a graph of total consultations in Edinburgh.

DN suggested to council that each advisory group should have an ad hoc member from another society. MMR agreed.

Action: To develop connections with other societies by inviting ad hoc members onto ABN advisory groups.

10.2 AGM 22 May 2019 incl rule changes
To discuss and vote upon proposed amendments to the Rules. Council agreed with proposed amendments creating separate Education, Research and Quality regions for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

10.3 Advisory Groups
Oliver Bandmann has now replaced Donald Grosset as chair of the movement disorders advisory group.

Richard Greenwood has put together a detailed TBI paper, presented to council.

Action: DN to approach the Neuroscience CRG to discuss the TBI paper

10.4 Risk Register
No changes from previous council meeting.

10.5 Consultations
DN and MMR noted increased number of approaches from media to the ABN. MMR suggested that media training should be considered for AAG chairs.

Action: Media strategy to be developed by president elect and quality chair.

11. Honorary Treasurer
11.1 Annual accounts 2018
Honorary Treasurer, Trevor Pickersgill (TP) presented the 2018 accounts. 2018 has been a relatively successful financial year. He noted that the ABN’s financial reserve was stable with unrestricted income of £857k, reflecting strong income from the meeting in Birmingham and the Joint ABN and SBNS meeting. Additionally £126K income received to the restricted ABN clinical research training fellowship fund. The total meeting income was 450k and spend. 370k

Company sponsorship from pharma is healthy.

ABN investments suffered in line with the UK market in 2018, declining in value by £63,931 after 5 years of steady growth. The ABN’s unrestricted reserves increased from £903,949 at the beginning of the year to £969,852 at the end. In line with financial and legal advice, the ABN will continue to maintain a reserve of around one to two times its normal annual expenditure. Our funds remain within this window but year-on-year improvement affords increasing flexibility. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund and the Roger
Bannister fellowship fund together received £141,086 in 2018. This included contributions from the Stroke Association, the Dunhill Medical Trust and the Sobell Foundation, each funding 50% of a fellowship.

11.2 Annual subscriptions
TP proposed the below increase to annual subscriptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary</td>
<td>£15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate/Affiliate</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas/Junior</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council agreed to the proposed increased to the fees, which will be discussed in treasurer’s report at the AGM.

11.3 Fellowship fund
TP stated that the apparent drop in ABN fellowship income reflected only a change in how funding was applied. Two 2015 fellowships were paid via the ABN, using funds from PBCT. Subsequent fellowships were paid directly by funders, hence money did not pass through ABN accounts.

11.3.1 Report on fundraising activity
See Dafydd Thomas’ report attached.

11.4 Practical Neurology (co-publishing/co-ownership)
The co-publishing agreement with the BMJ, of Practical Neurology journal contributed £57,133 to ABN funds. Additional income also accrued from the continued growth of the Speciality Certificate Examination in neurology.

TP stated that the ABN is in an overall healthy position. MMR thanked TP for all his support over the past five years.

ACTION: TP to add slide in AGM re member benefits.

12. International relations (DB) (5 minutes)
12.1 WFN fellowship
MMR reported that the ABN has committed to fund 5 years of a fellowship in Africa. The first ABN fellow was appointed in autumn 2018.

12.2 Opportunities
Action: To redraft international relations rules and reintroduce travel bursary.

13. Items for Discussion:
13.1 ABN Strategy – update
The update to the ABN strategy is now complete and published on the ABN website.

13.2 Project Synapse
Joanne Lawrence stated that the new website would go live on the 30th June. There will be a poster in Edinburgh, plus Maya McCourt at the ABN stand to answer any questions.

13.3 Ethics (JP)
No comments

13.4 Honours committee
Requested not to be included in minutes.

13.5 Any Other Business
Meeting closed at 12:45pm.
Meeting of Council, Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 0930hrs
ABN Offices, Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, WC1N 3JZ

Present: Mary M Reilly (President), David Nicholl (Honorary Secretary), Jon Sussman (Honorary Assistant Secretary), Trevor Pickersgill (Hon Treasurer), Neil Robertson (Treasurer Elect), Tom Warner (Chair, Education Committee), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Chris Kipps (Chair, Quality Committee), Lucy Kinton (Elected Council), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Elected Council), Jacqueline Palace (Elected Council), Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council), Sam Shribman (Chair, ABNT), Joanne Lawrence (Exec Director), Elisabeth Baltay (Lay Trustee), Stanley Fink (Lay Trustee), Donal O’Donoghue (RCP, Registrar), Geraint Fuller (GIRFT), Tom Hughes (SAC), Sarah Vibert (Neurological Alliance).

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Cannabis
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Action: FP to find out when NICE guidelines on cannabis will be published.

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MMR noted that the session on assisted dying in Edinburgh, would include talks by Uma Nath and Jacqueline Palace, chaired by David Burn.

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Tom Hughes (TH) updated council that neurology will hopefully have the 3-year (IM) and 5-year (ST) model of which one year of ST would be general internal medicine. Once confirmed, the JRCPTB will complete the curriculum.

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4.3 **RaDAR**
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Action: CM to disseminate the referral document to council.

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SV provided an update on NA projects. She stated that the Patient Experience Survey had now closed and they had received over 10K responses. A report will be launched on 10th July.

Action: Neuro Numbers poster for Edinburgh, SV and JL to discuss.

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ACTION: Survey to be discussed at Quality meeting in Edinburgh.

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Action: MMR to announce the Acute Neurology Boot Camp in her president’s message for the next newsletter.

Action: Council to consider change in position of ABNT committee to become a formal committee of ABN.

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- London 2019 17 October
- ABNT Boot Camp 8 July
- Bournemouth 2020 12-15 May
- Belfast 2021

JS noted that the Joint SBNS meeting in September 2018 was very successful and thanked everyone for their support for Edinburgh. The Programme for the Acute Neurology Boot Camp is yet to be finalised.

9.1 ABN Student Day end Oct, Bristol
JS noted that a date had not yet been set and is to be discussed soon.

Action: MT, TW and JS to update council in September and place all ideas in a document regarding content of training day.

10. Honorary Secretary (Appendix F)
10.1 General update
David Nicholl (DN) noted that the number of consultations have risen in the last year.

Action: To present a graph of total consultations in Edinburgh.

DN suggested to council that each advisory group should have an ad hoc member from another society.
MMR agreed.

Action: To develop connections with other societies by inviting ad hoc members onto ABN advisory groups.

10.2 AGM 22 May 2019 incl rule changes
To discuss and vote upon proposed amendments to the Rules. Council agreed with proposed amendments creating separate Education, Research and Quality regions for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

10.3 Advisory Groups
Oliver Bandmann has now replaced Donald Grosset as chair of the movement disorders advisory group.

Richard Greenwood has put together a detailed TBI paper, presented to council.
Action: DN to approach the Neuroscience CRG to discuss the TBI paper

10.4 Risk Register
No changes from previous council meeting.

10.5 Consultations
DN and MMR noted increased number of approaches from media to the ABN. MMR suggested that media training should be considered for AAG chairs.

Action: Media strategy to be developed by president elect and quality chair.

11. Honorary Treasurer
11.1 Annual accounts 2018
Honorary Treasurer, Trevor Pickersgill (TP) presented the 2018 accounts. 2018 has been a relatively successful financial year. He noted that the ABN’s financial reserve was stable with unrestricted income of £857k, reflecting strong income from the meeting in Birmingham and the Joint ABN and SBNS meeting. Additionally £126k income received to the restricted ABN clinical research training fellowship fund. The total meeting income was £450k and spend £370k.

Company sponsorship from pharma is healthy.
ABN investments suffered in line with the UK market in 2018, declining in value by £63,931 after 5 years of steady growth. The ABN’s unrestricted reserves increased from £903,949 at the beginning of the year to £969,852 at the end. In line with financial and legal advice, the ABN will continue to maintain a reserve of around one to two times its normal annual expenditure. Our funds remain within this window but year-on-year improvement affords increasing flexibility. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund and the Roger
Bannister fellowship fund together received £141,086 in 2018. This included contributions from the Stroke Association, the Dunhill Medical Trust and the Sobell Foundation, each funding 50% of a fellowship.

11.2 Annual subscriptions
TP proposed the below increase to annual subscriptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary</td>
<td>£15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate/Affiliate</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas/Junior</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council agreed to the proposed increase to the fees, which will be discussed in treasurer’s report at the AGM.

11.3 Fellowship fund
TP stated that the apparent drop in ABN fellowship income reflected only a change in how funding was applied. Two 2015 fellowships were paid via the ABN, using funds from PBCT. Subsequent fellowships were paid directly by funders, hence money did not pass through ABN accounts.

11.3.1 Report on fundraising activity
See Dafydd Thomas’ report attached.

11.4 Practical Neurology (co-publishing/co-ownership)
The co-publishing agreement with the BMJ, of Practical Neurology journal contributed £57,133 to ABN funds. Additional income also accrued from the continued growth of the Speciality Certificate Examination in neurology.
TP stated that the ABN is in an overall healthy position. MMR thanked TP for all his support over the last five years.

ACTION: TP to add slide in AGM re member benefits.

12. International relations (DB) (5 minutes)
12.1 WFN fellowship
MMR reported that the ABN has committed to fund 5 years of a fellowship in Africa. The first ABN fellow was appointed in autumn 2018.

12.2 Opportunities
Action: To redraft international relations rules and reintroduce travel bursary.

13. Items for Discussion:
13.1 ABN Strategy – update
The update to the ABN strategy is now complete and published on the ABN website.

13.2 Project Synapse
Joanne Lawrence stated that the new website would go live on the 30th June. There will be a poster in Edinburgh, plus Maya McCourt at the ABN stand to answer any questions.

13.3 Ethics (JP)
No comments

13.4 Honours committee
Requested not to be included in minutes.

13.5 Any Other Business
Meeting closed at 12:45pm.
Meeting of Council, Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 0930hrs
ABN Offices, Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, WC1N 3JZ

Present: David Burn (President), Mary M Reilly (Past President), Tom Warner (President Elect), Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary), Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer), Richard Davenport (Meetings Secretary), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Matt Jones (Chair, Education Committee), Chris Kipps (Chair, Quality Committee), Lucy Kinton (Elected Council), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Elected Council), Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council), Sofia Eriksson (Elected Council), Biba Stanton (Elected Council), Amy Ross Russell (Chair, ABNT), Joanne Lawrence (Executive Director), Elisabeth Baltay (Lay Trustee), Tom Hughes (SAC), Stanley Fink (Lay Trustee), Dafydd Thomas (Fundraising Chair), Faheemah Patel (Committees Coordinator).

Dialled in: Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Rustam Al-Shahi Salman (BASP), Adrian Williams (CRG/NNAG), Georgina Carr (Neurological Alliance)

1. Introduction (5 minutes)
   1.1 Apologies for absence: Donal O’Donoghue (RCP), Geraint Fuller (GIRFT).

   1.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting 18.09.19
   ACTION: Faheemah Patel to add ‘limited’ before regional representation in 6.5.

2. President update (10 minutes)
David Burn (DB) thanked all ABN council and office staff for their ongoing work for the ABN. DB acknowledged the work undertaken by David Nicholl before his resignation.

Importance of strong relationships in the UK and worldwide
- DHSC – DB noted that the ABN has made significant progress in mutual understanding and reciprocal communications with the DHSC.
- NICE – a meeting has been arranged to discuss the ABN position and involvement in consultations and guidelines.
- SC & QC – DB acknowledged the work by CM and CK on engagement with external organisations such as CRG/NNAG and Neurotech.
- Post Brexit – DB noted that it is incredibly important for the ABN to engage with European and international specialist societies. DB stated that the UK neurology is highly regarded for its education and research quality. Therefore, it is important to make external societies feel welcome.

Workforce
- Uncertainties of Brexit – there is uncertainties on the influx and efflux of colleagues due to immigrations rules etc. which will create challenges for the workforce.
- Neurology workforce in UK – DB noted that Mary Reilly and Arani Nitkunan would present the findings of the Members’ survey, which provided good quality data later on.
- Burnout survey – DB noted that the current pressure on staff of burnout risk will be discussed by CK later on.
- ABNT position in ABN – it is important to provide the younger members such as trainees a strong voice within the ABN.
- RCP – DB noted that the ABN should appoint a representative on the digital committee on the RCP. He also suggested that the ABN should look into 12-month digital fellowships. DB provided a summary on the RCP paper ‘double or quits’ written by Andrew Goddard.

Elections
DB stated that a proposal would be taken to the AGM for defined positions of Hon Sec and Meetings Sec with respective ‘elect’ posts.

Office restructuring
The introduction of the new website has reduced transactional workload allowing staff to develop new skills and take on more defined roles.
Climate emergency
DB suggested that the ABN should promote sustainability. JL added that at the Bournemouth Annual meeting, there would no longer be plastic cups but reusable bottles available to delegates. It was noted that the Sustainability SIG was given a platform last year.

**ACTION:** The office to include a line on sustainability on the website.

3. Education Committee (20 minutes)
3.1 General update
Matt Jones (MJ) provided an update of the Education committee and noted that the EC is working with the office to update the relevant education pages of the website (see appendix 3.1).

3.2 Shape of training
Matt Jones (MJ) stressed the uncertainty of the shape of training and stated that the curriculum is currently being revised to include general medicine (see appendix 3.2).

3.3 Australasian fellowship
A total of 4 applications received this year in which all applicants have been invited for interview on 26th February.

**ACTION:** A document outlining the entry requirements to be formalised.

3.4 Undergraduate prize
A total of 35 applications received for the 2019 undergraduate prize. The abstracts have currently gone out to review to committees.

Faculty of fellows: MMR suggested a formal faculty of fellows be introduced to help with scoring of future undergraduate prizes.

**ACTION:** JL and MMR to discuss and formalise faculty of fellows.

3.5 ABN self-assessment
Clinton Mitchell has taken over from Emma Tallantyre who will still oversee the work.

**ACTION:** TW and MJ to liaise with ABN staff on office resource required for self-assessment.

3.6 Stroke/Stroke Training (TH)
Tom Hughes (TH) presented a PowerPoint presentation on stroke training across the UK (see appendix 3.2).

4. Research Committee (20 minutes)
4.1 General update
Martin Turner (MT) provided an update on the Research Committee (see appendix 4.1).

4.2 RaDAR
MT noted the RaDAR process is working well and is no longer overwhelming for ABN members.

4.3 Fellowship scheme 2020
Martin Turner (MT) noted that the ABN received a total of 14 applications. MT thanked the ABN office especially Fardousa Musa on the review process. The ABN have a total of 4 awards this year:
- MSA trust x1
- Guarantors of Brain x2
- Patrick Berthoud x1
Interviews will be held on the 18th March 2020.

4.4 Fellowship Fund/report on fundraising activity
Dafydd Thomas (DT) noted that many charities have requested that they would only half fund a fellowship if the ABN funds the other 50%. The ABN has hired a part time fundraiser Katie Heyward who has submitted 17 applications to trusts and funders.

Neil Robertson noted that the ABN is able to transfer money into the restricted fellowship fund. In 2019, a transfer was not made due to fall in investments. However, this year the ABN is able to make a £200,000
transfer from the unrestricted fellowship fund to the restricted fellowship fund. The ABN have sufficient funds to fund one ABN fellow.

5. Services Committee (30 minutes)

5.1 General update
Cath Mummery (CM) noted that the Services committee has 50% of new members.
CM discussed the following topics (see appendix 5.1):
- Neuroatlas: CM has set up a sub group for neuroatlas and a meeting has been scheduled with Maya McCourt.
- ISR – RD left room, while CM updated council on the current invited service review in Belfast.
- Neurosurgical links with SBNS and SC: see appendix 5.1 for further details.

5.2 Acute Neurology
The work is near completion (see appendix 5.1).

5.3 Referrals
See appendix 5.1.

5.4 CRG/NNAG
Adrian Williams (AW) noted that the CRG/NNAG meeting is tomorrow. AW noted a proposal will be bought to the next council meeting and to work out a publication timeline with NA. The working group is planning an outcomes day to look at care plans & pathways etc. and to merge in with GIRFT to link with stroke and acute neurology.

5.5 Neurological Alliance incl new CEO
Georgina Carr (GC) the new CEO of Neurological Alliance introduced herself and was welcomed by ABN Council. GC provided a brief update on the next steps of the patient experience survey and noted that an abstract has been submitted for the ABN Annual meeting in Bournemouth.

ACTION: JL and GC to organise a meeting.

5.6 GIRFT
CM noted that the GIRFT methodology document was published online in September 2019.

6. Coffee break (15 minutes)

DB welcomed Elisabeth Baltay and Stanley Fink (ABN Lay Trustees).

7. Quality Committee (20 minutes)

7.1 General update
CK noted that the membership is stable, with no significant changes in representation (see appendix 7.1). Amy Ross Russell has stepped down and replaced by Angelika Zarkali to represent ABNT. CK stated that Arani Nitkunan is the ABN representative on the RCP Safety committee.

Safety survey
The QC are developing a survey on safety in neurological services which will be disseminated to the Services committee and advisory groups, once questions have been confirmed.

7.2 Burnout survey
CK stated that the Burnout survey was successful with a 45% response rate and a total of 558 responses. The survey received 151 comments. An abstract has been submitted for the ABN Annual Meeting in Bournemouth.

ACTION: CK to formalise data and analysis for next April council to confirm before presentation at the ABN annual meeting.

ACTION: CK and Exec to discuss if Burnout survey should go live for the platform session in Bournemouth.

7.3 Guideline update review
CK noted that the QC have reviewed all ABN guidelines. A further resources project has begun in which the QC reviewed 484 articles in Practical Neurology. 54 articles have been selected and will be reviewed further. BMJ have granted permission.

Digital
DB announced that the RCP would like an ABN representative on the RCP digital committee. CK and Helen Grote were suggested.

**ACTION:** ARR to confirm with Helen Grote.

8. **ABNT (15 minutes)**

8.1 General update
Amy Ross Russell (ARR) provided an update of ABNT (see appendix 8.1).

8.2 Trainee sub-committee of council
ARR updated council on the current stance of the ABNT committee and noted that a vote will be put at the ABNT Forum in Bournemouth to decide if the trainees will become a formal sub-committee of council.

**ACTION:** ARR to inform trainees beforehand.

8.3 Trainee Census
ARR noted that the 2020 census is proposed to be sent out to trainees in the next week (see appendix 8.3).

**ACTION:** ARR to liaise with TW and MJ and confirm census questions before it goes live.

8.4 Regional variation in training
ARR noted that the committee want to transform the data into an online auditable tool (see appendix 8.4).

9. **Meetings Committee (10 minutes)**

9.1 Bournemouth 2020 12-15 May incl Neuro opportunities forum
Richard Davenport (RD) provided brief update of meetings committee meeting (see appendices, 9.1i, 9.1ii, 9.1iii).

9.2 Boot camp
It was agreed that the next ABN Boot camp will be held in July in Birmingham, a date is yet to be confirmed.

9.3 London 2020 15 October
Draft programme has been approved. The 2020 Sir John Walton lecturer will be Nigel Leigh.

9.4 ABN Student Day October tbc
It was agreed that the next ABN student day will be held in Newcastle in November, a date is yet to be confirmed.

9.5 Belfast 2021
The ABN and the IICN are working together on preparations for 2021.

9.6 Harrogate 2022
Confirmed for 2022.

10. **Honorary Secretary (15 minutes)**

10.1 General update
Jon Sussman (JS) provided an update on Hons sec duties and consultations.

**ACTION:** To contact Movement Disorders and Cognitive Advisory Group regarding the RCP email on gambling awareness.

10.2 Advisory Groups
JS noted that the advisory groups have created a higher influence of the ABN to external organisations. JS confirmed that the AG chairs were happy with the process of consultations, with no changes. It was suggested to provide media training for advisory group chairs.
10.3 Risk Register
JS presented the updated risk register. No significant changes from September 2019. JS proposed to reduce the probability of some risks.

10.4 Consultations
JS thanked Faheemah Patel on the management of consultations. JS provided a brief summary on number of completed consultations from 2017 – 2019. (see appendix 10.4) and noted that the number of consultations has increased dramatically over the last 3 years.

10.5 Rule changes
The following proposals will be taken to forth to the AGM (see appendix 10.5i).

10.6 Elections 2020
JS noted forthcoming elections (1x council member 2020-24) would be managed electronically, via Electoral Reform Society now known as CIVICA.

11. Honorary Treasurer (15 minutes)
11.1 Managements accounts
Neil Robertson (NR) thanked Joanne Lawrence and Jessica Holdgate and noted that figures are yet to be approved by the auditors. There was a 7% increase in income for 2019 to 990K. Expenditure has increased by 11% to 810K, which incorporates one off costs. Investments increased by 156K. Overall 17k increase.

11.2 Practical Neurology (co-publishing/co-ownership)
The FAD agreed that the ABN would continue co-publishing Practical Neurology with BMJ. NR suggested that the management meeting structure needs to be reformed. NR noted that there was discussion on podcasts and other ways of generating income with PN.

11.3 Staff salaries
Council discussed staff reviews.

12. International relations (TW) (10 minutes)
12.1 WFN fellowship update
TW noted that the fellow has had to delay commencing the fellowship, due to visa issues.

ACTION: TW to request feedback from WFN.

12.2 Opportunities
TW confirmed that the £5000 per annum travel bursary has been reinstated.

13. Items for Discussion: (30 minutes)
13.1 ABN Strategy – update

ACTION: Committee chairs to include ABN strategy cross references into committee reports.

13.2 Members’ survey
Arani Nitkunan and Mary Reilly presented the findings of the Members’ survey (see appendix 13.2).

13.3 Project Synapse
Maya McCourt, Project Coordinator, presented a brief demonstration of the Jobs Board.

ACTION: MM and JL to check with Your Membership on data policy and protection plan and to ensure a statement is placed on the jobs board.

13.4 Ethics (KT) incl assisted dying poll
KT presented the results and outlined proposed next steps (see appendix 13.4).

KT stressed the risks the ABN would need to consider going forward and to safeguard the process the ABN employs to avoid legal challenges. The ABN needs to ensure that every member of the association is clear on the process and has the opportunity to express a view. Additionally, the ABN should include a neutral option. KT noted that the ABN should be prepared with a strong communication strategy for the outcome. As there is a level of unpredictability, the ABN needs to protect themselves from legal challenges.
MMR noted that the term ‘super majority’ is toxic in this area.

EB suggested that there should be a clear differentiation when presenting the outcome between voters and members. This should be the starting point on how the ABN should assess who is the supermajority. The ABN needs 50.1% of the members who are eligible to vote, must have voted.

It was agreed to refrain from using the term ‘super majority’ due to the current political situation.

SF suggested to take the process to the AGM and ask the membership to confirm or clarify if there are any problems with the process.

If we do not reach the 50.1%, the ABN cannot revert to the original position. In addition, state that in light of this, the ABN cannot say the ABN had an agreed position and that it comes down to the individuals own view.

EB noted that fundamentally the ABN does not need to have a position.

It was agreed that the process should be sent to the membership.

**ACTION:** The ABN will take it to AGM and then survey the membership on the proposed process and suggest to use the 3 categories: Against, In favour of, Neutral and or no official/published view.

13.5 Honours committee including honorary members process
Council agreed to award Dafydd Thomas, Honorary membership of the ABN.

13.6 Style guide - group to review
It was agreed that the ABN office should begin using new style guide. However, to discontinue if typeface is disliked.

13.7 MTI scheme [LN]
Lina Nashef presented a brief summary of the RCP MTI scheme (see appendix 13.7) and proposed the ABN support the scheme.

Meeting closed at 1.45pm.