



Association of British Neurologists

Annual Report
2020 - 21



Contents

President's Introduction	2
AGM Agenda, 4pm, 20 May 2021	4
Minutes of AGM, 29 May - 12 June 2020	5
Membership: New, Changes and Deaths 2021	7
REPORTS	13
Honorary Secretary	13
Honorary Treasurer	13
Meetings Committee	14
Services Committee	14
Quality Committee	17
Education Committee	18
Research Committee	21
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee	23
Association of British Neurologists Trainees Committee	24
Appendix	27
ABN Advisory Groups	27
Members of ABN Council 2021 - 22	28
ABN Office – Members of Staff	28
Council Minutes 2020	29

Date of publication: May 2021

Association of British Neurologists
Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, London WC1N 3JZ

020 7405 4060 email: info@abn.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1077893
Company No. 3816842
Registered office: Ormond House, 27 Boswell Street, London WC1N 3JZ

President's Introduction

The ABN mission is "to promote excellent standards of care and champion high-quality education and world-class research in neurology". I am proud that the ABN continued to fulfil this aim throughout 2020, providing rapid COVID-19 related guidance and support to its members, whilst continuing to meet the association's non-pandemic related commitments. As in previous years this review will report against the framework of the 2018 ABN [strategy document](#) which has three core strategic aims covering services, education and research, enhanced by the crosscutting themes of leadership and sound financial management.

To improve clinical neurological services

The ABN Service and Quality Committee, chaired by Cath Mummery and Chris Kipps, respectively, work closely to improve the scope and quality of clinical neurological services. Through them, the ABN plays an active role in many external groups including the Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group ([CRG](#)), the National Neurology Advisory Group ([NNAG](#)), the NHSE Getting it Right First Time ([GIRFT](#)) programme and the Neurological Alliance ([NA](#)). Always important, our relationship with these groups, as well as with the Royal College of Physicians of London, fellow specialist societies and other institutions, has had particular relevance during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing timely, coordinated and practical guidance and support in an ever changing environment.

The COVID-19 pages on the ABN website were created rapidly and collated essential information at a time when it was most required. This information was made accessible to the wider medical community via a temporary COVID-19 membership category.

The ABN's twelve sub-speciality Advisory Groups coordinated by Honorary Secretary Jon Sussman, are renewed every three years, most recently in early 2021. We are grateful to all Advisory Group members, past and present, for their contribution, often at the shortest of notice, to a wide range of consultations and meeting requests from bodies including NICE, NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, as well as representing the Association on many external committees.

To champion outstanding training and education in neurology

Training and education in neurology met additional challenges during 2020 as the pandemic caused trainees to be redeployed, conferences to be postponed and face to face clinics cancelled or moved online. Despite this, the Education Committee, chaired by Matt Jones, and ABN Trainees Committee, chaired by Amy Ross Russell, delivered a series of well attended online lectures, beginning with six Lockdown Lectures, in place of the usual pre-meeting training and development day, and eight evenings dedicated to a virtual Acute Neurology Boot Camp. An online student meeting was so successful that we propose to retain this format for future student education days.

Although our Meetings Secretary Richard Davenport's early prophesy, that he would be the first meetings secretary never to arrange a face-to-face meeting, came to pass, we have still enjoyed high quality virtual meetings. Richard was joined mid 2020 by Carolyn Gabriel, in the new role of Meetings Secretary Elect, and together they delivered the ABN's first virtual annual meeting. This online event was streamed live over eight evenings and one full day, attracting 870 delegates viewing content both in real time and on catch-up as the recordings remained accessible to delegates until the end of the year.

The implementation of the Shape of Training and development of the new neurology curriculum gathered pace and we are grateful to Tom Hughes, chair of the Neurosciences SAC, for his leadership in this important area.

To promote world class research in clinical neurosciences

As the pandemic progressed it became increasingly important to track reports of any neurological complications related to COVID-19. The Research Committee, chaired by Martin Turner, received several requests to include studies in the [RaDAR](#) (Rare Disease Ascertainment & Recruitment) programme. We have been delighted with the success of this platform in capturing important information. A separate study was added later to collect reports of neurological adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination.

The 2020 ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship interviews were an early casualty of the COVID-19 restrictions. A swift move to online interviews was rewarded with four new fellowships supported by the Guarantors of Brain and the Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust. The 2021 process has delivered a further six new fellows, supported by Guarantors of Brain, Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust, MSA Trust, MS Society and the Berkeley Foundation. We are grateful to all our funders and to Dafydd Thomas, outgoing chair of the fellowship fundraising committee, who has done so much to promote and support the fellowship scheme.

The [2022 process](#) will open from 1 July 2021, slightly earlier than in previous years.

To provide leadership in neurology

The ABN has maintained its commitment to providing a voice for neurology and continues to increase its national profile as a source of expertise, building upon its relationships with other neuroscience, health related and neurology patient organisations.

A new ABN committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I), chaired by President Elect Tom Warner, will examine how well the ABN currently delivers equality of access to membership opportunities and support as a first step towards advocating more widely on ED&I matters in neurology. Tom has done an outstanding job in building real momentum in our approach to ED&I-related matters, ably supported by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable committee.

No organisation can succeed without good leadership and we were assured of this by high calibre nominations in the recent President, Honorary Secretary and Council Elections which returned Richard Davenport as President Elect, Lucy Kinton as Honorary Secretary Elect, and Saiju Jacob and Paul Cooper as new Council members.

To represent and promote the aims of the Association internationally

Although the ABN's commitment to international cooperation meetings and other initiatives remains strong such activities have, understandably, been much reduced in the last year. The long anticipated joint meeting with our colleagues in the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience has been rescheduled to 2023. A second ABN/World Federation of Neurology fellow was appointed in 2020 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.

Financial management

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, chaired by Honorary Treasurer Neil Robertson, faced managing a significant financial loss in early 2020 when ABN investments fell by 28% in the first quarter and the decision to cancel the annual meeting in Bournemouth preceded the national lockdown, risking financial penalties from suppliers. However, thanks to good negotiating skills from the Honorary Treasurer and Affinity Events, our conference organisers, we achieved a full refund of venue fees. Inevitably some additional costs were incurred due to the restructuring of the annual meeting but, careful management, excellent programmes and strong support from members and our industry sponsors delivered a small surplus which will be invested in future events and member services. ABN investments recovered gradually during the year and at time of writing are within 5% of their December 2019 level.

Other issues

The Clinical Excellence awards for England and Wales, cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2020, finally ran in early 2021 with the outcome expected later this year. ACCEA is currently running a consultation on reforming the national Clinical Excellence Awards scheme.

The ABN's two joint ventures, our co-publishing agreement with the BMJ, of Practical Neurology journal, and the Specialty Certificate Examination in Neurology with the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians, both delivered a net surplus in 2020. As in previous years the money will be directed towards educational activities for trainees, junior doctors and medical students. BMJ has approached the ABN to review the co-publishing arrangement, potentially moving to a co-ownership agreement in 2021.

In conclusion

In what has been the most extraordinary of years I am deeply indebted to my Fellow Officers, Council members, lay trustees, Joanne Lawrence and ABN office colleagues, and those who have served on our various committees and working groups, without whom the task of leading the ABN during the COVID-19 pandemic would have been impossible. It has been an honour and a privilege to work on your behalf for the ABN and to hand over to an outstanding new President and a most supportive Council. I look forward to seeing many of you face-to-face in my capacity as Past-President at future meetings.

David Burn

President 2019 - 2021

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS

Annual General Meeting

Company No 3816842 Registered Charity No 1077893
To be held in accordance with the Companies Act

AGM Agenda, 4pm, 20 May 2021

1. Council

- 1.1 Election of President Elect 2021 - 23, President 2023 - 25
- 1.2 Election of Honorary Secretary Elect 2021-2022, Honorary Secretary 2022 - 2024
- 1.3 Election of Council members 2021 - 2025
- 1.4 Officers of Council for 2021 - 2022
 - Professor T Warner President 2021 - 2023
 - Professor D Burn Immediate Past President 2021 - 2022
 - Dr R Davenport President Elect 2021 - 2023
 - Dr J Sussman Honorary Secretary 2019 - 2022
 - Professor N Robertson Honorary Treasurer 2019 - 2023
 - Dr C Mummery Chair Services Committee 2020 - 2023
 - Dr M Jones Chair Education Committee 2019 - 2022
 - Professor M Turner Chair Research Committee 2019 - 2022
 - Dr C Kipps Chair Quality Committee 2020 - 2023
 - Dr C Gabriel Meetings Secretary 2021 - 2023
 - Dr L Kinton Honorary Secretary Elect 2021 - 2022

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Virtual 29 May - 12 June 2020

- 2.1 Matters Arising

3. Nominations for Membership of the Association

4. President's Report

- 4.1 General update
- 4.2 In memoriam
- 4.3 Presentation of President's medal and handover of chair

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 To consider and adopt Annual Accounts
- 5.2 To appoint GSM as auditors
- 5.3 To authorise directors to agree auditors' remuneration for forthcoming year

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

- 6.1 To discuss and vote upon proposed amendments to the rules

7. Special Items

- 7.1 Post CCT fellowships
- 7.2 National Audit

- 8. Date of the next Annual General Meeting: 19 May 2022, Harrogate

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS
Annual General Meeting
Company No 3816842 Registered Charity No 1077893
Held in accordance with the Companies Act
29 May - 12 June 2020

Minutes of AGM, 29 May - 12 June 2020

The Virtual Annual Meeting took place in three phases during May 2020. ABN articles of association require 10% of Ordinary members to participate in an Annual General Meeting in order to achieve quorum. This currently equates to 81 Ordinary members. Information about the AGM was emailed to all Ordinary members and to members of all other membership categories.

201 Ordinary members voted on the resolutions. All resolutions were passed with a vote of 90% - 100% in favour.

1) Conduct of meeting

- **Phase 1:** ABN Council emailed all members with details of the proposed rule changes ([link](#)). The email included a feedback link for any comments/queries plus the opportunity for individuals to propose a member's motion.

The email was sent to 805 Ordinary members (291 opened) and 973 other members (392 opened).

Eight people used the feedback link to comment on the proposals. Most simply expressed support for the motions but queries regarding Senior members, Allied Health professionals and the makeup of the Quality Committee were noted and incorporated in the Phase 2 AGM presentations. No members' motions were received.

- **Phase 2:** The President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer recorded their AGM presentation with slides. Links to the [AGM Presentation video](#), the [Annual Report 2019-2020](#) and the [Annual Accounts](#) were emailed to all members and were also available via the [ABN website](#). A feedback link was available for queries and comment. The video was viewed 198 times and one comment, expressing concern about the Senior member definition was received.
- **Phase 3:** A summary of the AGM resolutions was sent to all Ordinary members with a personalised link to the voting form which remained open for 2 weeks. All other members were sent a similar link to allow them to give their opinion of the proposed rule changes. 201 Ordinary members voted, comfortably exceeding the 81 required for quorum. 79 members from other membership categories also gave their view.

2) Feedback on proposed rule changes

- **Senior members:** The existing rule permitted Ordinary members to become Senior members "*on retirement from hospital appointment, from academic appointment and from the practice of clinical neurology*". In addition, any member still in practice but reaching "*NHS retirement age*" could elect to become a Senior member. As NHS retirement age no longer exists the proposal was to change this criterion to "*State pension age*".

The concern expressed in the feedback was that members should not have to wait until state pension age to become a Senior member. This has never been the case. Ordinary members must change to be Senior members on retirement from all neurological practice OR they may choose to become a Senior member on reaching state pension age.

- **Student members:** The original rule wording, referring only to '*medical students*', led to some confusion with PhD students applying for the rate intended for those medical students yet to qualify as doctors. Members noted that some medical students were already graduates. The rule will be applied to "*undergraduate medical students*", whether or not they have a previous degree before starting medical school.

- **Allied Health Professional membership:** The initial proposal suggested creating an Allied Health Professional (AHP) membership category for physician associates and specialist nurses. Members' feedback supported this but suggested that other AHPs might also benefit. The motion was therefore amended to allow other types of AHPs to apply, proposing a new membership category for "AHPs including specialist nurses/ physician associates".
- **Quality Committee:** Some concern was expressed at the proposal to remove the requirement for regional representation on this committee. Although efforts have been made to recruit regional representatives, the committee has struggled to attract members from different UK regions and currently has several unfilled places. The intention is not to ignore the voice of these regions but to enable more of those interested to participate in the work of this important committee. Ordinary members interested in applying for membership should contact admin@abn.org.uk.

3) Resolutions

Resolution	Approved by	
	Ordinary members	All other members
To approve the minutes of the ABN Annual General Meeting 22 May 2019	99.5%	100%
To approve the nomination of new members	99.5%	100%
To consider and adopt the Annual Accounts	99.5%	100%
To re-appoint Griffin Stone Moscrop & Co as auditors	100%	97%
To authorise the Directors to agree auditors' remuneration for the forthcoming year	100%	100%
Update membership reference requirements to require easily checked criteria (e.g. GMC/IHC registration) supported by workplace referee.	98%	97%
Amend definition of Senior category to refer to 'State pension age'	98%	94%
Amend definition of Student category to specify 'undergraduate medical student'	97%	100%
Create an Allied Health Professional membership category to give non-voting access to ABN conferences and web content for AHP including specialist nurses/physician associates	95%	90%
Update rules to allow 3 months for payment of annual membership subscription invoice	99%	97%
Separate the roles of Hon. Secretary (2 years) and Hon. Assistant Secretary (2 years) into Hon. Secretary (1 year elect + 2 years) and Meetings Secretary (1 year elect + 2 years)	97%	100%
Modify Quality Committee's rule to allow non geographic recruitment of members	90%	90%

All resolutions were passed with 90% - 100% of Ordinary members voting in favour of each resolution.

Membership: New, Changes and Deaths 2021

ORDINARY

Dr	Pauls	Auce	The Walton Centre
Dr	Rosaria	Buccoliero	Harrogate District Foundation Trust
Dr	Gavin	Charlesworth	Charing Cross Hospital
Dr	Alexandre	Costa	Royal Derby Hospital
Dr	Antonio	Da Costa	The Walton Centre
Prof	Simone	DI Giovanni	Imperial College, London
Prof	Grainne	Gorman	Newcastle
Dr	Michael	Knopp	Royal Derby Hospital
Dr	Andras	Lakatos	John van Geest Centre for Brain Repair, Cambridge
Dr	Clinton	Mitchell	Cardiff
Dr	Sara	Simeoni	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Amith	Sitaram	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow

ASSOCIATE

Dr	Irad	Ahmed	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Dr	Yaqub	Al Sami	Essex
Dr	Roa Mohammed	Ali	James Cook Hospital
Dr	Mohamad	Almobaied	Tallaght University Hospital
Dr	Faye	Begeti	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Roberto	Bellanti	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Claire	Cochrane	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Niall	Doherty	Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Dr	Erin	Drazich	University College London Hospital
Dr	Catriona	Gribbin	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Adam	Handel	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Sheharyar	Hanif	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Naveed	Iqbal	Stroke Unit, Lister Hospital
Dr	Conor	Kavanagh	Salford Royal Hospital
Dr	Patrick	Kearns	MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh
Dr	Anthony	Khoo	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Mr	Jack	Kirby	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Kathryn	Knight	Ninewells Hospital
Dr	Michael	Lowe	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	David	Lynch	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Sarah-Jane	Martin	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Gavin	McCluskey	Royal Victoria Hospital
Ms	Sadaf	Mehboob	Leeds Royal Infirmary
Dr	Stephen	Mullin	Plymouth
Dr	Vijay	Nar	Southampton General Hospital
Dr	Dashne	Omar	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation
Dr	Sangeerthana	Rajagopal	St George's Hospital
Dr	Stephen	Ramsay	Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Dr	Aayushi	Sen	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Donal	Skelly	University of Oxford
Dr	Gagandeep	Sukhija	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Harry	Tucker	Royal Preston Hospital

Dr	Frederick	Vonberg	Charing Cross Hospital
Dr	Sarah	Wrigley	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Keonwoo	Yi	The Royal London Hospital

AFFILIATE

Dr	Laurel	Brown	Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham
Dr	Mortada	Elyas	Ipswich Hospital
Dr	Debashis	Nath	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn
Dr	Donald	Nortey	Queen's Hospital, Romford
Dr	Sarah	Siddiqui	East Kent University Hospital

JUNIOR

Dr	Laith	Alexander	St Thomas' Hospital
Dr	Prodromos	Anastasiadis	Derriford Hospital
Dr	Amedra	Basgaran	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Euan	Carter	Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
Dr	Marcus	Chan	London
Dr	William	Clark	Pinderfields Hospital
Dr	Martin Ezequiel	Cohn	Hillingdon Hospital
Dr	Elena	Conci	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Menatalla	Elwan	Royal Victoria Infirmary
Dr	John	Erskine	Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Dr	Taniya	Esmail	Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Dr	Angus	Gane	The Walton Centre
Dr	Kate	Hale	Southmead Hospital North Bristol NHS Trust
Dr	Marc	Hardwick	Wessex Neuroscience Centre
Dr	Callum	Harris	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Laura	Heap	Leeds General Infirmary
Dr	Joseph	Hogan	Croydon University Hospital
Dr	William	Hughes	Treliske Hospital
Dr	Jemima	Hutton	Princess Royal Hospital
Dr	Sabahat	Iqbal	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Harriet	Jeffery	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Naveen	Kumar	University College Hospital
Dr	Afroditi	Lalou	Newnham College
Dr	Audrey	Le Bihan	Oxford University Hospitals
Dr	Linda	Lei	Watford General Hospital
Dr	Viva	Levee	National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Rebecca	MacGregor Legge	King's College Hospital
Dr	Dina	Mahmoud	Barnsley General Hospital
Dr	Hiba	Malik	University Hospitals of Leicester
Dr	Jai	Mathur	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Dr	Chris	McMurrin	Cambridge
Dr	Hind	Mohamed	Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust
Dr	Ndabezinhle	Mtunzi	Southampton General Hospital
Dr	Jakub	Nagrodzki	Peterborough City Hospital
Dr	Saneeya	Nasim	London
Dr	Yassine	Noui	King's College Hospital
Dr	Fergus	O'Farrell	Addenbrooke's Hospital

Dr	Bharath	Podapati	Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport
Dr	Thomas	Robb	Royal Bournemouth Hospital
Dr	Amr	Tageldin	Southport Hospital
Dr	Aiman	Umme	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Alexandra	Zirra	Royal London Hospital

STUDENTS

Mr	Vincent	Chang	St George's, University of London
Mr	Divyansh	Dixit	University of Southampton
Mr	Aaron	Hundal	Newcastle University
Ms	Deborah	Inyang	London
Ms	Duha	Jasim	University of Oxford
Miss	Janeen	Kirwan	University of Liverpool
Miss	Devy	Kumaresan	University of Birmingham
Ms	Clare	Lambert	Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland
Mr	Tobias	Leach	Bristol
Ms	Charlotte	Lee	Oxford
Mr	Callum	Leng	Sheffield
Mr	Aneirin (Nye)	Potter	King's College London
Miss	Kirsten	Revell	Medical School Building
Mr	Daniel	Ross	Old Court, Clare College
Miss	Gurpreet	Sehmbi	Birmingham
Mr	Karthikeyan	Sivaganesh	Imperial College London
Mr	Steven	Smithies	University of Cambridge
Mr	Michael	Trubshaw	University of Nottingham
Dr	Ryan	Wee	London

OVERSEAS

Dr	Qusai	Alhaddad	NMC Royal Hospital, Khalifa City
Dr	Chumpol	Anamnart	Thailand
Dr	Kunal	Bahrani	Asian Institute of Medical Sciences, Faridabad, India
Dr	Alberto	Duran Peña	Paris, France
Dr	Belén	González-Herrero	Barcelona, Spain
Dr	Sankar	Gorthi	Bharati Hospital, Pune, India
Prof	Paul	McCorry	Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, Melbourne
Prof.Dr	Pazhani	Ranganathan	Pazhani Neuro Centre, Chennai, India

CHANGE FROM STUDENT TO JUNIOR

Dr	Marie	Jasim	Torbay Hospital
Mr	Vishal	Rawji	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Andrew	Whitfield	Crosshouse University Hospital

CHANGE FROM ASS/AFF TO ORDINARY

Dr	Smriti	Agarwal	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Fawad	Ahmad	Royal Preston Hospital
Dr	Jason	Appleton	City Hospital, Birmingham
Dr	Andrew	Barritt	Princess Royal Hospital

Dr	Julian	Blake	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Ailbhe	Burke	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Krishna Vamsi	Chintaphalli	Wexham Park Hospital
Dr	Ian	Coyle-Gilchrist	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Gemma	Cummins	Southmead Hospital
Dr	Anne	Donnelly	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Helen	Grote	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
Dr	Ghaniah	Hassan-Smith	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
Dr	Ingrid	Hoeritzauer	Edinburgh
Dr	Xuya	Huang	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
Dr	Anne-Catherine	Huys	UCL Institute of Neurology
Dr	Fatima	Jaffer	King's College Hospital
Dr	Damian	Jenkins	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Peter	Jenkins	St George's Hospital
Dr	Salwa	Kamourieh	Hammersmith Hospital
Dr	Diego	Kaski	Charing Cross Hospital
Dr	Siobhan	Kelly	Sligo University Hospital
Dr	Fiona	Kennedy	Royal Victoria Hospital
Dr	Oliver	Leach	Royal Cornwall Hospital
Dr	Charles	Marshall	Royal London Hospital
Dr	Philip	Milburn-McNulty	St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust
Dr	Thomas	Miller	Royal Free Hospital
Dr	Tze How	Mok	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Petr	Pokorny	Ipswich Hospital
Dr	Dipa	Rayan	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Neshike	Samarasekera	Western General Hospital
Dr	Shona	Scott	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Dr	Aaron	Sturrock	New Cross Hospital
Dr	Andrew	Thompson	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Alexander	Thompson	Nuffield Dept Clinical Neurosciences, Oxford
Dr	Saw Ling	Toh	Royal Derby Hospital
Dr	Patrick	Urwin	Ninewells Hospital
Dr	Louise	Wiblin	James Cook University Hospital
Dr	Kit	Wu	King's College Hospital
Dr	Tim	Young	Whittington Hospital

CHANGE FROM AFFILIATE TO ASSOCIATE

Dr	Stephen	Auger	Imperial College Healthcare NHS
Dr	Edwin	Jabbari	Homerton University Hospital
Dr	Hugh	Jones	Nottingham University Hospitals

CHANGE FROM ASSOCIATE TO AFFILIATE

Dr	Fahd	Baig	St George's Hospital
Dr	John	Baker	UCL, Institute of Neurology
Dr	Marcus	Bradley	North Bristol NHS Trust
Dr	Karen	Chung	UCL, Institute of Neurology
Dr	Carolynne	Doherty	Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases, NHNN
Dr	Wilson	Fung	University Hospital of Wales
Dr	Nokis	Gorgoraptis	Royal London Hospital

Dr	Tania	Jawad	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Marie-Louise	Kane (McDonnell)	Royal Victoria Hospital
Dr	Nazia	Karsan	St George's Hospital
Dr	Rachael	Kee	Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Dr	Yuying	Liang	London
Dr	Paul	McGeoch	Bristol
Dr	Marcello	Moccia	London
Dr	Alastair	Noyce	UCL, Institute of Neurology
Dr	Ronan	O'Malley	Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Dr	Varun	Sethi	University College Hospital
Dr	Liya	Suvorova	Conquest Hospital, St Leonards-on-Sea
Dr	Jessica	Vaz	Jersey General Hospital

CHANGE FROM JUNIOR TO ASSOCIATE

Dr	Bryan	Ceronie	Royal London Hospital
Dr	Cyrus	Daruwalla	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Jacob	Day	Derriford Hospital
Dr	Dexter	Penn	National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Dr	Matthew	Evans	Imperial College Healthcare Trust
Dr	Jonathan	Hawken	Neurosciences Directorate, Heath Hospital, Cardiff
Dr	Rosie	Heartshorne	The Walton Centre
Dr	Christopher	Hutchcroft	Salford Royal Hospital
Dr	Ben	Jacobs	Whipps Cross University Hospital
Dr	Srikirti	Kodali	Addenbrookes Hospital
Dr	Nicole	Lichtblau	Coventry University Hospital
Dr	Sean	Mangion	King's College Hospital
Dr	Dafydd	Morgan	Musgrove Park Hospital
Dr	Trisha	Mukherjee	Cambridge University Hospital
Dr	Elena	Purcaru	Southampton
Dr	Jacob	Roelofs	Middlesbrough
Dr	Victor-Laurian	Rusu	Derriford Hospital
Dr	Nicholas	Sim	Leeds General Infirmary
Dr	Lucy	Simmonds	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Babak	Soleimani	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Robyn	Terry	Pinderfields Hospital
Dr	Taylor	Watson-Fargie	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Andreas	Yiangou	Institute of Metabolism and Systems Research, Birmingham

CHANGE FROM ORDINARY TO OVERSEAS

Dr	Martin	Punter	Wellington Regional Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand
Dr	Georgios	Tzimas	APOKATASTASI SA, Greece

COVID-19 TO FULL MEMBERSHIP

Dr	Sunday	Oghuvwu	Leeds General Infirmary
----	--------	---------	-------------------------

RETIRED - ORDINARY TO SENIOR

Dr	John	Bamford	Wetherby
Dr	Maxwell	Damian	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Mark	Doran	The Walton Centre

Dr	Thomas	Esmonde	Antrim Area Hospital
Dr	Andrew	Gale	Royal Free Hospital
Dr	Donald	Grosset	Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Dr	Hisham	Hamdalla	Sale, UK
Prof	Christopher	Kennard	John Radcliffe Hospital
Dr	Peter	Martin	Addenbrooke's Hospital
Dr	Linda	Parsons	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Gordon	Plant	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Dr	Ian	Schofield	Newcastle General Hospital
Dr	Patrick	Trend	Petworth
Prof Sir	Douglass	Turnbull	Newcastle University
Prof	Adrian	Williams	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Dr	Gavin	Young	James Cook University Hospital

DEATHS

Dr	Abdelwahab	Babiker	Eastbourne District General Hospital
Dr	Peter	Bradbury	Chelmsford
Dr	Michael	Eshiett	Leigh Infirmary, Manchester
Dr	Richard	Greenhall	Oxford
Dr	Hilary	Morgan	Bristol
Dr	CP	Panayiotopoulos	St Thomas' Hospital
Dr	John	Spalding	Woodbridge
Dr	John	Wilson	London

NEW MEMBERS (COVID-19): 198

A temporary COVID-19 membership category, restricted to COVID-19 guidance only, was introduced in 2020 to permit Allied Health Professionals ease of access to ABN guidance.

REPORTS

Honorary Secretary

Jon Sussman (2019 – 2022)

The ABN completed 107 consultations and meeting requests in 2020 (compared to 138 in 2019) which included NICE Scoping Consultations, Guidelines and Quality Standard reviews as well as Technology Appraisals, and providing opinions on documents from the RCP, Department of Health and other bodies. At a particularly busy time, our members, and in particular the ABN Advisory Groups, rose to the challenges associated with these consultations.

COVID-19 continued to generate the need for guidance, particularly for patients receiving MS DMTs and I am particularly grateful to Alasdair Coles and the MS Advisory group for their major contribution over the past year. The recent discovery of the association between thrombotic disorders and COVID-19 vaccinations required a rapid response which the ABN was able to provide in collaboration with other specialist societies. All of this is an example of the ABN at its best.

Services have changed beyond recognition over the past year and the ABN is working to ensure that the best of these changes are implemented for the long-term benefit of our patients. The recently published Neurology GIRFT report has identified variations in services and together with NHSE, the ABN is working to build back better.

The ABN Advisory groups are appointed for terms of three years. In early 2021 we sought new applications for chairs and committee members and have now finalised membership for the next three years. I am exceptionally grateful to the members who have now demitted from the committees and welcome the new members for what I hope will be an interesting three years, with the potential to make a real difference for patients with neurological conditions.

The Specialist Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to run independently of the council appointed Advisory Groups. We welcome the creation of a new Acute Neurology SIG and look forward to their contribution to our meetings. With parallel SIG meetings at remote ABN meetings, and catch-up facilities on the ABN Meetings App, members will enjoy improved access to the SIG meetings.

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 the ABN office and Faheemah in particular for their help over the past year.

Honorary Treasurer

Neil Robertson (2019 – 2021)

In 2020, the ABN's incoming resources were £761,979 (£686,066 unrestricted income, £75,913 to the restricted ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund). Total resources expended were £612,288 (£491,091 unrestricted, £121,197 from the ABN CF fund) giving a net surplus before revaluation of investment assets of £149,691. These figures represented a significant drop from 2019, reflecting the absence of a live annual meeting and the associated venue, travel and accommodation costs. Meeting income fell similarly as the registration rates for the virtual meeting were much lower than for a face to face event. However, attendance levels were high and industry engagement strong resulting in a much more positive outcome than had initially been expected. ABN investments fell in line with the UK market in 2020, decreasing in value by £104,301 and contributing to a reduction in the ABN's unrestricted reserves from £1,190,301 at the beginning of the year to £1,080,975 at the end. This however represents a recovery from the much steeper drop experienced in the early weeks of the pandemic.

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 brought such hypothetical risks much closer to home; however, any potential ABN loss was mitigated by the negotiation of a full refund of venue costs from the Bournemouth International Centre and the willingness of ABN sponsors and exhibitors to transfer their support to the virtual meeting.

Given the positive financial outcome despite the restrictions to ABN activities in 2020, it was agreed that the ABN should transfer £200,000 to the restricted fellowship fund. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowship fund received £75,912 in 2020. This included contributions from the Stroke Association and the Dunhill Medical Trust Foundation, each funding 50% of a fellowship, plus funding from members, individual supporters, charitable and industry partners.

Meetings Committee

Chair: Richard Davenport (2019 - 2021)

Committee members:

David Burn (President; 2019 - 2021), Tom Warner (President-Elect; 2019 - 2021), Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer; 2019 - 2021), Cath Mummery (Services Committee Chair; 2017 - 2023), Martin Turner (Research Committee Chair; 2016 - 2022), Chris Kipps (Quality Committee Chair; 2017 - 2023), Matt Jone (Education Committee Chair; 2019-2022), Carolyn Gabriel (Meetings Secretary Elect; 2020-2021), Amy Ross-Russell (ABNT Chair; 2019 - 2021), Joanne Lawrence (Executive Director), Dawn Moore (ABN Office Representatives), Keith Brews (Affinity Events).

2020 did not quite turn out as planned. The three-day Bournemouth May 2020 Annual Meeting was initially converted to an October two-day London meeting, eventually commuted to a one-day online virtual event as things turned ugly COVID-wise, with additional evening satellite seminars. Despite that, it was judged (according to feedback from both delegates and Pharma) a success, with 870 delegates and 309 abstracts accepted. We learnt a lot in the process and carried those ideas forwards, as by now it had become clear that the planned joint meeting with the Irish Institute of Clinical Neurosciences for May 2021 would not be possible and we felt it not appropriate to commute this to a virtual event, we hope to hold this meeting in 2023, May 2021 will be another virtual event, with three evening sessions to accommodate both SIG and poster sessions (181 abstracts accepted and at the time of writing, 537 delegates). Plans are also underway for the November 2021 London based one-day meeting, which will be hybrid/virtual depending upon restrictions at the time.

The ABN Acute Neurology Boot Camp was held virtually in June 2020 attracting between 78 to 210 delegates on the evenings held, with up to 630 catch up views. The Neurology for Medical Students training session was also virtual (hosted by Glasgow) with 145 delegates and 50 subsequent catch-up views. It seems likely that both events will continue with a virtual element, as it was clear just how effectively this boosted the numbers able to attend, without travelling and adding to climate change.

Carolyn Gabriel was elected Meetings Secretary during a complicated year and will take over from Richard in May 2021 for a two-year tenure, having experienced something of a baptism of fire during 2020.

Services Committee

Chair: Cath Mummery (2017 – 2023)

Deputy Chair: John Woolmore

Administrator: Fardousa Musa

Committee members:

John Woolmore (West Midlands; 2016 - 2022), Enrico Flossman (Oxford; 2019 - 2022), Raeburn Forbes (N Ireland 2010 -), Tracey Graves (East Anglia; 2017 - 2021), David McKee (North West; 2017 - 2021), David Barnes (SW Thames; 2013 - 2021), Sophie Molloy (NW Thames; 2020 – 2023), Andria Merrison (South West; 2019 - 2022), Peter Brex (SE Thames; 2016 - 2022), Joanna Lovett (Wessex; 2017 - 2023), Rubesh Gooriah (Yorkshire; 2017 - 2023), Owen Pearson (South Wales, 2016 - 2022), Rhys Davies (North Wales; 2016 - 2022), Louise Davidson (East Scotland; 2019 - 2022), Krishna Dani (West Scotland; 2016 - 2022), Orlando Swayne (Central London; 2017 - 2023), Hannah Steele (Northern 2019 – 2022), Gillian Stewart (Less Than Full Time Working; 2016 - 2021).

Ex officio members:

Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary; 2017 - 2022), Christopher Kipps (Quality Committee Chair; 2017 - 2023), Amy Ross Russell (ABNT Chair; 2019 - 2022), Lucy Kinton (Councillor; 2017 - 2021)

Coopted members: Georgina Carr (Neurological Alliance), Adrian Williams (Chair of the Clinical Reference Group for Neurosciences)

Reports from the Regions

The past year's SC work has been in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Services across the country have gone through rapid and dramatic changes, with redeployment of workforce and remote working introduced at breakneck speed. Regional reports from SC representatives provided a snapshot of the differences in March and June 2020, and more recently in March 2021. The initial reports formed the basis for the publication, '*UK neurology response to the COVID-19 crisis*' (Clinical Medicine May 2020), and for guidance on the website. A joint SC/QC workshop led to the Service Reconfiguration guidelines in July 2020 and a membership survey on working practice and wellbeing.

The regional reports continue to demonstrate marked differences in impact on services across the country. In March 2021, wait times in some areas are high; in others, they are lower than normal. Most services are gradually restarting elective activity, but are not yet near normal levels. Recruitment remains a significant and intractable issue in some areas and will need work alongside GIRFT and regional bodies to improve. Some specialist services remain brittle due to loss of juniors. There is significant concern about the possible impact of Shape of Training and potential difficulties in recruitment post-Brexit. Projects with trainees to determine impact of new curriculum on services as well as training are under discussion. It remains the case that access to neurophysiology remains inadequate across much of the country. Review of new models of staffing are planned, looking at the use of allied health practitioner use.

Changes in practices have in some respects been seen as positive, with remote working increasing choices for patients and flexibility for staffs, but it is clear that remote working is not appropriate for all, and the criteria for use needs to be agreed clinically not managerially. In spite of the crisis, innovation continues: in Scotland for example, a number of pilot services are being introduced in collaboration with the Scottish government's 'modernising medical pathways' scheme. Others are using virtual triage to ensure appropriate management for stroke patients. New treatments have been rolled out such as nusinersen in SMA and monoclonal antibodies in headache, albeit more slowly due to current restrictions.

We plan to move the reporting system online to facilitate sharing of good practice and innovation, and alert where support is required.

SC/QC Workforce and Wellbeing Survey

The survey went out to the membership in June 2020 and was presented at ABN Conference October 2020. It demonstrated major changes in work and experience, and the impact of redeployment on activity, investigations and quality of OP care in particular. A repeat survey is planned for April 2021.

Referral Management

There has been a dramatic increase in advice and guidance since the pandemic from 3000 to > 5500 per month. In recognition of the increased importance of this, the SC revised the Referral Management document with UK-wide evidence base to provide guidance for good practice. This is available on the ABN website. Provision is very unequal across the UK and further work is planned with NHS-X, working with others to promote use of advice and guidance, and improve eRS useability.

Alongside this, working with QC we plan to curate a library of pathways and documents to offer a choice of possible options for common disorders available via the website.

Royal College of Physicians work

- **Invited Service review – Belfast and others**

This work continues in partnership with the RCP, providing a robust and externally validated method of review for difficult clinical cases. We have refined the review methodology so that it can now be used remotely once trained and plan to write it up jointly with the RC. The work has led to consideration of how to ensure services are safe and supported, while not stifling innovation. The SC and QC are discussing how best to work together on this.

- **COVID-19 RCP medical specialties board**

During the pandemic, bi-weekly RCP board meetings across all medical specialties have enabled us to respond to and consult on rapidly changing issues ranging from PPE to OP transformation, risk stratification etc.

Neurological Alliance Patient Experience Survey

The Neurological Alliance and SC work closely together. The new patient experience survey led by the Neurological Alliance will be aligned to the SC/QC workforce survey to provide a 360 perspective of clinical practice. We will triangulate the data with staff data to reflect on where services can be optimised.

NHSE CRG/NNAG

NHSE work paused for much of the year but there has been progress in some areas:

- **Neurological care pathways**

The first three pathways (MS, inflammatory and epilepsy) for 'what does good look like' have now gone through consultation process and been further refined. Further pathways are due for consultation in coming months. The aim will be for these to be implemented via the NHSE Neurology Transformation group.

- **Pathways for treatment in dementia**

Ongoing meetings are being held with NHSE to discuss the appropriate pathway for a DMT in dementia to ensure NHSE is ready for clinical, financial and implementation issues.

- **Outcomes away day**

Rescheduled for September 2021. This aims to bring together different groups to guide development of work needed for outcomes for people with neurological conditions.

ABN Services Committee Strategy Review

To improve clinical neurological services and provide leadership in services delivery in the UK.	
Improve neurological services	SC has developed online guidance on common areas of practice and published recommendations on service reconfiguration during pandemic. Joint working with QC ensures quality and service aligned.
Provide leadership in neurology services delivery in UK	Regular reports to ABN Exec and Council; regional representative engagement in projects and committee work.
Build relationships with external groups to promote neurology services	Work closely with NHSE bodies, professional associations and patient bodies to promote and improve neurology services; including Neurological Alliance, Neuroscience Clinical Reference Group, National Neurology Advisory Group, NHSE Getting It Right First Time, NHSE Neurology Transformation Programme, Royal College of Physicians. This has led to a higher profile, with increased requests for information, consultation and engagement.

Quality Committee

Chair: Chris Kipps (2017 – 2023)

Administrator: Fardousa Musa

Committee members*:

Arani Nitkunan (2017 – 2021), Kate Petheram (2019 – 2022), Anand Trip (2017 – 2021), Graham Warner (2017 – 2021), Mark McCarron (RCP safety rep; 2019 – 2022)

**Quality Committee does not have defined regional representation as per agreed rule change.*

Ex officio members:

Angelika Zarkali (ABNT rep; 2019 – 2022), Jon Sussman (Hon Sec; 2019 – 2022), Cath Mummery (Services Chair; 2017 – 2023), Lucy Kinton (Council rep; 2017 – 2021),

Work Plan

The Quality Committee supported the ABN pandemic response in a number of ways, most notably with the 2nd ABN National Work Practice Survey and Service Recovery Advice. Much of the work was done in conjunction with the ABN Services Committee. During 2020-21 most of the pre-existing work programme was halted. This is now under review to ensure work remains relevant to current practice. Quality Committee areas of work are outlined in more detail below.

Work Practice Survey

- 2020 survey presented at ABN meeting. Subsequent work has focused on review of qualitative comments. Events have moved on quickly, and the focus will be on writing up what has changed, and what we should focus on.
- Survey will be repeated in 2021 as comparison to first two epochs following review with Services Committee and ABN Exec. Aim to distribute early May.

National Audits

- Agreed by ABN Exec that this should be progressed.
- Paper presented at April Council meeting for discussion and will be available in AGM papers at Annual Meeting.
- Ambition will be to use mechanism to pilot data capture of relevance to clinical quality and service development that is not otherwise available.

Guidelines

- Previous work on practical guidelines – currently little enthusiasm about additional work – plan to simplify and link to other initiatives with SC/Trainees.
- Guidelines policy (2018) reviewed – for distribution to AAGs/Exec/Council to standardise process. Approach modifiable if needed. Will be used for development of guidelines across the ABN.

Terms of Reference

- Remain appropriate and remit clear.
- Geographic representation reviewed.
- Some members would like more regional representation - agreed to increase size and go out to broaden membership to balance.

Safety

- Arani Nitkunan has handed over role as rep to RCP Safety Committee to Mark McCarron.
- Important focus on safe neurological services. Initiative planned with Services Committee to progress a joint approach – scoping document in preparation.

Outcomes

- Outcomes day discussions in progress.
- Plan developed with NA/NNAG.
- Outcomes literature review/ link to Delphi process/ patient engagement.
- Reporting at outcomes day.

Digital group

- Remains on hold at present – plans not progressed during pandemic but will be reviewed.

Education Committee

Chair: Matt Jones (2020 – 2022)

Administrator: Faheemah Patel

Committee members:

Jeremy Rees (London; 2020 – 2023), Edward Newman (Scotland; 2020 – 2023), Sybil Stacpoole (East of England and East Midlands; 2019 – 2022), Robert Powell (Wales; 2020 – 2023), Judy Archer (North East, Yorkshire & the Humber; 2020 – 2023)

Ex officio members:

Cath Mummery (Services Chair; 2017 – 2023), Biba Stanton (Council Rep; 2019 – 2023), Lina Nashef (Council Rep; 2017 – 2021), Tom Hughes (SAC; 2015), Richard Rees (ABNT Rep; 2019)

1) General:

New Reps since last annual report:

Jeremy Rees – London

Judy Archer – NE, Yorkshire and Humber

Some regional posts remain empty despite renewed call for members last year. Plan for advertising the empty posts at ABN Virtual Conference:

- Vacant - Northern Ireland
- Vacant - North West & West Midlands
- Vacant - South Central & South East Coast
- Vacant - South West

2) Shape of Training:

2a. Work on developing the curriculum within the Neurology SAC resulted in a final draft that was sent out for wide consultation in March 2021. Good number of respondents to the survey – currently being collated for consideration with SAC. Full and final curriculum submission to GMC due to happen before summer 2021.

2b. With curriculum near completion, the focus shifts to implementation of Shape of Training across all regions. This poses significant difficulties as Internal Medicine training has never been a part of higher specialist training for neurologists before. Regular SAC virtual meetings are being held to share best practice and models for implementation.

3) Australasian Fellowship:

Despite COVID-19 the successful candidate from last year's interview process has taken up the fellowship at The Alfred in February 2021.

A 2022 fellow was appointed by virtual interview earlier this year – Rob Hurford is scheduled to take up the fellowship from February 2022.

4) Undergraduate Prize

Submission numbers were slightly down on last year's prize; this may be a possible COVID-19 related effect of students having fewer clinical opportunities in general, so case reports and audits may be harder to achieve

Winners:

Research: Jakov Tiefenbach

Clinical: Ella Burchill

Audit: Mohit Litesh

Winners will be offered the chance to present their work as a poster at the ABN Virtual Conference May 2021.

5) Undergraduate teaching day (November 2020)

PROGRAMME:

- Introduction and Movement disorders - Ed Newman, Glasgow
- Student platform presentations
- Neuro Fringe video
- Videos of ABN Fellows
- Neuroinflammation - Paul Gallagher, Glasgow
- Neurology careers with panel Q+A - Matt Jones, Amy Ross Russell, Richard Rees

Approximately 140 students watched live (more than typical f2f student days in prior years) and the sessions remain available on 'catch-up' via the ABN website. Good feedback from students.

High quality of student presentations with prize awarded to James Scott.

Many thanks to the speakers for giving us their time and their excellent talks. Special thanks to Faheemah in the ABN office for all the hard work in making it happen.

Given the high number of attendees the plan is to stick with a virtual format and plan a similar event in November 2021.

6) ABN Self-Assessment

Clinton Mitchell and the Cardiff team are on track to have the questions ready to coincide with ABN Virtual Conference 2021

7) Lockdown Lectures

In response to widespread teaching cancellations during initial COVID-19 crisis ABN and ABNT scheduled a series of weekly 'lockdown lecture' webinars:

- 30th April 2020: Lockdown Lecture 1
Dr. Benedict Michael: Neurological complications of COVID-19
- 7th May 2020: Lockdown Lecture 2
Dr Jenny Vaughan & Dr Bridget MacDonald: Coping with COVID-19 - practical advice on how to deal with some of the ethical and medico-legal challenges
- 14th May 2020: Lockdown Lecture 3
Dr Simon Hammans: Clinical diagnosis of adult genetic myopathies: tips and tricks
- 21st May 2020: Lockdown Lecture 4
Dr Wojtek Rakowicz: Weakness on the ward Consult
- 28th May 2020: Lockdown Lecture 5
Dr Ed Newman: Telemedicine for the neurology trainee
- 4th June 2020: Lockdown Lecture 6
Dr Pooja Dassan: Obstetric Neurology

Each session ran live between 19.00 - 20.00 on a Thursday evening. Recorded versions then made available via ABN website.

Good engagement with between 45 - 200 people live-viewing each session and 150 - 410 post-hoc views of each recording.

Special thanks to the speakers and the ABN office for making this project a success.

This work, and the 'ABNT Virtual Boot Camp', was presented to RCP medical specialties board as an example of innovative practice. Good feedback received.

8) Future Online Resources

Once new Neurology Curriculum is finalised, there is a plan to work with SAC and ABNT on a series of centralised, ABN website hosted resources to support each of the eight 'capabilities in practice'. These are designed to supplement, not replace, the regional training day programmes greatly valued by trainees.

9) Clinical Training Fellowships (post/peri-CCT)

The EC has developed a proposal for ABN approval of Post/Peri-CCT clinical training fellowships. This has been prompted by an increasing convergence of opinion that these are an important form of training for the future. Individual neurology sub-specialists, the SAC, ABNT, ABN Exec and most recently GIRFT have all discussed this topic in various forms over the last 12 months. At the current time there is no real prospect of the GMC or JRCPTB developing accreditation for any such posts ('Credentialing' as currently described by GMC is not the same thing) but the ABN could provide this role.

10) COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis continues to have a significant impact on all aspects of medical education and training. Examples include:

- a) Undergraduates – As a result of Medical undergrad programmes being generally exempt from COVID restrictions on f2f teaching, medical students have remained on placement this year, in contrast to March - June 2020 when these were largely suspended. However, the long-term effects of limited clinical exposure (fewer f2f clinics, limited time on wards etc.) has yet to be fully appreciated.
- b) Neurology STs – after a period of variable redeployment regionally in 2020 all Neurology STs and research fellows returned to their 'normal' duties. In second (and third) waves some redeployment of neurology trainees occurred but normal duties have now resumed again.

Neurology SCE was postponed but ran successfully in November 2020.

ARCP panels were virtual in 2020 and will proceed this way in 2021. National recommendation is that PYAs will not happen this year (as in 2020). A locally performed 'PYA-equivalent' process has been agreed within SAC. New ARCP outcome codes were issued to allow COVID-19 related disruptions to be taken into account and are to be kept available.

Interviews for February and August 2021 ST3 posts were held 'remotely' with a panel of virtual interviewers. This process seemed to work satisfactorily.

11) ABN Education Committee Strategy Review

To champion outstanding training and education in neurology	
<i>Develop Undergraduate education</i>	Plans for future virtual UG education day in Autumn 2021 Continued offering of annual UG prizes.
<i>Develop Postgraduate training</i>	Ongoing work on Shape of Training reforms and curriculum development exemplify this. Ongoing work to provide self-assessment questions each year on eBrain. Lockdown lectures and plans for new online resources to complement new ST curriculum.
<i>Improve neurology standards in Internal Medical (IM) Specialities</i>	There may be some scope for trainees in other specialties to do 'swaps' with neurology STs to allow each to get required GIM competencies as part of Shape of Training. This appears to be highly variable from region to region.
<i>Provide leadership for neurology training policy development and delivery locally and nationally, as necessary</i>	Ongoing work on Shape of Training reforms and curriculum development exemplify this. Team work approach with SAC and ABNT is critical. FAQ document and regular updates for trainers and trainees provided on ABN website.
<i>Provide input to development of neurology training internationally as appropriate</i>	Representation from ABN EC on the UEMS.

Research Committee

Chair: Martin Turner (2019 – 2022)

Deputy: Oliver Bandmann

Administrator: Fardousa Musa

Committee members:

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

Ex officio members:

Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer; 2019 - 2023), Sofia Eriksson (Councillor; 2019 - 2023), Gargi Banerjee (ABNT Rep; 2018 - 2022), Peter Goadsby (NIHR CRN)

Clinical Research Training Fellowship

We received 18 applications this year, up from 13 compared to last year (and nearer to the 21 high in 2018). There was a 10M:8F sex ratio for lead applicants and some regional diversity: 10 London, 2 Cambridge, 2 Manchester, 2 Newcastle, 1 Birmingham, 1 Cardiff. Themes were:

1. Neurodegenerative disorders - 5
2. MS - 4
3. Epilepsy - 2
4. Dystonia - 2
5. Autoimmune encephalitis - 1
6. Stroke - 1
7. MSA - 1
8. IHH - 1
9. Myasthenia – 1

Potential funders for this year's cycle were:

- Guarantors of Brain (Up to three 100% generic awards)
- Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust (One 100% generic award)
- MSA Trust (One 100% MSA-based award supplemented by the Bannister Fund)
- Berkeley Foundation Pidgley Memorial (Two 50% MS or Stroke-based awards)
- MS Society (One 50% MS-based award + 50% from Berkeley Foundation)
- Stroke Association (One 50% Stroke-based award + 50% from Berkeley Foundation)

Disease-specific awards needed to be competitive alongside the entire field of applicants. From a shortlist of nine, based on at least three independent national and international peer reviews, six new fellows were appointed:

- **Claire McIver, ABN/Guarantors of Brain, Cardiff**
A microstructural imaging approach to determine morphological neuronal differences in adult-onset focal cervical dystonia
- **Andreas Yiangou, ABN/Guarantors of Brain, Birmingham**
Mechanisms and therapeutics for headache in Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension
- **Katherine Stockton, ABN/Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust, Cambridge**
Survival in Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration: identifying blood, brain and behavioural predictors of survival and loss of independence
- **Omar Abdel-Mannan, ABN/ MS Society and The Berkeley Foundation's A. W. Pidgley Memorial, UCL**
Using MRI and serum biomarkers to understand accumulation of disability in paediatric multiple sclerosis

- **Sarah Wrigley, ABN/Guarantors of Brain, UCL**
Defining cellular phenotypes and exploring genetic translational strategies in human and mouse cell models of DYT1 dystonia
- **Yee Yen Goh, ABN/ MSA Trust/Bannister, UCL**
Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) – Identification of longitudinal biomarkers

Fundraising

Dafydd Thomas recently announced his retirement from his voluntary fundraising role and we are in a much stronger position thanks to his efforts over recent years. Exec are considering potential volunteer replacements among the ABN membership.

We are hoping to secure PSP Society and Alzheimer Research UK CRTF partnerships for the 2022 awards and have engaged in early dialogue with Epilepsy UK.

We propose to bring forward the future application and interview timetable by three months to allow TPDs greater time for OOPR workforce planning, and to be ahead of the MRC Spring awards.

New timetable

- June: advertise 2022 Fellowships
- Mid-September: deadline for applications
- September - November: peer review
- Early November: shortlisting
- Early December: interviews and awards for flexible February - October 2022 take-up

Rare Diseases Ascertainment & Recruitment (RaDAR)

RaDAR supported a consortium of ABN members (led by Ian Galea, Benedict Michael and Rhys Roberts) to contribute to a landmark study of neurological and psychiatric complications of COVID-19 infection:

Varatharaj A et al. Neurological and neuropsychiatric complications of COVID-19 in 153 patients: a UK-wide surveillance study. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 2020 Oct;7(10):875-882.
doi: 10.1016/S2215-0366(20)30287-X

There is a three-year limit on all studies (reviewed after one year with case for continuing required), and a total limit of eight at any one time.

Current studies:

- Neurological complications of COVID-19 vaccination (including CVST)
- Neurological complications of COVID-19 infection
- Corticobasal degeneration/syndrome
- Patients with seizures and antibodies to LGI1 or CASPR2
- Primary angiitis of the central nervous system
- POEMS
- Spinocerebellar Ataxia, Familial Late-Onset Ataxia and Familial Episodic Ataxia
- Wilson's disease

ABN Research Committee Strategy 2018 Cross-Reference

To promote world class research in clinical neurosciences	
<i>Improving internal ABN structures to reflect strategic objectives</i>	Revision of Fellowship application forms and eligibility criteria. More active fundraising efforts with a growing number of Fellowship scheme funders. Implementation of RaDAR platform and responsiveness to COVID-19 surveillance.
<i>Enhancing engagement with members' research interests</i>	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.
<i>Supporting early career researchers</i>	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.
<i>Providing input to research developments internationally as appropriate</i>	Aim for post-Brexit continued active engagement with EAN. Inviting leading international speakers to ABN meeting. Facilitating the international response to COVID-19 through RaDAR and ABN website educational resources.
<i>Leadership</i>	Regular RC reports to Exec and Council and liaison with RC members.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Chair: Tom Warner (President Elect; 2019 - 2021)

Committee members:

Biba Stanton (Councillor; 2019 - 2023); Arani Nitkunan (Councillor; 2018 – 2022); Amy Ross-Russell (ABNT Chair; 2019 - 2021); Faheemah Patel (ABN Office); John Gillies-Wilkes (Neurological Alliance); Olalade Tijani (Student).

The ABN Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (ED&I) was set up in the second half of 2020 to examine and recommend actions to ensure equal opportunities for all members within the ABN. It also will work with the Neurological Alliance to deliver equitable nationwide availability of excellent and equitable neurological services.

The Committee has added the following statement to the ABN's principal objectives: Promote an inclusive neurological community and equal opportunity for all neurologists and trainees. It has also started review of the make-up of our committees and groups and basic demographic data for the ABN membership and staff.

In 2021, the Committee will work with Business in the Community (BITC) to undertake a review of our approach to ED&I, which will involve assessment of current policies/documents, listening to views from the membership with focus groups/interviews, and then feeding back a report with recommendations. Working with BITC allows a transparent approach to understanding how we work, and is based round the views of our membership and staff, and they have broad experience having undertaken similar work with the GMC, NHS Blood, Cancer Research amongst others. We hope to feedback the findings and strategy for the future at the end of 2021/early 2022.

Association of British Neurologists Trainees Committee

Chair: Amy Ross Russell (2019 – 2021)

Administrator: Faheemah Patel

Committee members:

Nicole Lichtblau (Secretary), Hena Ahmad (Treasurer), Gargi Banerjee (Research Rep), Richard Rees (Training and Education Rep), Emily Pegg (Liaison Rep), Robert Hurford (BASP Rep), Angelika Zarkali (Media).

Regional representatives:

Nick Cunliffe (East of England), Laura Midgely (Kent, Surrey and Sussex), Stephen Keddle (East London), Rachel Brown (North London), Rhian Raftopoulos (South London), Samia Elkommos (Southwest London), Aravindhan Baheerathan (West London), Daniyal Daud (North East), Anna Randall (North West), Martin Harley (Northern Ireland), Peter Fernandes (Scotland), Stephen Mullin (Penninsula), Harriet Ball (Severn), Adam Handel (Thames Valley), Marc Edwards (Wales), Paul Zeun (Wessex), Christina Engelzou (West Midlands), Shristi Gupta (East Midlands), Matthew Tanti (Yorkshire and Humber)

Elections

Mike Kemp left the liaison post, and Emily Pegg (previously North West representative) was elected.

Angelika Zarkali left secretary post, and Nicole Lichtblau was elected to secretary post.

Helen Grote left media post, and Angelika Zarkali was elected to media post.

Regional representation has turned over, but continues to be filled in all areas, including the splitting of South West into Peninsula and Severn, at local trainees' request. These are separate deaneries, and the suggestion was unanimously supported by the Committee.

Report 2020/1:

Treasurer/Services

- HA represents ABNT on Services Committee.
- A census was prepared in 2017, following the tradition of a biennial census of neurology training, the results of which inform the priorities of the ABNT.
- This was live during the first wave of COVID-19 in March 2020, and consequently return rate was low.
- Results were analysed, and feedback to ABN Council, and presented at the ABN Annual Meeting as a virtual poster.
- These results were presented at the ABNT forum in August 2020, with opportunity for discussion amongst trainees.
- As responses limited, and turbulent time recently, plan is to repeat census late 2021/early 2022.

Training and Education

RNR represents ABNT on Education Committee and SAC. ARR also represents ABNT on SAC.

Recruitment:

Medical specialty recruitment was managed remotely in 2020 (for Aug 2020 posts) after interviews were cancelled due to COVID-19. The neurology SAC organised virtual interviews for subsequent rounds, with good success. ARR has been in contact with trainees disappointed by various stages of this process and has fed these concerns back to the SAC.

Curriculum

The ABNT (ARR and RNR) has reviewed and contributed to all stages of neurology curriculum design. A first draft has been circulated for review to stakeholders, and all trainees nationally have been urged to read this draft and feedback any comments.

Ongoing revisions are in process with a target date of submission of the final draft at the end of April.

Longer term, training tools will need to be developed/aligned with new curriculum - e.g. Ebrain, SCE, etc.

Shape of Training

Online (ABN website) FAQs have been updated in line with revised rules on Shape of Training, and transition to the new curriculum, from the GMC. Any neurology trainee who begins their specialist training (interpreted to be the beginning of their ST3 year on the old curriculum, or ST4 year on the new curriculum), WILL be

required to transition to integrated training with GIM, and complete the new neurology curriculum. Trainees who began their specialist training prior to this will not be forced to transition but will be "strongly encouraged to do so" if their training continues beyond 2024.

Academic training pathways

There are concerns, within ABNT, Research Committee, and SAC, about the impact of the new curriculum on academic trainees, and research opportunities. In particular the length of training allowed/required, as traditionally academic trainees are expected to complete their training in the same overall length of time. It is felt unlikely that the majority of trainees will be able to complete neurology competencies, GIM competencies, stroke competencies, and be successful in their research endeavours within a five-year programme, and concern that extending training programmes may have negative connotations for trainees.

New rota designs with GIM requirements may mean it will be harder to accommodate OOPR, especially in smaller deaneries.

Training days

The Lockdown Lectures organised in 2020 have been hugely successful, with many views via the ABN website.

The virtual meeting 2021 will be supplemented by a trainees' morning session on May 20th, covering clinical talks on Parkinson's Disease, and "top mistakes" from senior colleagues.

Acute Neurology Boot Camp:

Virtual Boot Camp, which ran for two weeks during July, in evening sessions, was a huge success, and reached a worldwide audience, with excellent feedback (attendees/recorded viewing below).

As the virtual format significantly improved accessibility, we plan to attempt a hybrid model in 2021, with a small number of physical attendees, but virtual access to the talks. This has always been offered free of charge, and the plan is to continue this if possible.

Boot Camp 2020	08-Jun	09-Jun	10-Jun	11-Jun	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun
Recording views	631	316	302	286	259	279	266	150
Attended	210	192	177	158	135	134	128	78

Preparing for consultancy

The ABNT has proposed a tailored "preparing for consultancy" course, for senior trainees/junior consultants. The feeling of the committee was that this would be better in a face to face format, and we hope to develop this to deliver summer 2022. Aiming to keep costs low, as similar non-specialty courses are often very expensive.

Research (for academic training pathways see Training and Education)

The 2020 census results showed lots of trainees report a lack of information on available research. We have been redesigning the ABN website pages for research, and working with the Research Committee, NIHR and other networks to improve this, including compiling a list of academic contacts around the country (with the aim of forming the basis of an academic network to encourage and support trainees).

Gargi Banerjee (ABNT research representative) sits on the NIHR Neurological Disorders Specialty Group as early careers representative.

Liaison

Emily Pegg (liaison rep) has taken over the running of the mentorship programme. In 2020, there were 11 mentees linked to mentors. Further recruitment is underway, and 2021 pairing will be done in July/August.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

ARR sits on EDI Committee as founding member. Committee complete for current time, including student representative. Appointed external organisation to help identify objectives for Committee and form vision for future work.

Quality

AZ represents ABNT on Quality Committee. Contributed to burnout surveys. Ongoing work on quality improvement platform.

Media

- **ABN website**
Development work continues with the aim to showcase more ABNT activity, to include links to journals, link to RCP and charities, listing awards and prize winners, listing available awards elsewhere - e.g. SENA travel bursaries, RSM etc. Link to RCP teach in sessions.
There has been promising increase in use of website linked to Lockdown Lectures, and increased resources around the current pandemic.
Welfare page provide (EP) to provide resources and advice for ensuring trainees welfare during the pandemic.
- **Twitter**
The majority of advertising is run through the @ABNTrainees twitter account, supplementing the ABN website.
5026 followers.

ABNT Strategy Update

To champion outstanding training and education in neurology	
<i>Develop postgraduate training</i>	ABNT contributes to the pre-trainee session which runs parallel to the ABN trainees' day at the Annual Meeting. The Boot Camp will run annually, albeit virtually in 2020-aiming for a hybrid model 2021. 2020 ABNT Census. Representation on SAC, including drafting of new neurology curriculum.
<i>Improve neurology standards in Internal Medical (IM) Specialities</i>	Contribution to curriculum redesign. Free virtual access to Boot Camp lectures, including to non-neurology trainees.
<i>Provide leadership for neurology train policy development and delivery locally and nationally, as necessary</i>	SAC representation (ARR and RNR) including curriculum redesign, and advocating for academic training, LTFT etc. Promote development of peri/post CCT fellowships as model for subspecialist neurology training.
<i>Provide input to development of neurology training internationally as appropriate</i>	EAN representation (ARR, including virtual meeting May 2020).
To promote world class research in clinical neurosciences	
<i>Enhancing engagement with members' research interests</i>	Appeal through census, surveys, links to other training pathways (BMA MSWG, psychiatry colleagues), and research representative to promote research within training. NIHR representation (GB). Redesign and development of ABN website resources as a source of information and contacts for research opportunities.
<i>Supporting early career researchers</i>	NIHR early researchers representation. ABN website development.
<i>Providing input to research developments internationally as appropriate</i>	EAN representation and contribution when appropriate.
<i>Leadership</i>	
Enhance audit/quality improvement outputs	
<i>Raise the profile and articulate the importance of quality at all levels</i>	Representation within QI Committee (AZ). Regional variation project. 2020 ABNT Census.
<i>Provide support and information for members on quality assurance, quality improvement and innovation</i>	Presentation of all above work at Annual Meeting 2020.
<i>Develop quality assurance processes and improvement methodology within the ABN</i>	Looking to work with QC to build audit/quality improvement platform for ABN website.

Appendix

ABN Advisory Groups

Cognitive Disorders

Chair: Jonathan Schott

Members: Martin Turner, Claire Rice, Kirsty Harkness, Masud Husain, Charles Marshall, Simon Mead, David Sharp, Chris McDermott

Epilepsy

Chair: Sofia Eriksson

Members: Holger Allroggen, Marco Mula, Paul Cooper, Lucy Kinton, Rebecca Liu, Tejal Mitchell, Owen Pickrell, Christopher Price, Udo Wiesmann, Stephen Wroe

Headache and Pain

Chair: Nicola Giffin

Members: Fayyaz Ahmed, Heather Angus-Leppan, David Bennett, Brendan Davies, Rajith de Silva, Joanna Lovett

Movement Disorders

Chair: Oliver Bandmann

Members: Sundus Alusi, Andrea Cavanna, Ralph Gregory, Christopher Kobylecki, Uma Nath, Dominic Paviour, Mike Samuel, Camille Carroll

Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroinflammation

Chair: Waqar Rashid

Members: Adnan Al-Araji, Olga Ciccarelli, Ruth Dobson, Nikos Evangelou, Helen Ford, Jeremy Hobart, Saiju Jacob, Desmond Kidd, Siobhan Leary, Paolo Muraro, Katy Murray, Jacqueline Palace, Victoria Williams

Neurogenetics

Chair: Huw Morris

Members: Poneh Adib-Samii, Heather Angus-Leppan, Rajith De Silva, Gerald Finnerty, Charles Marshall, Simon Mead, Fiona Norwood, Richard Orrell, Claire Rice, Alexander Rossor, Ed Wild

Neuro-oncology

Chair: Jeremy Rees

Members: Gerald Finnerty, Robin Grant, Fiona McKeivitt, Emanuela Molinari, Shanika Samarasekera

Neuromuscular Disorders

Chair: Liz Househam

Members: David Bennett, Nick Gutowski, Michael Hanna, Liz Househam, James Lilleker, Chris McDermott, Fiona Norwood, Richard Orrell, Jacqueline Palace, Alexander Rossor, James Stevens

Neurorehabilitation

Chair: Andrea Lowman

Members: Liz Househam, Siobhan Leary, Andrea Lowman, Nick Ward, Rachel Farrell.

Stroke

Chair: David Werring

Members: Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Tom Hughes, Dheeraj Kalladka, Joanna Lovett, Rhiannon Morris, Keith Muir, Nick Ward, David Werring

Traumatic Brain Injury

Chair: David Sharp

Deputy Chair:

Members: Rhys Davies, Kirsty Harkness, Damian Jenkins, Peter Jenkins, Lucia Li, Clarence Liu, Charles Marshall, Barry Seemungal, David Sharp, Richard Sylvester

Members of ABN Council 2021 - 22

President	Prof Tom Warner	2021 - 23
Immediate Past President	Prof David Burn	2021 - 22
President Elect	Prof Richard Davenport	2021 - 23
Honorary Secretary	Dr Jon Sussman	2019 - 22
Honorary Secretary Elect	Dr Lucy Kinton	2021 - 22
Honorary Treasurer	Prof Neil Robertson	2019 - 23
Meetings Secretary	Dr Carolyn Gabriel	2021 - 23
Chair, Services Committee	Dr Cath Mummery	2017 - 23
Chair, Quality Committee	Dr Chris Kipps	2017 - 23
Chair, Education Committee	Dr Matt Jones	2019 - 22
Chair, Research Committee	Prof Martin Turner	2019 - 22
Elected Councillor	Dr Arani Nitkunan	2018 - 22
Elected Councillor	Dr Biba Stanton	2019 - 23
Elected Councillor	Dr Sofia Eriksson	2019 - 23
Elected Councillor	Dr David Nicholl	2020 - 24
Elected Councillor	Dr Paul Cooper	2021 - 25
Elected Councillor	Dr Saiju Jacob	2021 - 25
Chair, Association of British Neurologists Trainees	Dr Amy Ross Russell	
Co-opted, Chair SAC Neurology	Dr Tom Hughes	
Lay Trustee	Lord Stanley Fink	
Lay Trustee	Ms Elisabeth Baltay	

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 Co-Ordinator
Part-time
Appointed February 2016

Ioana Leustean

Finance Administrator
Part-time
Appointed July 2020

Faheemah Patel

Committees Co-Ordinator
Full-time
Appointed May 2018

Phuong Nguyen

Acting Committees Co-Ordinator
Part-time
Appointed February 2021

Maya McCourt

Project Co-Ordinator
Part-time
Appointed December 2018

Council Minutes 2020

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 Honorary Secretary and Meetings Secretary 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.
- Neurotech summit – delayed until autumn 2020.
- 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 brought 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 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.

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 the majority vote. The ABN needs 50.1% of the members who are eligible to vote, to have voted.

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.

Meeting of Council, Wednesday 1 April 2020 at 0930hrs
Via Zoom

Present: David Burn (President), Mary Reilly (Immediate Past President), Tom Warner (President Elect), Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer), Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary), Richard Davenport (Meetings Secretary), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Matt Jones (Chair, Education Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Elected Council), Sofia Eriksson (Elected Council), Biba Stanton (Elected Council), Amy Ross Russell (Chair, ABNT), Joanne Lawrence (Executive Director),

Apologies: Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council)

1) President update.

DB welcomed Council members to the virtual meeting. He noted that the meeting would be short, 90 minutes and thanked all committee chairs for their tabled reports

- a) Minutes of last meeting & matters arising
- i) Council minutes from 22 January 2020 were reviewed and approved.
 - (a) 3.3 Australasian Fellowship: noted need to confirm application requirements before 2022 round. Sarah Healy was the successful candidate for 2021.
 - (b) 7.3: RCP digital committee: Chris Kipps and Helen Grote are now members of this committee.
 - (c) 12.1: WFN fellow: 2019 fellow in situ. 2020 process suspended due to COVID.
 - (d) 13.4: Council agreed to suspend work on ABN assisted dying position due to COVID-19. KT agreed to continue to contribute to the assisted dying work when it resumes to provide continuity.

ACTION: DB/KT to follow up offline.

2) Committee reports (Appendix A): Chairs reported on exceptions only.

- a) Services: CM reported an increasingly close relationship with all specialty associations and the RCP. There is a fortnightly COVID meeting. Mechanisms to support re-deployed neurologists via videos and other guidance on website etc. CM/DB to meet Rustam Salman, President BASP, to discuss involvement in stroke work.
- b) Quality: CK discussed ways to protect quality of neurological work, including guidance documents to go on ABN website. Burnout survey to be repeated next year to compare pre, post and during COVID.
- c) Education: Impact of COVID 19 on education and training currently uncertain as many different schemes in different areas. Lockdown Lectures to replace cancelled Bournemouth training day.
- d) Research:
 - i) OOP: situation unclear. Research fellows redeployed to support COVID work. Queries relating to funding, charities etc. MT has reassured trainees. DB noted initial priority for all to support COVID work and sort out issues after.
- e) ABNT: Plans for virtual Acute Neurology Boot Camp.

3) COVID-19

- a) Meetings
 - i) 2020: options for management of the 2020 Annual Meeting, already postponed from May to October, were discussed. RJD summarised options: 2 day meeting in Bournemouth in October as planned, a one day London meeting or a one day virtual meeting. Council agreed to continue with existing plans for Bournemouth, pending further COVID developments. A virtual meeting was an unpopular option. Programme planning committee to meet via Zoom in near future.
 - ii) 2021 Belfast: MMR expressed concern regarding the 2021 Belfast meeting. Planned as a joint meeting with IICN, a virtual event would not meet the main objectives.
 - iii) 2020 AGM: JL presented proposal for management of AGM, recommending a 3 phase approach with feedback options at each stage: circulating rule change proposals to members, sharing recorded video presentation from President, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary, providing answers to any final questions plus link to vote. Council agreed to proceed with this proposal.
- b) Website and guidance: DB recognised the formidable contribution from Jon Sussman, Cath Mummery and Chris Kipps in setting up the COVID-19 information on website. Most is free access, some behind login screen but new COVID-19 membership (free to all health professionals, limited to

access COVID-19 information only) ensures any health professional needing the information has easy access.

- c) Impact on Trainees incl Research no specific attachments but referred to in several committee reports.
- d) COVID-19 related research
 - i) Research tab on COVID-19 page: MT working with NIHR and once confirmed contact will have a RaDAR study up and running.
- e) Clinical Medicine journal: clinical aspects of COVID-19 for general physician readership Anton Emmanuel approach. MMR noted that neurology was not a major issue in COVID, compared to other specialties, recommending current guidance topped and tailed with narrative and link to ABN website.

ACTION: CM to talk with AE

- 4) Hon Treasurer: NR presented draft annual accounts. M&G Charibonds investments have declined from £808k at end of year to £587k today This 28% is in line with general decline in stockmarket at end March. General accounts in good shape.

- 5) Hon Secretary:

- a) Proposals for rule changes currently being drafted.

ACTION: Proposals plus information pack to be shared with council for input and approval before sending to members.

- b) Risk register: needs updating to acknowledge pandemic related risks.

ACTION: JL/JS to progress.

- 6) External: Adrian Williams (NNAG) and Georgina Carr (NA) joined the meeting.

- a) NNAG/CRG: AW advised that routine CRG transformation work is on hold. Current situation may inform future work. Important to document impact on non COVID patients to make sure we have treated them as well as we can under the circumstances. Interested in comments on redeployment, particularly where doctors were being asked to work outside their comfort zone. DB referred to the Stroke discussion from earlier, stating that ABN assessing what it can do to support but noting that it could not mandate nationally. CM confirmed that keeping a close eye on redeployment issues. Important to share learnings and get formal recognition citing requests from NHSE and Clinical Medicine. Regarding competency, eg people more than 10 years out of general medicine, the RCP plans to share information shortly to reassure people. LN expressed concern at the impact on neurology services if specialist neurology nurses are redeployed at the same rate as doctors. MMR stated that the local (NHSS) suggestion is that each service should advise management of minimum service requirements. CK commented that services varied so widely that a decision making structure was required eg how to specify service at different levels.

- b) NA: GC stated that there was a lot of patient anxiety and the discussion on minimum service levels had been very helpful. The NA has created a neuro COVID 19 response form for member organisations to share intelligence. There is serious concern about the sustainability of many charities due to the drastic impact on income combined with a 3fold increase in patient calls to helplines. GC thanked the ABN for the detailed guidance which had been extraordinarily helpful, noting that she was happy to work with the ABN and the Brain and Spine Foundation to make more accessible as needed.

- 7) AOB

- a) Trainees: ARR referred to the cancellation of neurology specialty recruitment, replaced by appointments based on earlier scores. This has led to perceived unfairness. Trainees were seeking reassurance that lessons would be learned in case of similar issues in future.

**Meeting of Council, Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 1030hrs
Via Zoom**

Present: David Burn (President), Tom Warner (President Elect), Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary), Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer), Richard Davenport (Meetings Secretary) Matt Jones (Chair, Education Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research 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) David Nicholl (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), Adrian Williams (CRG/NNAG), Georgina Carr (Neurological Alliance), Faheemah Patel (Committees Coordinator).
Apologies for absence: Donal O'Donoghue (RCP), Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee) and Geraint Fuller (GIRFT).

1. Introduction & President's Update

1.1 President's Update

David Burn (DB) welcomed Council members including Carolyn Gabriel, new meetings secretary elect and Kevin Talbot, previous Council member for item 2.1. DB thanked Joanne Lawrence and Faheemah Patel for their administrative support.

1.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting 01.04.20 approved.

2. Special Items

2.1 Assisted Dying (KT)

Kevin Talbot (KT) provided a brief update on the ABN Assisted Dying study and sought Council approval for the proposed process. Referencing the 2019 RCP study, KT noted the importance of achieving a clearly defined, transparent process.

KT and Elisabeth Baltay (EB) indicated the importance of correct phrasing in the questions posed to members to avoid implying a perceived ABN view.

ACTION: JL to notify members on the next step of the process in the ABN newsletter.

ACTION: wording of questions to be discussed further by KT/EB/DB.

ACTION: voting to be completed before Christmas.

2.2 Diversity (TW)

Tom Warner (TW) noted that the president elect will be the council member responsible for coordinating the Ethnicity, Diversity and Inclusion working group, which currently includes Arani Nitkunan, Biba Stanton and Amy Ross Russell. TW noted that this is an important working group to ensure the ABN is promoting equality. The first meeting will be scheduled soon.

Arani Nitkunan (AN) noted the ABN should view this from two perspectives i.e., doctors and patients and how gender, ethnicity, disability etc. impact on their outcomes. DB recommended contacting Georgina Carr (NA) to voice patient's perspective.

ACTION: Schedule first meeting and develop strategy to put forward to Council for approval.

2.3 Surveys, audit and consultation (CK)

Chris Kipps presented proposals for developing a national audit mechanism. He noted that the Exec had previously discussed surveys, audit and consultation on one call and that whilst similar mechanisms existed for them all we lacked the capability to achieve consistent benefits from them. A mechanism was needed to take audits at local level and collate them at National level. CK asked for a mandate to proceed and a commitment to bring resources to the proposed projects. Support would be needed for IG clarification, a suitable platform and office administrative support.

SE and LN supported the idea. SE referred to the Valproate audit to be discussed later on the agenda and stated her willingness to participate in the proposed project. LN noted that some overlap with specialty groups. CK agreed that there would need to be a shared endeavour with sub specialty groups. NR asked

whether existing IT resource in the ABN website might be relevant to the proposed work. CK agreed that there was already a good deal of base resource available in house but that a suitable structure need to be put in place. ARR suggested that it could be positive to give trainees the chance to lead on audit projects then promote on a national platform.

ACTION: CK with Quality Committee to map out how to take project forward.

3. Services' Committee: Cath Mummery

3.1 Services' Committee report tabled.

3.2 GIRFT/NA/NNAG

3.2.1 GIRFT: report tabled.

3.2.2 National Neurosciences Advisory Group (NNAG): Adrian Williams (AW) noted that neurological pathways had been sent out for consultation. Oliver Bandmann is lead for Movement Disorders. The Headache Pathway needs to be worked on, however pathways are expected to be completed before Christmas. AW mentioned that the new Genetics CRG, not specific to neurology. He has asked Helen Grote and Nick Wood to liaise with the now formalised CRG and create a link with the ABN.

ACTION: AW to liaise with CK regarding Outcomes Away Day.

3.2.3 Neurological Alliance: Georgina Carr (GC) noted that the NA received over 50 responses across the ABN and other organisations to the pathways consultation and it is in the process of collating responses. The NA is developing a report on the experiences of people with rarer neurological conditions. GC thanked Jon Sussman for providing advisory group support. The report will be launched on 27th October.

Neuroscience Transformation Programme (NTP): The NA is engaged with NTP and will be hosting a webinar with patient groups today. A short report on the outcome of the webinar will be developed shortly after.

NHS England: The NA is working with NHS England on issues with health and inequality.

Patient Experience Survey ES: data collection will ideally begin in the first few months next year.

ACTION: GC to share reports with the ABN.

4. Quality Committee: Chris Kipps

4.1 Quality Committee report tabled.

4.2 Chris Kipps (CK) provided a brief update on the ABN Burnout Survey.

5. Research Committee: Martin Turner

5.1 Research Committee report tabled.

5.2 Fellowships: Martin Turner (MT) noted potentially 5 fellowships will be offered for 2021.

5.2.1 However, MT noted that PBCT had a funding limit of 70K per annum and the ABN needed to consider covering any excess. Neil Robertson (NR) commented that the ABN FAR Committee had previously decided not to contribute to a full ABN fellowship in 2020 due to potentially difficult times ahead. This freed funding to be available for 2021.

5.2.2 Post CCT fellowships: Lina Nashef (LN) suggested the ABN should consider potential post CCT fellowships.

ACTION: Post CCT fellowships to be explored further at the next exec telecon.

5.2.3 Fundraising: Dafydd Thomas provided an update on current fundraising activity. DT noted that the MS Society and Berkeley Foundation would both participate, alongside Guarantors of Brain and Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust but the Stroke Association had not yet confirmed that it would participate in the fellowship process in 2020.

5.2.4 COVID-19 impact: MT noted that during COVID-19, many fellows were redeployed to provide clinical support. No additional funding required or PhDs extended as only few weeks were lost. However, it was agreed fellowship application forms should ask for COVID mitigation plans.

ACTION: amend ABN fellowship application form to include consideration of COVID mitigation.

- 5.3 RaDAR: MT noted that RaDAR has been effective during COVID-19, managing to capture complications related to COVID-19. Going forward a similar programme will collate similar information relating to vaccinations.

6. Education Committee: Matt Jones

- 6.1 Education committee report tabled.
- 6.2 Shape of Training: Tom Hughes identified 3 main issues.
- 6.2.1 New neurology curriculum: The submission date has been moved to March 2021. Before this there will be a period of consultation. The curriculum is at an advanced stage.
- 6.2.2 Recruitment 2021: Recruitment in Round 2 (Oct 14th 2020) will be managed via Microsoft Teams. It is being organised by Dr Anthony Pereira.
- 6.2.3 Reciprocity: TH noted that reciprocity should be the key principle underlying integration of Neurology with other Group 1 specialties during specialty training, particularly in relation to how trainees will acquire general medical experience. If at all possible, neurology trainees leaving their neurology training programme to do general medicine should be replaced by a trainee from another group 1 specialty who required neurology or stroke experience.

7. ABN Trainees: Amy Ross Russell

- 7.1 ABN Trainees report tabled.

8. Meetings committee: Richard Davenport

- 8.1 Richard Davenport (RD) gave a brief verbal update of meetings committee meeting held earlier that day.
- 8.1.1 Virtual Meeting 2020: currently underway
- 8.1.2 ABN Student Day Virtual: November TBC
- 8.1.3 Belfast 2021: The ABN and IICN discussing options for 2021 due to impact of COVID-19.

9. Honorary Secretary: Jon Sussman

- 9.1 Advisory Groups: Jon Sussman (JS) thanked the ABN Advisory Groups for their continuous support and to Faheemah Patel for her increased administrative support during COVID-19. JS provided a brief summary on number of completed consultations from 2017 – 2019 and noted that the number of consultations has increased dramatically over the last 3 years. JS recommended that Council consider the sub specialties covered by the groups and determine whether changes should be made in the forthcoming renewal process.

ACTION: JS to discuss AAG Groups before next renewal process.

- 9.2 Risk Register: has been updated to reflect COVID-19 implications.

10. Honorary Treasurer: Neil Robertson

- 10.1 Managements accounts: Neil Robertson (NR) presented draft annual accounts. M&G Charibonds investments have recovered slightly from the COVID related low in March 2020 but were still significantly below the end 2019 high of £808,000. General accounts in good shape. There has a 30% decrease in income for 2020 to date however expenditure has also decreased due to the change to virtual meeting. NR confirmed that the Bournemouth conference centre had approved a full refund of deposits paid for May 2020. in the meeting with budget surplus of 100K. Unrestricted fund at 1.1million.
- 10.2 FAR Committee: A FAR meeting had been held earlier in the month. NR thanked the FAR Committee for their advice particularly SF and EB.

ACTION: to modify investment strategy towards recovery.

ACTION: to negotiate ongoing commitments with Pharma to help support meetings.

- 10.3 Practical Neurology: Estimated 2020 income of £57K. Investigation of co-ownership vs co-publishing put on hold during COVID.

11. International relations: Tom Warner

- 11.1 WFN Fellowship update: No new fellowship process in 2020 due to COVID. Current fellow has extended by one year.
- 11.2 EAN: Tony Marson is chair of programme committee.
- 11.3 Société Française de Neurologie: TW noted that the SFN hoped to reschedule its 2020 meeting cancelled due to COVID, for 2021.

12. Items for Discussion

12.1 **ABN Strategy:** updates incorporated in individual committee reports

ACTION: ED&I to be included in Strategy review.

12.2 **Communications update:** JL provided a brief update of interaction on the ABN website.

12.3 **Honours committee including Honorary members' process.** JL noted that the ABN has scope to appoint 75 honorary and honorary foreign members. No new Honorary members have been proposed since 2016.

ACTION: JL to develop nomination process.

12.4 **Valproate (SE):** Sofia Eriksson thanked LN and LK for their support on valproate. SE noted that Sanjay Sisodiya, Fergus Rugg-Gunn, Tony Marson and herself are liaising with MHRA regarding funding.

ACTION: SE with Epilepsy AAG to develop an audit on valproate and disseminate to ABN members.

12.5 **Elections 2021:** There will be a call for nominations to the following positions in January 2021

- President elect
- Honorary Secretary elect
- Council members (x2)

DB thanked all Council members, lay trustees Elisabeth Baltay and Stanley Fink and the ABN office staff.

Council meeting concluded at 13:11hrs.

**Meeting of Council, Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 1030hrs
via Zoom**

Present: David Burn (President), Tom Warner (President Elect), Jon Sussman (Honorary Secretary), Neil Robertson (Honorary Treasurer), Richard Davenport (Meetings Secretary), Carolyn Gabriel (Meetings Secretary Elect) Cath Mummery (Chair, Services Committee), Matt Jones (Chair, Education Committee), Martin Turner (Chair, Research Committee), Chris Kipps (Chair, Quality Committee), Lucy Kinton (Elected Council), Lina Nashef (Elected Council), Kevin Talbot (Past Council member), Arani Nitkunan (Elected Council), Sofia Eriksson (Elected Council), David Nicholl (Elected Council, Amy Ross Russell (Chair, ABNT), Joanne Lawrence (Executive Director), Elisabeth Baltay (Lay Trustee), Stanley Fink (Lay Trustee), Peter Belfield (RCP) Adrian Williams (CRG/NNAG), Georgina Carr (Neurological Alliance), Geraint Fuller (GIRFT), Faheemah Patel (Committees Coordinator).

Apologies for absence: Biba Stanton (Elected Council), Tom Hughes (SAC)

1. Introduction & President's Update (5 minutes)

- 1.1 Presidents Update
David Burn (DB) welcomed Council members and Peter Belfield interim registrar for the RCP and Kevin Talbot, previous council member for item 2.1.
- 1.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting 20.01.21 approved.

2. Special Items (10 minutes)

- 2.1 Assisted dying
DB updated Council members of the results and process used in 2020. He noted concern raised from an ABN member. Kevin Talbot (KT) provided Council members with a brief history from 2011 on assisted dying within the ABN. It was agreed that the process used was fair and open.

ACTION: DB to respond directly to the member.

- 2.2 Invited Service Review, Belfast
ISR was discussed, however not minuted due to the confidential nature of the process.

3. Services Committee: Cath Mummery

- 3.1 Services Committee report tabled.
- 3.2 GIRFT/NA/NNAG
 - 3.2.1 GIRFT:
Geraint Fuller (GF) thanked the ABN for providing comments on the GIRFT report. He noted that over 700 comments had been received in total. A final paper to be reviewed by the ABN before submitting to NHS England and move towards implementation.
 - 3.2.2 Neurological Alliance:
Patient Experience Survey (PES): Georgina Carr provided an update on the PES and noted that Arani Nitkunan is on the panel for reviewing the survey methodology. The focus of the survey is on cognitive functions and will be piloted in mid-February. The survey is anticipated to go live in September/October.

Pathways: Draft pathways have been developed and will be sent to JL and CM to review and send to the Advisory Groups for comments.

- 3.2.3 National Neurosciences Advisory Group (NNAG):
Adrian Williams (AW)

4. Quality Committee: Chris Kipps

- 4.1 Quality Committee report tabled.
- 4.2 Burnout Survey: to be launched later in the year.
- 4.3 National Audit mechanism

Chris Kipps noted the importance for developing a national audit mechanism. A mechanism was needed to take audits at local level and collate them at National level.

ACTION: to add National audit mechanism for discussion and future council meetings.

5. Research Committee: Martin Turner

- 5.1 Research Committee report tabled. Martin Turner noted potentially 6 fellowships will be offered for 2021. Additionally, Dafydd Thomas (fundraising Chair) has stepped down as fundraising chair.

ACTION: to appoint a new fundraising chair.

6. Education Committee: Matt Jones

- 6.1 Education Committee report tabled. Matt Jones advised that the ABN Student Day should now be in the format of a virtual meeting to allow participants across the UK to attend without difficulty.
- 6.2 Undergraduate Prize: The Undergraduate Prize deadline for scoring has been extended till end of March due to COVID-19 and to approach the faculty of fellows to assist with scoring.

7. ABNT: Amy Ross Russell

ABN Trainees report tabled.

ACTION: Clinical fellowships to be discussed at April Council.

ACTION: AMY Ross Russell (ARR) to discuss Boot Camp 2021 with JL and FP.

8. ED&I Committee: Tom Warner

ED&I Committee meeting minutes tabled.

Tom Warner (TW) provided an update on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which currently includes Arani Nitkunan, Biba Stanton, Amy Ross Russell, Faheemah Patel, John Gillies-Wilkes (NA). TW noted that the Committee will be interviewing potential student member at the next meeting.

ABN ED&I statement was approved for use on website.

ACTION: FP to update website.

9. Meetings Committee: Richard Davenport

Richard Davenport (RD) gave a brief verbal update of Meetings Committee meeting held earlier that day.

- 9.1.1 Virtual Meeting 2021: Two-day meeting with three evening sessions.
- 9.1.2 Autumn meeting: October
- 9.1.3 ABN Student Day Virtual: November TBC
- 9.1.4 Belfast 2023

Coffee break (15 minutes)

10. Honorary Secretary: Jon Sussman

- 10.1 Advisory Groups: Jon Sussman (JS) thanked the ABN Advisory Groups for their continuous support and to Faheemah Patel for her increased administrative support. JS provided a brief summary on the currently ongoing renewal process. JS proposed a rule change to allow members to stay for an additional term as long as no more than two terms are served as member or Chair. Additionally, to appoint trainee members to each advisory group.

ACTION: to bring rule change to AGM.

- 10.2 Risk Register: tabled: fellowship funding has increased a level, due to the need to replace the fundraising chair.

11. Honorary Treasurer: Neil Robertson

- 11.1 Managements accounts Neil Robertson (NR) presented draft annual accounts. General accounts in good shape with a budget surplus of 69K. There was a 50% decrease in income for 2020 to date however expenditure has also decreased due to the change to virtual meeting. M&G Charibonds

investments have recovered slightly from the COVID related low. The FAR Committee has advised to sit on current investments.

ACTION: SF to provide further advice on Investments.

- 11.2 FAR Committee: A FAR meeting had been held earlier in the month. NR thanked the FAR Committee for their advice. The FAR Committee have agreed to increase in the prize money for the Annual Meeting.

ACTION: Meetings Committee to confirm new prize figures.

- 11.3 Practical Neurology

- 11.4 Staff Salaries

Council discussed staff reviews.

12. International relations: Tom Warner

- 12.1 WFN Fellowship update: fellow has not been appointed this year due to COVID-19.

- 12.2 Opportunities: Horizon scheme now be open to UK applicants.

13. Items for Discussion (20 minutes)

- 13.1 ABN Strategy – update

- 13.2 Communications update (Website)

JL noted that the website is being update regularly.

ACTION: ARR, MJ and CM to arrange meeting to discuss website with JL.

Office audio visual: to be updated in the ABN Office to allow hybrid council meetings.

- 13.3 Honours Committee including Honorary members process

Nomination form available on ABN website. Review and confirm nominations at April council and put them forward at the AGM.

- 13.4 Rituximab (LK)

Lucy Kinton discussed access issues re Rituximab.

ACTION: JL to add to exec telecon.

- 13.5 Elections 2021

DB stated that Council members may not nominate members for council elections.

DB thanked all Council members, lay trustees Elisabeth Baltay and Stanley Fink and the ABN office staff.

Council meeting concluded at 12:40hrs.