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**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2023**

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## Our year in numbers:

**1943** ABN members

**1489** delegates registered across all our events

**49** clinical consultations responded to

**£901,528** funding secured for ABN's 2023 Clinical Research Training Fellows

**181,299** page views on the ABN website

**6068** Twitter followers

*Thank you to all our members on the ABN Council, Executive Committee, our Advisory Groups, Special Interest Groups, Funders, Sponsors and Stakeholders who have worked with us and supported our work during 2023.*

# Highlights from our committees/officers:

## **Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee**

- ◇ The ABN finance system has been moved from Sage to Xero, updating finance operations within the office and making reporting and audit simpler.
- ◇ Membership subscriptions have been streamlined and separated from member donations.
- ◇ Goldwins Chartered Accountants have been appointed as ABN's new auditors.
- ◇ Regular, informal meetings have been set up between the Honorary Treasurer and the Executive Director to ensure greater oversight of the Association's finances.

## **Meetings Committee**

- ◇ Planned and delivered our first joint meeting with the IICN in Belfast, May 2023 with:
  - 1000+ delegates attended over the four days
  - 276 abstract submissions
  - 687 delegates used and engaged on the events app
  - 274 delegates feedback, with 96% saying they were very satisfied/satisfied overall with the meeting
- ◇ Planned and delivered our Autumn Meeting 2023:
  - with 259 delegates, in person and virtually
  - 98% of delegates were very satisfied/satisfied overall with the meeting
- ◇ Organisation for the ABN Annual Meeting – Edinburgh 2024:
  - 280 abstracts submitted
  - 13 annual sponsors secured
  - 900+ delegates registered

# Highlights from our committee/officers:

## Services Committee

- ◇ In the last year, there has been a significant drive to ensure that there is a representative for each of the 20 regions across the UK, and we are almost at full representation. Their role includes reaching out to the leads at each of the acute trusts within their region to enable dissemination of information up and down systems.
- ◇ The Services Committee has agreed on three key workstreams:
  1. Workforce - developing a document outlining the neurological workforce needed to serve a 100,000 population
  2. Scope and identify three areas of good neurological practice that can be scaled nationally - headache (specifically migraine), GIRFT Southampton guidance on discharge/follow-up and Advice and Guidance
  3. Job planning document revision
- ◇ Via the RCP Joint Clinical Neurosciences Committee, we have decided to focus on acute neurology using this unique forum, which includes the NCDs for Neurology and Stroke and the GIRFT leads for Neurology and Stroke as well as representatives from other specialities to move this work forward to improve the outcome of the 20% of the acute medical take who have neurological issues.
- ◇ Via the NHSE Liaison Neurology Task and Finish Group, drafting a description of what liaison neurology services ICBs in NHS England need to commission for their populations for the new service specification.
- ◇ We have contributed to documents ranging from Northern Ireland Regional Review of Neurology Services to the vision document on NHSE Transforming Outpatients to a model of planned specialist care.
- ◇ The regional representatives are the Regional Specialist Advisor for the RCP, acting as a point of contact.

# Highlights from our committee/officers:

## Education Committee

- ◇ We worked with ABN movement disorder SIG to provide two fully funded post/peri-CCT advanced clinical training fellowships.
- ◇ We appointed 2 ABN Australasian Fellows.
- ◇ We produced the annual ABN self-assessment questions in conjunction with eBrain.
- ◇ We provided an afternoon education session for FY and IMT doctors at the annual conference in Belfast.
- ◇ We ran the fourth virtual ABN undergraduate teaching day in November 2023 and awarded prizes for the annual student case report and audit competition.

## Research Committee

- ◇ 3 ABN 2024 Fellows were appointed to PhD projects selected from 11 applications. Two were supported by Guarantors of Brain and one by the Patrick Berthoud Trust.
- ◇ In 2023, the appointments were based on a transparent selection process, requiring scoring by three referees, a separate triage process, and an interview by a diverse panel, including the non-scoring chairman and eight scorers.
- ◇ We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the disease-specific charities for their ongoing support. While this year did not see any 'badged' applications in the fundable range, we remain hopeful for future collaborations.
- ◇ We are collecting data to assess workforce changes' impact on academics in training. ABN Fellowship applications decreased from 23 in 2022 to 11 in 2023. Data on the numbers of ACFs and ACLs are now on the ABN website and will be updated annually
- ◇ The ABN Rare Diseases Ascertainment and Recruitment (RaDAR) online platform continues to identify cases with three current projects that focus on DRPLA, iatrogenic CAA and CSF 1R leukodystrophy.

# Highlights from our committee/officers:

## Quality Committee

- ◇ Reviewed and updated the guidance document development tools and protocols.
- ◇ Reviewed and endorsed guidance documents including the updated guidance on the use of disease-modifying treatments in multiple sclerosis.
- ◇ Reviewed and amended the safety practice tool for individuals to support our members' evidence of their safety practice, benchmark practice against peers, and identify areas for quality improvement activity.
- ◇ Developing a repository on the ABN website for audit tools that members can use to assess their own service as well as uploading their data to the website to enable benchmarking practice against other centres.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

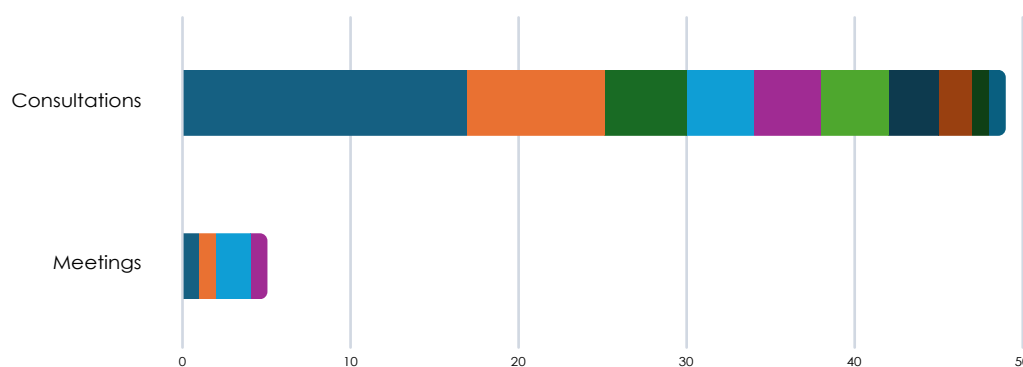
- ◇ Progression of EDI Data collection with updated and standardised questions across ABN activities and targeted approaches.
- ◇ Established a quarterly reporting schedule to provide updated snapshots of data collection progress and analysis.
- ◇ Updates to the website, including the addition of EDI committee and publishing of the BITC EDI audit.
- ◇ Embedding EDI across all ABN committees and office support.
- ◇ Developed action planning, including event accessibility, further website developments, mentoring opportunities and filming and publishing neurologist profiles to showcase the diversity within neurology.

# Highlights from our committee/officers:

## Consultations/Advisory Groups

- ◇ 41 consultations.
- ◇ Optimal care pathways: joint work with Neurological Alliance and NNAG
  - 5 pathways worked on
  - 5 pathways reviewed
- ◇ Ongoing recruitment of trainees to, and filling gaps in Advisory Groups (AAGs).
- ◇ Currently administrating major refresh of AAG membership at the end of 3-year term.
- ◇ Setting up 2 new advisory groups for “Neuropsychiatry and Functional Neurological Disorder” and “Data and Devices.”
- ◇ Published guidance on the website for new regulatory changes for valproate prescriptions, FAQs about the changes, and a template MDT form.
- ◇ Reorganised the website along the lines of the ABN committees to try to make things easier to find.
- ◇ 2023 Consultations Data:

	Consultations	Meetings
■ Neuromuscular	17	1
■ Epilepsy	8	1
■ Cognitive	5	
■ Headache and Pain	4	2
■ MS & Neuroinflammation	4	1
■ Stroke	4	
■ Movement Disorders	3	
■ Rehab	2	
■ Exec	1	
■ All AGs	1	
Total	49	5



# Highlights from our committee/officers:

## ABN Trainee (ABNT) Committee

- ◇ Through the committee and network of regional representatives, we share best practices in higher training, ideas, and methods for quality improvement in education and service.
- ◇ The Acute Neurology Boot Camp has become a fixture in the annual training calendar. The one-day course significantly improves the confidence in holding the acute neurology bleep for new trainees and those returning from parental and out-of-programme activities. It is delivered by a panel of young consultants representing the breadth of UK neurology.
- ◇ The inaugural Preparation for Consultancy course represents another trainee-led innovation, easing transition from specialist training to being a neurology consultant. This also had excellent feedback and will continue to run in-person for senior SpRs.
- ◇ Working with the JRCPTB Neurology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC), we have helped ensure the smooth roll-out of the Shape of Training curriculum.
- ◇ The @ABNTrainees X/Twitter account continues to highlight opportunities for clinical and academic positions across the UK, as well as in research and education. We are also working with ACNR to develop a new online platform for trainees and consultants to share and discuss the latest research and quandries in clinical neuroscience.

## 2023 Webstats

- ◇ 43,534 visitors
- ◇ 181,299 "hits" page views
- ◇ Most popular pages:
  - All events pages
  - Neurology Courses
  - ABN Guidelines
  - Membership
  - Practical Neurology
  - Fellowship