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 2021.

Our year in numbers:

- 1292 delegates registered for our meetings
- 1725 ABN members
- 4876 Twitter followers
- 185,959 pages views on the ABN website
- £1,610,535 funding secured for ABN’s 2022 Clinical Research Training Fellows
- 61 clinical consultations responded to
Highlights from our committees/officers

ABNT

- ABNT Acute Neurology Boot Camp ran for the 3rd year in a virtual format with over 109 live attendees and 185 on-demand viewings, including several international attendees.

- The virtual ABN conference was supplemented by a trainee morning session with xx attendees. This session included clinical talks on the management of Parkinson’s disease and “top mistakes” from senior colleagues.

- ABNT representatives sit on the Neurology Specialty Advisory Committee. In 2021 they were involved in the development of the new curriculum following the new Shape of Training changes as well as raising trainee concerns on a national level.

- ABNT run a mentorship scheme, pairing Registrars with Foundation and IMT trainees with the aim of supporting their careers in Neurology. In 2021 we successfully paired 10 mentees through our programme.

- ABNT run a successful Twitter account (@ABNTrainees) highlighting opportunities within Neurology including job opportunities, research and education. We currently have 5867 followers.

Consultation/Advisory Groups

- With 61 consultations responded to 2021, this is still at lower level that pre-pandemic. We expect this to increase in 2022.

- We renewed Advisory Group membership and added trainee reps to each group.

- We made a major contribution to reviewing GIRFT Neurology report pre-publication.

- We continued to contribute to national guidance on COVID-19 policy development.

- We have secured a new opportunity to work with NICE to develop programme for neurology-related guidance starting in 2022.
Education

- We designed and implemented a new system for ABN approval of post/peri-CCT advanced clinical training fellowships.
- We ran the second virtual ABN Undergraduate teaching day in Nov 2021 with over 180 student registrations.
- We appointed the latest ABN Australasian Fellow.
- We supported the Neurology SAC in submitting to the GMC the final version of the new Neurology higher specialist training curriculum.
- We awarded undergraduate prizes for best clinical case report and audit.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (ED&I) Committee:

- We carried out EDI research exercise with ABN members. This was led by external agency, Business in the Community. The report was published and shared with members in 2021.
- We are developing ABN EDI draft strategy to be presented at ABN Annual Meeting May 2022.
- After consultation with members, the ABN EDI strategy will be finalised and published by end of 2022.

Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee

- We started to review the structure of the FAR committee to ensure we have the optimum mix of expert support and advice.
- We have developed the risk register to help us manage the organisation’s risk.
- Developed a budget management strategy.
- Working with professional advisors, we have started to negotiate buying a 50% share of Practical Neurology, so we’d co-own it with the BMJ.
- Rebalanced our investment strategy to build a resource for potential acquisition of the Practical Neurology journal, so we would co-own it with the BMJ and to mitigate risks of high interest rate environment.
Meetings Committee:

- Planned and delivered ABN’s online Annual Meeting ‘Connections’ in May 2021. It was attended by 656 delegates virtually, with 200 delegates presenting posters.
- Planned and delivered our Autumn training meeting in a hybrid format in November, putting in place COVID-19 protocols for the 115 in-person delegates. They were joined by 104 virtual delegates. 91% of delegates were very satisfied with the event.

Quality

- Surveyed ABN members on wellbeing (3rd time), comparing impact of pandemic in early and late phases with pre-pandemic responses
- Identified changes in work practice due to pandemic in relation to use of remote consultations, advice and guidance options and appropriateness/difficulty of implementation
- Developed and pilot-tested Neurology Safety Survey for use in self-assessment of safety in individual practice and neurology services with aim of developing tool for use in appraisal
- Developed structure/mechanism for National Neurology Audits for implementation in ‘Just ask one thing’ audit campaign

Research Committee:

- A record 7 ABN Fellows were appointed to PhD projects after the largest number of applicants, involving more than 100 national and international peer review requests.
- New charity funding partnerships with Epilepsy Research UK and Alzheimer’s Research UK, alongside renewed partners The Stroke Association and our long-standing scheme supporters The Guarantors of Brain and Patrick Berthoud Charitable Trust.
- Development of the Regional Opportunities Forum at the annual meeting to showcase the diversity of activity in neurology centres across the UK.
- Ongoing support for the ABN Rare Diseases Ascertainment & Recruitment online platform (RaDAR).
- Increase in the number of regional representatives to ensure clinical neuroscience development across the whole of the ABN’s geographical membership.
Services

- Published ABN guidance on referral management and inputted into NHSE guidance
- Built links with NHSE - members leading work on OP transformation and the neurology transformation NHSE work
- Significant contribution to safety with invited service reviews together with RCP in a number of areas, including major review in Belfast
- With QC co-led Membership survey on working practice and wellbeing, with recent results showing worrying trends in workforce
- Co-working with GIRFT and CRG to develop acute neurology pathways for ‘what good looks like’

www.abn.org.uk