

BAOS Feature

Conference season is upon us

At the time of writing, there are only 9 weeks to go until the BAOS Annual Scientific Conference. This is all the more exciting as it will be our first in-person conference in Edinburgh since 2018. Council are very much looking forward to welcoming delegates back to Scotland for the new shortened format conference programme – all the more important given how difficult it can be trying to secure time away from clinical practice currently.

This year's programme is two packed days of educational excellence, which if one attends every session, will give you 12.5 hours of CPD. The council has worked tremendously hard to secure speakers that will give us a diverse, academically rigorous and intellectually stimulating programme. The planning for all of this, like any fantastic event, does not happen quickly or by chance. Council began planning this event nearly two years ago, only to find Covid had not quite settled to sufficient levels to allow a conference to go ahead with any certainty. Happily, finally, it has all come together and we hope you will enjoy it as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together for you.

As a little flavour of what's in store (full programme is on the BAOS website, under the events tab) there is an excellent session updating us all on adrenal insufficiency and how to prevent it after or during oral surgery procedures following research completed by Emma Beecroft, clinical fellow in Oral Surgery at Newcastle University. Having had a preview of this talk, I can tell you that Emma has done a tremendous amount of work in making this data understandable and relevant to all our clinical practices, be them in primary, specialist, salaried or secondary care. In the same session, Francis O'Neill Honorary Consultant from Liverpool University will present on Fibromyalgia and the Royal College of Physician guidelines. Roddy McMillan, Consultant in Oral Medicine and Facial Pain will then share the guidelines on Trigeminal Neuralgia with us. A morning of much needed face to face education.

On the second day, Liz Jones OBE, Clinical Lead for Hospital Dentistry will present Getting it Right First Time – Together We Can. BAOS has recently been heavily involved with the GIRFT team looking at the provision of sedation services in hospital and specialist settings. This work has been intensive and fast paced with representatives from paedodontics, special care, anaesthetics, oral surgery and oral & maxillofacial surgery working together to produce an excellent overview of both the current sedation provision position and the desired position of increased sedation provision in secondary care. Thanks to the convenience of Teams, these meetings have taken place at lunchtime every week for many weeks now – a thing that may have been the stuff of dreams had it not been for Covid and the rapid embracing of all digital platforms.

The background and drivers for trying to increase the use of IV sedation are multiple – for many patients it is a very acceptable way to have a not particularly pleasant procedure done, avoiding the long general anaesthetic waiting lists that still exist and I suspect will do for some time to come. As the BAOS representative at these meetings and having a foot in both primary and secondary care camps, I was able to contribute fully to the meetings and help generate a document which hopefully will lead to positive changes in the provision of IV sedation for oral surgery in secondary care

In other news, BAOS have also been working hard behind the scenes to try and ensure there is sufficient data collected on who undertakes the many oral surgery procedures in secondary care. Historically, many hospital oral surgery procedures have been nominally recorded under OMFS. Whilst in itself not a huge issue, the problems ahead lie in workforce planning. If the oral surgeons are not recorded as the operator, then how will we know how many oral surgeons we need to train for the future? This piece of work may not have a 'quick fix' but at least BAOS are included in the discussions and able to have a voice

Finally, BAOS council look forward to seeing so many of you in November for a wonderful, long overdue, face to face in person conference. Let's just hope the planes and trains can get us all there!



Catherine Sternberg
BAOS Council Member

The future is safe for OS

Well, the Summer holidays are over for most of us and it is time to look forward to the exciting months ahead! Needless to say, the pinnacle of this will be the BAOS conference which is 'face to face' at long last in Edinburgh. The programme looks excellent and social events will be equally good. Bring it on!

As a reasonably new Council member, I have been really impressed with the work that goes on behind the scenes regarding oral surgery and training. There have obviously been the webinars which have been very successful, but I never knew how active BAOS was and the additional meetings that Council members attend and are actively engaged with. Some examples are GIRFT where we are involved in coding to ensure correct tariffs as there have been discrepancies in the past. There is also a lot of work with HEE looking at the distribution of training posts and future planning in England. It is predicted that there will be increasing demand for oral surgery and we need to ensure that sufficient numbers of surgeons are available to cope with this.

There are plenty of meetings with Council members discussing oral surgery and training in all regions of the United Kingdom, and there are positive changes happening.

Joining Council has made me feel that I can make a difference and I am grateful for this. I would encourage members to look for opportunities to become more actively involved. Nothing is perfect and some of the progress is slow, but the BAOS Team are enthusiastic and working hard to ensure that the specialty continues to develop.

At the Conference, you will find out about all BAOS activity and exciting new developments, and I am sure you will have an ace time as well!

See you there.



Kathryn Taylor
BAOS Council Member

Patient safety reporting in England: New National Systems

The backbone of improving patient safety is to learn from things that have gone wrong, as the phrase goes *“Mistakes are not a problem but not learning from them is”* In order to learn from any error or near miss there needs to be a robust system for reporting and analysis.

With this in mind, the new frameworks and systems put in place by NHS England should enable better reporting and learning from incidents. The Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF)¹ replaced the Serious Incident Framework in March 2020. PSIRF does not distinguish between ‘patient safety incidents’ and ‘Serious Incidents’ and aims to promote a proportionate response to patient safety incidents that allows resources to be allocated to learning and improvement.

Following on from this the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) and Strategic Executive Information System (StEIS) have recently been replaced by a new Learn from Patient Safety Events Service (LFPSE)². This new system has been designed to be suitable for use across all healthcare settings creating a single national NHS system for recording patient safety events.

This means that dentists in all sectors of the NHS can now record patient safety incidents via the same system. This should allow better data collection and better analysis of incidents with the ultimate aim of improving learning and reducing incidents.

The NHS Patient Safety Strategy document ³ uses a quote by John F Kennedy to describe the patient safety journey:

“We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future.”

Hopefully, these new systems will provide a route to that safe and sane future.

References

¹ [NHS England » Patient Safety Incident Response Framework](#)

² [NHS England » Learn from patient safety events \(LFPSE\) service](#)

³ [Report template - NHSI website \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)



Judith Jones
BAOS Council Member