



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the BTA newsletter. As the weather deteriorates and the reality of a seamless transfer from Summer to Winter NHS pressures sneaks up on us, I hope you all managed to get some holiday relaxation in the last few months.

Over the last year or so there has been a change in the treatment landscape for advanced thyroid cancer with the availability of new molecularly targeted agents for both medullary, anaplastic and other forms of thyroid cancer. These agents show real promise for several clinical situations in which patients previously had very limited options for active treatment. In particular, the early data on selpercatinib in RET mutated tumours and the combination of dabrafenib and trametinib for anaplastic thyroid cancer suggest prolonged responses, with 50% progression-free survival not being reached in the studies. However, in order to be able to access these new 'targeted' treatments, it is necessary to know some genotype information about the patient or their tumour. For patients with familial medullary carcinoma, then germline RET mutations are highly likely to already be known for the patient or their family. Whereas for other sporadic patients, tumour DNA analysis that can be done on paraffin block material retrieved from histopathology will generally be needed to determine whether a patient is suitable for one of these

targeted treatments. Once the genetic 'susceptibility' of the tumour is identified, the funding for these expensive drugs should be forthcoming with the assistance of your local oncologists, with the exception of dabrafenib/trametinib which is currently being negotiated. To my mind this represents an important step forward towards the goal of personalised medicine, and underlines that the biggest translational benefits from complex trait genetics research have so far come in the cancer field.

Target	Agents	Tumour type	Funding situation*
RET	Selpercatinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Medullary with RET mutations (Almost all inherited cases, 50-70% of sporadic cases)</li> <li>•Papillary, poorly differentiated or anaplastic thyroid cancer with RET fusions (~10%)</li> </ul>	NICE approved following MKI failure-Managed Access-Cancer drug fund
BRAF <sup>V600E</sup>	Dabrafenib + Trametinib in combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Anaplastic thyroid cancer with BRAF V600E mutation (~40%)</li> </ul>	Evolving situation: currently compassionate access may be available via oncology
NTRK	Larotrectinib Entrectinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Papillary thyroid cancer with NTRK fusion (≤5%)</li> <li>•Poorly differentiated thyroid cancer with NTRK fusion (~20%)</li> </ul>	NICE approved after all other treatment options are exhausted (Cancer drug fund)

\*Thanks to Dr Jonathan Wadsley for up-to-date information

In September, I attended the European Thyroid Association (ETA) annual meeting in Brussels. It was an enormous pleasure to see friends and colleagues again at this very friendly and well sized meeting with a lot of excellent scientific and clinical content. BTA offered travel awards to this meeting for early career researchers to attend, but disappointingly, no one applied. Next year's

meeting is in Milan (Sept 9-12<sup>th</sup> 2023) and BTA plan to offer the same travel awards for the meeting. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get involved with ETA. I would also be very happy to support any prospective ETA members in the nomination for membership process.

**Simon Pearce, BTA President**



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## From the Secretary

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### BTA Annual Meeting 2022

It was lovely to meet many of you at our first in-person annual meeting after the Covid-19 pandemic earlier this year (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022) at the Royal College of Pathologists, London.

We had an exciting programme, with the George Murray Award lecture from **Dr Petros Perros** as the highlight of the meeting. We also had a very informative symposium on thyroid disorders in pregnancy (**Prof Stine Andersen, Prof Kris Poppe** and **Dr Rima Dhillon-Smith**) and updates on recent advances on benign thyroid disorders (**Dr Fraser Gibb**), thyroid cancer (**Dr Kate Newbold**) and basic thyroidology (**Prof Krishna Chatterjee**).

BTA awarded 3 travel grants to trainees presenting at the meeting - congratulations to **Merve Kocbiyik, Brandon Lim**, and **Selvambigai Manivannan**.

I would also like to congratulate **Drs R Nunez Miguel** and **Selvambigai Manivannan**, who won prizes for the best oral and poster presentations, respectively.



*Dr Petros Perros delivering the George Murray Lecture at the 2022 BTA Annual Meeting*

### BTA Trainee Day 2022

We also had a very successful BTA trainee day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022, with over 100 participants from the UK and abroad attending the live virtual meeting. We had highly informative bite-size masterclass lectures on Drugs and thyroid disorders (**Dr Carla Moran**), Subclinical hyperthyroidism (**Dr Salman Razvi**) and Thyroidectomy for Graves' disease (**Mr Sabapathy**).

**Balasubramanian**), followed by case-presentations from trainees.

Congratulations to **Drs Adele Beck** and **Muhammad Fahad Arshad** who won the best and the runner-up prizes, respectively for case presentations.

I would like to thank **Dr Laura Lane**, our trainee Ex-Com member, for organising the trainee day so successfully.

### **BTA Annual Meeting 2023**

I am pleased to inform you that the next Annual BTA Meeting will be held face-to-face at the Royal College of Pathologists (London) on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023**. Further details, including the programme and the information on abstract submission will be published soon on the BTA website.

### **BTA Trainee Day 2023**

The next BTA trainees' meeting (VIRTUAL) will be on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Further details, including the programme and the information on submission of cases from trainees will be published soon on the BTA website.

### **BTA Annual General Meeting 2022**

I would like to invite you all to the BTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the BES conference on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022** (Time: 12.45-14.15) at the Harrogate Convention Centre, Harrogate.

### **Call for nominations**

Drs **Carla Moran** and **Laura Lane** will be completing their terms as BTA EX-Com member and BTA Ex-Com trainee member, respectively after the BTA AGM in November

2022. I would like to thank them both for their excellent contributions to the Committee over the recent years.

We will be electing the **President-elect**, an **Ex-Com member**, and an **Ex-Com trainee member** at our next AGM in Nov 2022. If you are interested in joining the BTA executive committee or if you wish to nominate a BTA member for the role, please contact me via email (deadline for nomination extended to: **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022**).

### **BTA Twitter**

I am pleased to announce that BTA twitter (@ThyroidBritish) now has more 700 followers. If you are not one of them, I would encourage you to follow BTA on twitter to keep abreast of BTA activities and other developments in the thyroid field.

### **BTA Survey on Graves' disease Management**

You will have received a questionnaire survey on the management of Graves' disease via email. If you are a clinician member involved in treating patients with Graves' disease, I would be grateful if you could spare some time to complete the survey.

### **BES meeting 2022**

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the British Endocrine Societies (BES) conference, Harrogate in November. As in the previous years, there is an exciting thyroid programme, including the Pitt-Rivers Lecture from **Professor Anja Eckstein**.

**Bijay Vaidya, BTA Secretary**  
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## Update from the British Thyroid Foundation

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### **BTF Research Award 2022**

The BTF is dependent on the fundraising efforts of its members and supporters. Unfortunately, in the current economic climate, and like many other charities, the challenges we face are significant as fundraising income is in decline. Our members tell us, however, that supporting research into thyroid disease should be our priority and we are therefore determined to continue our investment in the thyroid community as we have done since the charity was founded 30 years ago.

This year, to celebrate 25 years of the BTF Research Award we have launched the BTF Research Award Appeal through which we hope to raise £20,000 of dedicated funding. If you would like to support our appeal, you can donate via our website.

<https://www.btf-thyroid.org/btf-research-award-fundraising-appeal>

### **BTF webinars for patients**

Our programme of 'Meet the Expert' patient webinars are continuing and this year we have already held four online meetings. Feedback has been positive, and their impact enables us to reach increasing numbers of patients and professionals. Although aimed at patients many attendees are medical professionals, in particular GPs, who wish to understand more about thyroid disorders.

All webinars are recorded and available to watch on our YouTube channel. Previous topics include Thyroid Surgery,

Hyperthyroidism, Thyroid Nodules, Understanding Thyroid Function Tests, Thyroid Eye Disease, and Pregnancy and Thyroid Disorders.

Our next webinar will be on 21 November at 6pm. Professor Marian Ludgate and Dr Buchi Okosieme will talk about thyroid research, with examples from the areas of research they have worked in, including the role of the microbiome and Graves' disease and thyroid eye disease. Dr Nicola Zammitt will chair the meeting. Please share details of this event with patients and colleagues.

<https://www.btf-thyroid.org/Event/meet-the-experts-thyroid-research-update>

### **BTF Survey – tell us what you think!**

To help us improve the services we offer, we are currently seeking feedback and views about the work we do from all our stakeholders. If you have a few spare minutes, please complete this short survey to tell us what you think.

<https://bit.ly/BTFSurveyforProfs>

### **Christmas cards**

On the run up to Christmas, you can support the BTF by choosing from our range of beautiful Christmas cards.

<https://www.btf-thyroid.org/pages/shop/department/christmas-cards>

**Julia Priestley & Cheryl McMullan, BTF**

### **FUTURE MEETINGS (relevant links on BTA website)**

- American Thyroid Association, Montreal, Canada, 19-23 October 2022
- British Endocrine Societies Meeting, Harrogate, UK, 14-16 November 2022
- British Thyroid Association Annual Meeting, London, UK, 9 June 2023
- European Thyroid Association, Milan, Italy, 9-12 September 2023