



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a privilege to takeover Presidency of the BTA. I shall endeavour to continue and build upon the excellent work of Mark Vanderpump my predecessor, who has steered the association with wisdom, vision and enthusiasm.

In a change viewed favourably by the SfE membership, most thyroid content was focussed into a particular day at the Society for Endocrinology meeting in November 2017. Personally, particular highlights were plenary talks by Martin Schlumberger describing trials that have changed clinical practice in thyroid cancer and Domenico Salvatore who gave us fascinating insights into the role of thyroid hormone metabolism in muscle development and cancer. An important symposium not only reviewed advances in understanding and treatment of thyroid eye disease, but highlighted UK implementation of an initiative, supported by professional organisations including the BTA, to improve assessment and management of Graves orbitopathy (TEAMeD). The SfE Thyroid Network (convenors Carla Moran and Petros Perros) held a Research Incubator, to discuss ideas and opportunities for collaborative research; an ongoing project is a UK-wide survey of rare, serious side-effects of antithyroid drugs. I am very enthusiastic about such collaborative endeavour and encourage BTA members to participate in this and future projects.

In 2017, the BTA continued to make an important contribution to the ongoing debate on use of liothyronine in the treatment of hypothyroidism. Responding to a consultation process by NHS England, we issued clarification that our guidelines on management of hypothyroidism should not be interpreted as a recommendation to not use liothyronine. Reconsidering its previous proposal, NHS England has stated that liothyronine will continue to be available on prescription. I also welcome adjudication by the Competition & Markets Authority that UK pricing of liothyronine is excessive; hopefully, this will enable debate on liothyronine use to be influenced principally by scientific and clinical evidence, rather than drug cost.

Looking ahead, I hope that we have formulated an exciting programme for the forthcoming annual BTA meeting (May 15th Birmingham), including an opening Symposium with talks from leaders in the field on disordered Thyroid Hormone transport (Theo Visser) and Metabolism (Antonio Bianco); Marian Ludgate will give the George Murray Lecture; Mark Vanderpump and Duncan Bassett will review advances in clinical and basic thyroidology respectively. The preceding Training Day programme (14th May) includes sessions on the Thyroid component of the Specialty Certificate Exam in Endocrinology, publishing and talks by Visser and Bianco reviewing their fields. I hope that trainees will take full advantage.

Finally, attesting to its incidence and importance, the Department of Health has asked the National Institute of Clinical Excellence to develop a guideline on the

assessment and management of Thyroid disease. As a stakeholder I hope the BTA and its membership will play an active role in its development.

Krishna Chatterjee, BTA President

News from the British Thyroid Foundation

Translated Patient Information Documents

The information and resources on the BTF website are widely used by people from all over the world. In order to make our resources more accessible to speakers of other languages we have translated our four most popular information guides into Arabic, Polish and Urdu. If you find these documents useful or would like to be able to access other BTF information in these or other languages, please email info@btf-thyroid.org with your comments.

We are grateful to Dr Justyna Witczak, Dr Ishrat Khan and Dr Hussam Abusahmin who kindly checked all the documents for us.

TEAMeD

The TEAMeD-5 project – Improving Outcomes in TED – was launched at the SfE BES meeting in Harrogate on 8 November 2017, supported by Colin Dayan’s energetic presentation encouraging immediate implementation of TEAMeD-5, and distribution of 250 information packs provided by the BTF and TEDct. If you would like material for your clinic (including TEAMeD-5 poster, TED early warning cards and TED DiaGO clinical assessment tool) please visit www.btf-thyroid.org-teamed-5 where you can place your order. No charge is made for these materials.

If you would like to be kept updated about the TEAMeD-5 project, please send an email to Janis Hickey at teamed@btf-thyroid.org We would be delighted to receive feedback about how useful you find the TEAMeD-5 material, or suggestions for any improvements we could make.

BTF Research Award

The BTF offers an annual award to support a one-year research project into thyroid function or thyroid disorders. This year’s award - The BTF Doris Godfrey Research Award - has been funded by a legacy and offers up to £20,000. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 January 2018. For further information, visit: www.btf-thyroid.org/professionals/research-award/158-btf-research-award

British Thyroid Foundation, Suite 12, One Sceptre House, Hornbeam Square North,
Harrogate, HG2 8PB, Tel: 01423 810093, www.btf-thyroid.org

BTA 2018 Birmingham

This year the British Thyroid Association Annual Meeting goes to Birmingham. The scientific conference will take place on Tuesday 15th May 2018 in the impressive state-of-the-art Bramall Music Building at the University of Birmingham. The Clinician and Scientist Trainee Programs will be held on the preceding afternoon - Monday 14th May - in the grounds of the beautiful Winterbourne House and Garden. We now have a list of confirmed speakers for what promises to be an exciting meeting.

BTA TRAINEE DAY MEETING & ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE MONDAY 14 & TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

George Murray Lecture

- ❖ Professor Marian Ludgate (Cardiff)

Key Symposium speakers

- ❖ Prof Theo Visser (Rotterdam): Thyroid hormone transport
- ❖ Professor Anthony Bianco (Chicago): Thyroid hormone metabolism
- ❖ Dr Mark Vanderpump (London): The year in clinical thyroidology
- ❖ Professor Duncan Basset (London): The year in Basic thyroid hormone research

Publishing in Thyroid Research Seminar

- ❖ Professor Graham Williams (London): Basic science perspectives
- ❖ Dr Kristien Boelaert (Birmingham): perspectives from an editor
- ❖ Dr Peter Taylor (Cardiff): perspectives from a young career investigator

Trainee Session: the thyroid in the specialist exit exam

- ❖ Dr Carla Moran (Cambridge)
- ❖ Dr Mark Gurnell (Cambridge)

Abstracts for the conference should be submitted by e-mail to OkosiemeOE@Cardiff.ac.uk as a word document (not exceeding 250 words) under the headings: background, methods, result, and conclusion. The abstract submission deadline is 31st March 2018.

From the Secretary

The BTA congratulates Mrs. Janis Hickey as she retires this month from her position as BTF director. Janis founded the BTF in 1991 and has since been a tireless advocate for the well-being of patients with various thyroid disorders. Over the years she has worked closely with the BTA in realising her vision for improved public and patient access to thyroid disease information, research and treatments.

During her tenure, awareness of thyroid disorders has moved squarely into the public consciousness and thyroid conditions are now more widely recognised as important treatable conditions with potentially serious consequences.

We are reassured that Janis will remain active within the foundation and will continue to harness her skill's in promoting the foundation's agenda.

We use this opportunity to welcome the two new co-CEOs of the BTF, Julia Priestley and Cheryl McMullan. Both Julia and Cheryl have worked with the BTA over the years and share Janis' passion for improving patient outcomes through effective engagement and advocacy.

We wish them well and look forward to more productive years ahead.

Onyebuchi Okosieme, BTA Secretary

Clinical Hot Cases at the BTA conference

This year's BTA conference will include a clinical hot cases section. This is an exciting new opportunity for you to present your complex challenging thyroid cases and for these to be discussed by a panel of experts. Hot cases should be submitted as an abstract not exceeding 200 words under the headings: Background, Case presentation, and Discussion to: OkosiemeOE@Cardiff.ac.uk
The submission deadline is 31st March 2018.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- BTA Training Day: May 14 2018, University of Birmingham, Birmingham
- 66th Annual Meeting of the BTA, May 15 2018, University of Birmingham, Birmingham
- 41st Annual Meeting of the European Thyroid Association, 15-18 September, 2018, Newcastle, UK
- 88th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association, 3-7th October 2018, Marriott Marquis, Washington DC, USA
- Society for Endocrinology BES 19-21 November 2018 – Scottish Event Campus (SEC),Glasgow, Scotland