



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Highlights of our well attended **annual meeting** in May included a symposium on hot topics in autoimmune thyroid disease and an outstanding George Murray lecture by George Kahaly describing research achievements spanning thyroid autoimmunity and ophthalmopathy. The programme included excellent Basic Science and Clinical oral communications and congratulations to Hannah Nieto (Birmingham) and Mohammad Jeeyavudeen (Aberdeen) for prize-winning presentations.

In that context, to facilitate and encourage submissions to future BTA meetings, we would like to ask groups active in thyroid research (Basic, Clinical) to notify our Secretary, so we can compile an UK **Thyroid Research Directory**, whereby we can inform them specifically of deadlines for submission to future meetings.

With regard to prescribing of **liothyronine**, recent publication of [further guidance](#) by NHS England, which the BTA position statement has informed, hopefully provides a basis for eliminating regional differences in its continued use in selected individuals. [Draft guidance](#) from NICE highlights the need for further research in this area. Efforts to reduce the NHS cost of liothyronine in primary and secondary care continue.

In this context, members are reminded of an interesting **one day international**

symposium, sponsored by the BTA as well as the ETA and ATA, being jointly streamed with the American Thyroid Association in Chicago, live in London on Sunday 3rd November. It features leaders in the T4-T3 field from both sides of the Atlantic, reviewing combination T4/T3 therapy and discussing future clinical trials in this area. Follow these links for [agenda](#) and [registration details](#).

I would like to draw the attention of members to a [national study](#) seeking to recruit patients who have experienced serious side effects (agranulocytosis, hepatotoxicity) following antithyroid drug treatment. A UK study identifying genetic risk factors (which may vary in different populations) for such adverse effects may help us better limit their occurrence.

Thyroid topics are well represented at the forthcoming Society for Endocrinology annual [BES meeting](#). James Fagin, this year's Pitt-Rivers Lecturer, will speak on Thyroid Cancer - genetics, differentiation state and radioiodine response, a symposium on thyroid hormone and inflammation is planned, as well as a meeting of the Thyroid Endocrine Network, all on Wednesday 13th November.

Krishna Chatterjee, BTA President

From the Secretary

Call for new executive committee members

We require new members for our [executive committee](#). The executive committee provides leadership to, and oversight of, the BTA, including organising the programme for the annual meeting. Executive committee members serve a three-year term and meet twice a year, at the BTA and BES meetings.

Please **consider joining** the executive committee - you can express interest or nominate others by [emailing me](#). We are particularly keen to attract basic scientist members and would also like to ensure the committee has geographical and subspecialty diversity.

For the first time, we would like to invite **trainees** (a physician and a scientist) to

adopt roles on the committee for a one-year term.

Membership update

We are in the process of updating our **BTA member list**; do let me know if you have an alternative preferred email address for membership updates. Also remember that you can unsubscribe from these at any time by contacting me.

Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to [join the BTA](#); it costs only £30 per year and provides access to BTA updates, newsletters and a discount on attendance at the annual meeting.

Carla Moran, BTA Secretary
cm682@medschl.cam.ac.uk

Update from the BTF

BTF patient information leaflets

Thank you to all the members of the BTA who responded to our SurveyMonkey questionnaire earlier this year. We were pleased to know that our patient information leaflets form an important part of many endocrinologists' practice.

The feedback we receive confirms that having access to reliable information makes an invaluable difference to how patients manage their diagnosis. Please continue to direct them either to the BTF website, or to the webpage where they can find the appropriate information leaflet.

Hard copies of all our literature is free of charge to hospitals so if you would like us to send copies for your clinics please complete the leaflet order form on our website and return it to us.

Please note that translations of all leaflets are now available online in Urdu, Polish and Arabic.

Patient information day: thyroid guidelines update

On Saturday 8 February 2020 we will be hosting a patient information day as a follow up to the publication of the NICE guidelines. The meeting will be held at the Abbey Centre, Westminster and will give patients the opportunity to listen to talks from medical professionals who took part in the NICE consultation process. For further information about the event please contact info@btf-thyroid.org.

New BTF website

During the next few weeks the BTF will launch a new website which we hope users will find more accessible and easier to navigate.

Information for teenagers and young people

We're delighted to have made a series of short films featuring teenagers and young people with thyroid disorders. The films can be viewed on the BTF website and on our YouTube channel and will accompany a wider range of information (available online and in leaflet form) produced specifically for this age group. If you would like us to send you copies of the new leaflet for young people please contact children@btf-thyroid.org.

BTF Research Award 2019

The deadline for the next BTF Research Award (£20,000) is **31 January 2020** so we look forward to receiving [applications](#) before that date.

Janis Hickey awarded MBE

Janis Hickey, the founder and former director of BTF was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list 2019. This is a fantastic achievement and well-deserved recognition of all she has done over many years to support people affected by thyroid disease.

Julia Priestley & Cheryl McMullan, BTF

FUTURE MEETINGS (details on [BTA website](#))

- Evidence based use of T3 + T4 combinations: Joint ATA, BTA & ETA & Symposium, London, UK & Chicago, USA, November 3rd 2019
- 89th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association, Chicago, USA, 30th Oct to 3rd November 2019
- EUGOGO 20th Anniversary Meeting, Pisa, Italy, 7th to 9th November
- Society for Endocrinology BES Meeting, Brighton, UK, 11th to 13th November 2019,
- 14th International Resistance to Thyroid Hormone Workshop, Monterey, California, USA, 25th to 28th March 2020
- ENDO, San Francisco, USA, 28th to 31st March 2020
- New Developments and Controversies in the Management of Thyroid Cancer, Royal College of Physicians, London, 26th June 2020