

The BAHNO Challenge

Raising funds to address the long-term impact of
COVID-19 on head and neck cancer patients

BAHNO CovidSurg Cancer Fundraising

During the COVID pandemic an international research collaboration (CovidSurg Cancer) was set up to evaluate the 30-day COVID infection rates in elective cancer. The current end point for that project is four months but many questions remain - of paramount importance is assessing whether necessary changes in care have a longer-term impact on head and neck cancer patients.

To date information has been captured on over 2000 head and neck cancer patients, the majority from the UK. An exceptional opportunity therefore exists to follow these patients up and with mature data extend the project hypotheses to include aspects such as the influence of modified surgical practices on function and disease-free intervals.

If this ambition is to be fulfilled £30k funding is needed to support data management, site liaison, real-time queries and statisticians time. We are fortunate to have agreement from The Centre for Observational and Prospective Studies (BiCOPS) and Liverpool Cancer Trials Centre to undertake this work with the research team.

BAHNO is in a unique position not only to help but to benefit. As the only truly multidisciplinary organisation involved in head and neck cancer management in the UK we are a natural ambassador to fund such a project and in addition could reap the rewards of high-impact research for the benefit of all patients.

If BAHNO is to assist then we do not think that funds should be drawn from existing revenue streams but instead we plan a specific fund raising project. On Saturday 1st August 2020 BAHNO will host a virtual running/cycling journey from Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG). BAHNO is calling on you to run or cycle (in your own

home/back garden/local village/city/park) part of the distance. With sponsorship for doing your part, together we aim to complete the journey and hit our funding target.

We would simply ask that you commit to a sponsored 5k run or 10k cycle. The event is not exclusive to BAHNO members so by all means encourage colleagues and friends to join in from this country and abroad. To cover the 1400k LEJOG route we would need around 200 participants raising around £150 each.

This as an opportunity not only for BAHNO but also for members themselves. We hope that you would use the event to engage with your own hospital's communications teams to raise your profile locally and maybe also highlight the needs of the many head and neck cancer patients who have avoided seeking help during the pandemic.

We have a dedicated GoFundMe sponsorship page that can be found at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/bahno-covidsurg-cancer-fundraising>

Please email FundRaising@bahno.org.uk with your intention to join the event and include the following information:

- Name
- Region (e.g. Scotland, Wales, NW, NE, SE, SW, London etc)
- Specialty (ENT, OMFS, Oncology, AHP etc)
- Distance intending to cover

Any sponsors you collect should state your name in the designated box on the Gofundme page. We will update our virtual map based on your expected distances and allow us all to enjoy the virtual run as it progresses across Britain. We will also have an active social media campaign so please share far and wide!

Thank you in advance for all your efforts and we look forward to seeing you 'on the road'!