



British Neuro-Oncology Society

# British Neuro-oncology Society Newsletter

Number 01/10, January 2010

## In this issue.....

- **BNOS2010 Glasgow:**
  - Meeting details
  - abstract deadline
- **Cancer inequality illustrated by Brain Cancer: A case of need**
- **Website Updates**
- **BNOS Administrator appointed**
- **Newsletter submissions called for**

Further details on BNOS2010 are included in the flyer accompanying this newsletter. Registration and abstract submission are now live via the meeting website:

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/cvso/BNOS2010](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/cvso/BNOS2010)

**NOTE: abstract deadline for BNOS2010 is MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**

## BNOS2010 Glasgow, June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

The annual meeting of BNOS is a highlight in any meetings calendar, and this year our hosts in Glasgow look set to deliver a fantastic event set in and around the University of Glasgow, with the theme of the meeting *'Collaboration and Teamwork'*.

As is now the tradition the host city chooses the agenda for the symposium on the Wednesday afternoon preceding the main meeting on



Thursday and Friday. This year the symposium marks the retirement of our good friend and colleague Prof Roy Rampling and, reflecting this, the symposium contributors are drawn from his many national and international collaborations across a range of specialities in Neuro-oncology.

This year, in response to feedback from members attending previous meetings, the programme for the main meeting on the Thursday and Friday has been largely reserved for delegate submitted content in the form of platform presentations and poster discussions. Nevertheless there is still room in the programme for an excellent mini-symposium sponsored by the British Neuropathological Society (featuring Bernd Scheithauer and Max Kross), the first *BNOS Young Investigator Award*, a keynote lecture from Prof Roy Rampling, a postgraduate symposium on *'How to Succeed in Neuro-oncology Research'*, a meeting of ANON and an excellent social programme.

## Cancer inequality illustrated by Brain Cancer: A case of need

by Colin Watts, Cambridge

Inequalities in research, clinical resourcing and patient advocacy are failing patients with brain cancer as the following quote from a recent survey of cancer survival in the UK illustrates:



*"The absence of any improvement in survival from brain tumours in adults between 1986 and 1999, for either sex, represents a rare exception to the general trend in cancer survival in England and Wales during this period. For brain tumours, the overall trend is in fact towards a decline in survival in both sexes, which is statistically significant for 5-year survival among men (3% every 5 years)."*

Brain Cancer accounts for less than 2% of all cancers but is responsible for 7% of cancer deaths.

These chilling statistics formed the basis for a submission made by BNOS to the All Parliamentary Party Group enquiry into inequalities in cancer. The full submission can be viewed on our website [www.bnos.org.uk](http://www.bnos.org.uk). The main points made were:

1. **Inequality of advocacy:** Advocacy for patients with brain and CNS malignancy is often difficult because of the nature of brain cancer and the relative lack of appropriate data and its analysis. The impact on carers and family is poorly understood.

## 2. **Inequality in access to research funding:**

Based on data published by the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) in 2002, the amount spent on research for CNS tumours was £3.75m out of a total NCRI spend of £250m, or 1.5%. The annual NCRI research spend/AYLL was £0.2m/year for brain & CNS, compared to 3.3 and 3.5 (£m/year) for breast and prostate cancer respectively.

## 3. **Inequality of specialist care (IOG):** The key priority for people with brain & CNS tumours is that the NICE Improving Outcomes Guidance is fully implemented across the country no later than 2011.

The report was published in December 2009 [www.appg-cancer.org.uk](http://www.appg-cancer.org.uk) and recommended 8 priorities for action:

- Set a new indicator for 1 year survival rates
- Introduce measures to improve prevention and early detection
- Collect more data on patients
- Improve the patients experience throughout the cancer journey
- Provide better quality information for all patients throughout their cancer journey
- Provide more help specifically for people with rarer cancers
- Promote further research into causes of inequalities in cancer
- All cancer patients should receive a regular assessment of their care needs at key points in their cancer journey

It is easy to see that these priorities apply directly to brain cancer patients. BNOS will continue to promote the application of these priorities in our patients in an ongoing programme of engagement with policy makers, funders, charities, scientists.

### **BNOS Website Update**

When last did you check the society website, [bnos.org.uk](http://bnos.org.uk)? Chances are when you did, it looked much like the last time you browsed it, and the time before that. However, the website is about to change!!

As part of the development of the society, the website is undergoing a radical overhaul. Think more of a major facelift than a splash of botox. Included in the new site will be

- Member login offering access to our online newsletter, forums and key items of interest
- Council Member profiles and their areas of activity
- Quality material aimed at a wide audience
- Parliamentary interaction
- Comprehensive listing of national and international events

- Support for students as we develop the Jobs page
- An effective point of reference for surgeons, clinicians, scientists and nurses
- Links to charities for carers and patients

We hope you will enjoy the benefits we envisage this will bring and would welcome hearing from you if you have any suggestions for further updates and/or content.

### **BNOS Administrator appointed**

Council are delighted to introduce Ms Jenny Loughlin. In recent months Jenny has set about reshaping the website, bringing the database of members up to date and collating all the reports and paperwork for Council, amongst many other tasks. Here Jenny introduces herself to Society members:

*'I took on the role of BNOS administrator in the autumn of 2007 while I was working in the neuro-oncology MDT as an assistant co-ordinator with David Jellinek in Sheffield. This enabled me to gain a valuable insight into this discipline and on one memorable occasion I joined David in theatre to witness the removal of a tumour which brought home to me the depth of skill and expertise called upon from the team.'*



*Working freelance I now enjoy committing more time and energy to BNOS. An exciting project I have undertaken is the development of the new website.'*

For all society and membership enquiries, Jenny can be contacted at: [administrator@bnos.org.uk](mailto:administrator@bnos.org.uk)

### **Newsletter Submissions Welcomed**

The British Neuro-oncology Society is changing. This newsletter is just one of the developments which are being introduced to bring members of the society together and keep us updated as to developments in society and in our speciality.

To gain most from this newsletter we would welcome content from BNOS members. The subject matter can be anything at all you feel may be of relevance or interest to your colleagues in neuro-oncology. Examples might be a meeting report, a summary of a journal article and so on. Submissions should be no more than 250 words and will be credited to the author. For further details contact the newsletter editor at:

[newsletter@bnos.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bnos.org.uk)