**Bursary Report for the British Association of Hand Therapists**

**Anne Alexander**

**International Conference (combined) for Surgeons and therapists of the Hand, Excel Centre, London**

**6.6.2022 – 10.6.2022**

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| **Introduction:**  (100 words max; include details of who you are, why you applied for this bursary and your experience of the event)  I am a Clinical Specialist Therapist working within the NHS. During the pandemic, our service moved to remote assessments. My colleague and I questioned whether we should be using goniometry as an outcome measurement over the screen. There was no evidence, so we created a study to assess the relevance and safety of using goniometry to measure ROM during a live video assessment. I submitted the abstract to the combined conference and it was accepted for an oral presentation. The cost of travel and accommodation was high so I applied for the BAHT bursary to support me with these costs. |
| **Topic:**  (500 words +/- 10%; this will be uploaded onto the BAHT website and may be included in an e-bulletin. The topic of this report will be agreed in negation with the Director of Bursaries. The report should not contain any comments that are potentially damaging or libellous.)  Due to the pandemic and lack of face to face conferences over the last 3 years it was a delight to be back in this setting. The conference was held at the Excel centre in London.  The conference had such a lot of variety included from lectures aimed at surgeons and therapists both combined, or separate. Some of the rooms were live streamed and I think can be watched at a later date, which made the choosing of which talk I would attend only slightly less difficult. There was so much choice! There was an amazing array of educational lectures as well as free papers and related workshops by both surgeons and therapists across the world. The other side of the conference – the networking, socialising side, was also excellent. There was a boat trip on the Thames, a pub night with pick and mix and popcorn, and then the conference dinner at Old Billingsgate – all very different social environments and all excellent for meeting people and making new international friends.  I had requested that I give an oral presentation rather than recorded, and this was accepted by the organising committee. The presentation was only five minutes long – which was a challenge in itself, to get the points across and unravel the statistics and make them clinically relevant in that short a time was somewhat anxiety inducing. However, once I got up to present, I remembered why I prefer to speak in public rather than over teams – the feedback is so much more when you are standing in front of people.  It was an honour to be able to present again at this conference, and in London, and I have come away from the conference with so many questions – some of which have been answered and some of which require further discussion and dissemination within the team to see if changes can / should be made to our practice going forwards. I intend to feedback on as much as possible to the team for further learning and discussion of our protocols. It has inspired me to continue with research and presenting and I hope to have more abstracts accepted for other conferences in the future.  The lead author of the research is readying it for publication so hopefully more people will be able to access the outcomes we found, and this will lead onto more collaboration with other hand therapy departments in the UK and abroad.  As a final point, I received an email from a therapist (from South Africa), who has taken the time to let me know this: “I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your presentation at the IFSHT Congress. I think this is the best presentation I have listened to in a very long time where the presenter made the statistics understandable and clinically applicable. Your presentation was really great to listen to – thank you!”  Thank you to BAHT for helping me to attend the conference. |