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

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| **Introduction:**  I am a Senior Occupational Therapist working as a Specialist Hand Therapist within the NHS. I work in a Plastics Rehabilitation Department. Over the last year, I have been finishing my independent scholarship MSc module at The University of Derby. I conducted an experimental design cadaveric study, examining the consequences following inducing iatrogenic radial sagittal band divisions. I applied for a BAHT bursary to contribute to my course fees in this last year. |
| **Topic:**  Over the last year, I have been completing my independent research project. I selected an ambitious topic of investigating the consequences following inducing systematic iatrogenic radial sagittal band divisions using cadaveric experimental methodology. This was a purposeful selection to maximise learning, skill development and professional networking. I selected this topic following identifying a clinical need to improve knowledge regarding optimal positions of common extensor centralisation following radial sagittal band injury. This research was designed with a view of improving understanding of optimal therapeutic splinting and positioning techniques used by therapists. This was particularly focused at conservative treatment of closed, radial sagittal band injuries with extensor instability. This topic of research was intended to provide a platform for further in-vivo research, based on the findings.  Throughout this year, I have worked closely alongside colleagues in the plastics surgery teams across different trusts and technical staff at a dissection laboratory facility, in order to gain necessary approvals and to problem-solve technical aspects of my experimental design. I was also successful in applying for a research grant from BAHT which I am exceptionally grateful for as this funded the facility hire and cadaveric specimens. I look forward to disseminating my results from this project to the wider hand therapy community.  The process of conducting my independent research project in this topic area has allowed me further develop hand therapy skills when applying them to challenges posed by cadaveric research methodology. One of the key areas of skills development was applying splint fabrication skills to design and construction of a workable cadaveric rig, facilitating both static and dynamic components. Additionally, learning practical anatomical in-situ identification and dissection skills alongside plastics surgery colleagues and technical dissection laboratory staff was an invaluable opportunity. This multidisciplinary research opportunity also sparked insightful conversations regarding optimal patient management approaches, of which was mutually beneficial.  I am pleased if not a little relieved to have now finished my independent research project! This has been a year of pushing outside comfort zones and perseverance! I very much wish to thank BAHT for this bursary to contribute towards my course fees and I look forward to disseminating my findings to the wider hand therapy community. |