

THE TWJ FOUNDATION

THE FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TWJ FOUNDATION

Introduction

The TWJ Foundation offers annual overseas Major Fellowship grants to ENT Specialty Registrars on numbered otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose & throat) training programmes in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland who have passed the Intercollegiate FRCS examination. These TWJ Fellowships are available for six months to one year in overseas or UK university ENT departments, to specifically supplement the otological (ear) training of the Fellows. In this way the Foundation has supported advanced otological training for a large proportion of currently practising otologists in the British Isles. Clinical Fellowships are currently available in Auckland (New Zealand), Halifax (Canada), Vancouver (Canada) and Cambridge (UK).

The Foundation also offers annual Short Fellowship grants for Consultant Otolaryngologists working within the NHS with a special interest in otology to visit the 'Clinique Jean Causse' clinic in Béziers, France; the 'Radboud University Medical Centre' in Nijmegen, The Netherlands; and the 'European Institute for ORL, Sint-Augustinus' in Antwerp, Belgium. Applications are also considered from final-year ENT Speciality Registrars in the UK and Republic of Ireland who have passed the Intercollegiate FRCS and have a special interest in Otology.

In addition, the Foundation sometimes makes available conference, educational, thesis and other small grants. From 2024/25 it is sponsoring the Royal Society of Medicine Section of Otology Short Papers Prize of £1,000, to be used in support of travel to centres of otology overseas. It also funds the Pat Jobson Prize, which is awarded annually by the British Association of Audiovestibular Physicians, from the Michael Cook Tinnitus Fund.

Background

The TWJ Foundation was founded in 1974 by two otolaryngologists, Pat Jobson and David Wright in memory of Thomas Wickham-Jones to benefit otology and audiology within the NHS by the promotion of education and research. The Foundation currently has seven Trustees: two are members of the Wickham-Jones family, one represents the Higgs Charitable Trust, and four are otolaryngologists who are members of ENT UK.

The Foundation has a capital value of £797,349 of which £11,425 is restricted. In the last financial year, investment income was £45,732 and combined expenses and governance costs were £9,438 excluding the Jubilee Dinner costs. The Foundation receives an annual grant from the Higgs Charitable Trust which in 2024/25 totalled £25,000.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:-
C Martin Bailey BSc FRCS FRCSEd (Executive Chairman)
Patrick Humphris MA
Shakeel R Saeed MD FRCS
Mark Wickham-Jones MA PhD
Christopher Aldren MA FRCS (Vice Chairman)
Musheer Hussain MSc FRCS FRCP (resigned 4/10/24)
Tom Wickham-Jones PhD
Emma Stapleton FRCS

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Principal Address

The principal address of the Charity is:
The TWJ Foundation
ENT UK Office
The Royal College of Surgeons of England
39-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PE

Legal and Administration

Bankers:
NatWest, Southampton Customer Service Centre, 23 Brunswick Place, Southampton, SO15 2AQ

Management and Governance Arrangements

The Trustees annually review the risks that the Trust faces. The investments are considered and rates of return reviewed. The administration of the TWJ Foundation is based at the offices of ENT UK, the national speciality association for otorhinolaryngology, located at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London. This arrangement provides useful synergies as well as reduced administrative costs.

Procedures and Policy for Grant Making and Risk Management

The Trustees aim to award at least one major fellowship per year plus smaller grants to enable individuals to attend specific courses. All candidates are required to provide a full CV together with a reference from their Head of Department and/or Training Programme Director. In addition, all candidates must have passed the Intercollegiate FRCS examination by the time the Fellowship commences and must provide a logbook of their operative experience, including that gained in any postings overseas. All CVs, references and qualifications are checked and confirmed. For smaller donations the Trustees will ensure that the course or research work will be beneficial to the candidate's work. All the centres providing the training and research are known to the Trustees, and the Trustees are in regular contact with the host departments. All beneficiaries are required to write a report of their experiences.

Achievements and Performance of the Trust

The TWJ Foundation reached its 50th Anniversary in 2024, and a celebratory Golden Jubilee Dinner was held on 3rd May 2024 at the Apothecaries' Hall in the City of London.

The value of the Foundation's investments has been steady during the past financial year. A relatively high level of cash reserves means that the TWJ Foundation remains in a sound financial position, and has been able to continue developing its Major Fellowships.

The Trustees of the TWJ Foundation were pleased to award three Major Fellowship and four Short Fellowships for the calendar year 2024, and two Major Fellowships and two Short Fellowships for the calendar year 2025. Awards have now also been made for 2026.

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Grants have been awarded as follows:

Major Fellowships 2024

Auckland, New Zealand - Ms Elinor Warner - £27,500
Vancouver, Canada - Ms Hannah Lancer - £27,500
Cambridge, UK - Ms Rachael Lawrence - £27,500

Short Fellowships 2024

Nijmegen Course - Mr James Howard - £1,000 (deferred from 2021)
Nijmegen Course - Mr Hussein Walijee - £1,000
Béziers Course - Ms Andreea Nae - £750
Béziers Course - Mr Cillian Forde - £750
Béziers Course - Ms Kimberley Lau - £750

Thesis Grant 2024

Mr Tom Hampton - £8,500

Small Grants 2024

World Congress of Audiology, Paris - Ms Shivani Dattani, Mrs Rachel Crum, Miss Komul Vaghela and Ms Silvia Di Bonaventura - £550 each

Prizes 2024

RSM Section of Otology Short Papers 2nd Prize - Mr James Arwyn-Jones - £750

For 2025 overseas Fellowships have so far been awarded as follows:

Major Fellowships 2025

Toronto, Canada - Mr Seamus Boyle - £27,500
Toronto, Canada - Mr Ross O'Shea - funded by the Munk Charitable Foundation

Short Fellowships 2025

Nijmegen Course - Ms Anne Markey - £1,000
Nijmegen Course - Ms Fenella Shelton - £1,000

Thesis Grant 2025

Mr Elliot Heward - £3,000

Prizes 2025

RSM Section of Otology Short Papers Prize - Mr Tom Hampton - £1,000

For 2026 overseas Fellowships have so far been awarded as follows:

Major Fellowships 2026

Auckland, New Zealand - Mr Sanjay Patel - £27,500
Halifax, Canada - Ms Lauren Bolton - £27,500

The 2026 Major Fellowships have not been included in the grants figure of £42,000 as they will be paid for from donations in 2025/26.

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Future Plans

The Trustees have maintained cooperative links with the Graham Fraser Foundation, which funds an annual Cochlear Implant Fellowship to Sydney, Australia. The activities of the two Foundations are complementary, and since 2012 they have been collaborating over the interviewing and appointment of Fellows which has worked well. Cooperative links have also been forged with the Colledge Family Memorial Trust, which funds overseas Fellowships mainly in the fields of rhinology, laryngology and head and neck surgery.

Major TWJ Clinical Fellowships are well established in Auckland, New Zealand with Professor Michel Neeff; and in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada with Professor David Morris. Fellows go to Auckland every two years and to Halifax every three years.

In recent years major TWJ Clinical Fellowships have been inaugurated to Vancouver, Canada with Professor Brian Westerberg; and to Cambridge, UK with Professor Manohar Bruce (the Foundation's first Fellowship in the British Isles). Fellows go to each centre every three years.

An old link with Toronto in Canada has recently been re-established with Professor John Rutka for a Fellow to go every three years commencing in 2025.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Trust's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing Financial Statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements;
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the Trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Trust and which enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with applicable law, regulations and the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

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C Martin Bailey BSc FRCS FRCSEd
Date 20th September 2025