THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

BAGP NEWSLETTER 2013

Message from President

I am proud to be taking over as from Laurence Brown as President of the BAGP. Laurence will be a hard act to follow. Under his stewardship, the BAGP hosted its most successful meeting to date – the 2-day, joint BAGP and ISGyP meeting in London in June 2013. My sincere thanks to Laurence, Naveena, BAGP office bearers and Council members, who worked together to make this memorable event possible.

The key to this success is hard work by Council members. Four new Council members have just been appointed: Drs Roberto Dina, Rahul Fulmali, Sanjiv Manek and Alex Polson. Dr Mona El-Bahrawy has taken over as Meeting's Secretary and Dr Gerry van Schalkwyk is Treasurer. I am confident that Council members will continue to work together in a productive and constructive manner to ensure that standards in gynaecological pathology are raised through educational events that include practical diagnostic issues, and that our meetings will remain of the highest standard. We plan a major update of our website to ensure that BAGP members are kept up to date with information on good practice and new developments in gynaecological pathology.



Cancer reporting protocols, such as those produced by the RCPath and ICCR (International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting) have played an important role in raising standards of reporting of gynaecological cancers in the UK. We have ensured that the data items in the RCPath datasets are aligned with those in the National Cancer Dataset (the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset, COSD), which includes radiology, surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy fields; I hope that BAGP members will help the Cancer Registration Service to attain the national target of staging at least 70% of cancers.

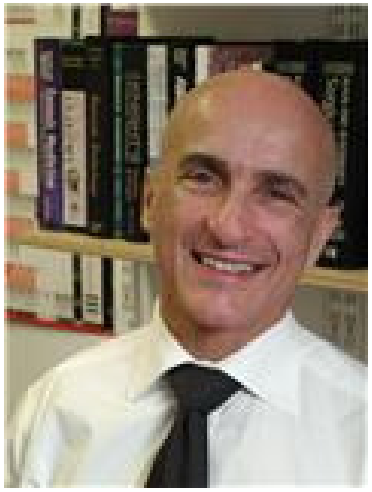
It is important to keep datasets up to date, and most of the gynaecological cancer datasets (and the tissue pathway for gynaecological pathology) will need revision over the next year or two, after the revised WHO classification of gynaecological tumours is released in Spring 2014. A revised FIGO staging system for ovarian, primary peritoneal and fallopian tube carcinomas has also been released and this will need to be included in the revised dataset for this group of tumours. As each update is published, we will keep you informed through the BAGP website. In addition to upgrading the BAGP website, we will look at the possibility of extending its functionality, perhaps to include the logging of unusual cases or the provision of on-line diagnostic help with difficult cases.

Finally, I intend to work with Council to introduce minor changes to the BAGP constitution, to clarify some aspects of the election process of office bearers and their specific roles and responsibilities. I hope also to continue to strengthen our relationship with other professional gynaecological pathology organisations in Europe and North America, and to host further joint meetings, building on the success of the joint BAGP and ISGyP meeting.

My good wishes to all BAGP members for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Dr Lynn Hirschowitz, Birmingham

Outgoing President's report



The end of my 3-year term as President of the Association coincided with one of the best scientific meetings that the BAGP has supported: quite possibly one of the best meetings I have ever attended. All credit goes to Naveena Singh for setting up a joint meeting of the BAGP and the International Society of Gynaecological Pathologists at London during the 27th and 28th of June 2013. With typical élan, Naveena orchestrated a programme that included presentations by some of the top authorities the world, hosted at the Institute of Child Health. This was a truly international meeting of the highest quality that must surely validate the important role that the BAGP plays in the professional and scientific community of gynaecological pathologists.

Since the Association was formed over 10 years ago it has built on the foundations of teaching laid in the recent past by the likes of Harold Fox, Hilary Buckley, Mike Wells and Terry Rollason. Today, there is a rolling programme of exceptionally well received teaching courses covering the whole of the female genital tract. The BAGP has lead on the writing of practice guidelines and is continuing to support the production of The Essentials of Gynaecological pathology. Volume 2 is near to publication and volume 3 is in a late draft stage.

In Dr Lynn Hirschowitz, the new President of the Association, I can recognise a pathologist of the most sincere commitment to gynaecological pathology. I need hardly say that I know she will be successful in leading the BAGP to promote teaching, practice and research in gynaecological pathology here and abroad.

Dr. Laurence Brown, Leicester

THE BAGP WISHES YOU

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

BAGP Meeting Secretary's Report

2013 has been an excellent year with regard to BAGP events. In June 2013 we had our first joint meeting with the International Society of Gynaecological Pathologists. The meeting was held at the Institute of Child Health in London and included lectures on challenges in gynaecological pathology, all by internationally renowned speakers..

This was followed in September by a 2-day course at Guy's Hospital, London, on interpretation of endometrial biopsies. In October we had the first BAGP course on ovarian pathology, which was a 2-day course held at Birmingham Women's Hospital, Birmingham. Both courses included formal lectures, case presentations and slide seminars. Speakers on both courses were National experts and specialists in the field of gynaecological pathology.



The 2013 annual meeting and both courses were fully booked and received extremely positive feedback. The participating delegates were from different parts of the United Kingdom, Europe, The Middle East, India and North America.

I must acknowledge Dr Naveena Singh who was the BAGP Meeting's Secretary for the past 6 years and whose great efforts and valuable input made all of these successful meetings possible. I was privileged to have the opportunity to work closely with Naveena on BAGP meeting activities over the past year while she was handing over to me as the new BAGP Meeting's Secretary from June 2013.

With the conclusion of meetings activities for 2013 and with 2014 only a few weeks away, I would like to announce that the BAGP Annual meeting for 2014 will be held at the Institute of Child Health in London on Friday 13th June 2014. This will be another very special meeting as we are honoured to have FIGO as a guest organisation. With speakers representing FIGO we will get to know about the activities of FIGO including the work and the steps that take place for the development and updates of FIGO staging for gynaecological tumours. We will also hear about the new FIGO staging for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal carcinoma, which has just been published.

On 14th March 2014, a BAGP course on cervical pathology will be held at the Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College, London. This will be a one-day course that includes lectures and practical microscopy sessions.

Details of both meetings will soon be posted on the BAGP website. I look forward to welcoming you to all future BAGP meetings.

Dr Mona El-Bahrawy, London

MEMORIES OF THE BAGP 2013 DINNER







Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that the current state of the BAGP's finances are healthy. The Association has total assets of £60,440.13 which are held in 3 separate accounts. All of the BAGP annual meetings that have been held over the past 5 years have been profitable, as have most of the BAGP workshops, albeit that the profits for the workshops have not been large. At the present time, the BAGP annual meetings will continue to be held at the Institute of Child Health (ICH) in London. There have been delays in the ICH finalising the BAGP accounts over the past 5 years but I have met with the UCL Finance Director and he has agreed to pay the profits to the BAGP within 3 to 4 months of the annual meetings.



Dr Ganesan (BAGP Webmaster), Dr Asma Faruqi (BAGP secretary) and I have been trying to align our BAGP membership lists. Although Dr Faruqi has 159 members on her mailing list, only 121 are paying members. Non-paying members have been contacted to request payment. BAGP membership has recently been boosted by 25 new members. All BAGP members were allocated an official membership number in September, e.g. BAGP0001. This number is necessary to log on to the member's area of the BAGP website and to obtain discounted registration fees for BAGP meetings. If you have not received your membership number, please contact Dr Ganesan (raji.ganesan@bwhct.nhs.uk). The BAGP website is being upgraded and we are hoping to increase the functionality of the website to enable credit card payments to be made. This will make it much easier for members, especially those in Europe, to pay membership fees.

Dr Gerry Van Schalkwyk, Derby

FROM A NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER

This is my first year as a Council member of the British Association of Gynaecological Pathologists. The BAGP promotes excellence in gynaecological pathology by arranging training courses and national meetings, setting and developing standards of practice and collaborating with national and international professional organisations. Council is currently reviewing tissue pathways in gynaecological pathology, and I am pleased to be involved in this. It is a privilege to be a part of this fantastic society and to work with such an amazing team.



Dr Rahul Fulmali

Cheltenham



Report of RCPath Subspecialty Advisor in Gynaecological Pathology

College Documents

A revised version of the Endometrial Carcinoma dataset has been written and submitted to the Working Group on Cancer Services at the RCPath. After publication of the revised FIGO staging system for ovarian carcinoma and the new WHO Classification for gynaecological tumours, the ovarian cancer dataset will be rewritten. There will also be a review of the uterine sarcoma dataset as there will be some changes to the WHO Classification of these neoplasms. No changes were needed to the cervical and vulval carcinoma datasets. The Tissue Pathways for Gynaecological Pathology are due to be revised and BAGP Council will take responsibility for updating of this guideline.

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) and gynaecological cancer datasets

In 2010, the College of American Pathologists (CAP), Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP-ACP) in association with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) and Royal College of Pathologists UK (RCPath) agreed to collaborate in the development of standardised cancer reporting protocols. To this end, the cancer leads representing the Colleges of Pathology from these 4 countries established a quadripartite group (International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR)) with the aim of developing and producing common, internationally agreed, evidence-based datasets for cancer. As a pilot, the ICCR established four review panels to develop cancer datasets for prostate, lung and endometrial carcinomas and melanoma. The UK took the lead in developing the endometrial cancer dataset. Lynn Hirschowitz and Glenn McCluggage coordinated this and produced a document in collaboration with pathologists from USA, Canada and Australia. A paper detailing the entire process of development of the endometrial cancer dataset has been published in *International Journal of Gynecological Pathology (2013;32;45-65)*.

At present, a similar process is being undertaken for ovarian, primary peritoneal and fallopian tube cancer. Glenn McCluggage and Lynn Hirschowitz are coordinating this.

New FIGO Staging System for Ovarian Carcinomas

A revised FIGO staging system for ovarian carcinomas has just been published (*Prat J for the FIGO Committee on Gynecologic Oncology. Staging classification for cancer of the ovary, fallopian tube, and peritoneum. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2013, doi:pii: S0020-7292(13)00520-1*) and this will be included in the updated RCPath dataset along with the new WHO Classification. The authors of the current dataset (Nafisa Wilkinson and Glenn McCluggage) provided feedback on behalf of BAGP to FIGO via the British Gynaecologic Cancer Society in relation to the proposed new staging system.



Revised WHO Classification of Tumours of the Female Genital Tract

The WHO group met in Lyon in April 2013. The various chapters for the new WHO book have been written and are at the proof reading stage. The new blue book will be published early in 2014. Representatives from UK at the meeting in Lyon were Glenn McCluggage, Mike Wells and Simon Herrington.

Pathology Input into Gynaecological Cancer Trials.

The BAGP has representation on the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Gynaecological Clinical Studies Group. There are also representatives on the various subgroups (endometrium; ovary; cervix and vulva). Several trials necessitate central pathology review and this is organised through the various BAGP representatives.

IBMS Specimen Dissection

A group has been set up under Laurence Brown to assist in the development of an Advanced Specialist Diploma in Specimen Dissection for Gynaecological Pathology specimens. This was following an approach from Nick Kirk (Chairman IBMS/RCPath Conjoint Examination Board for Histological Dissection).

Suggested Educational Events in College

At present, the BAGP organises an ongoing programme of study days, which covers all the main systems in gynaecological pathology. Specific topics which might be included in a meeting hosted by the College (these 2 suggestions are for symposiums which cover all organ sites, not just the gynaecological tract) include:-

Mesenchymal lesions of visceral sites (this could be a symposium which covers mesenchymal lesions at various non soft-tissue sites including gynaecological sites).

Molecular pathology symposium (this could be a symposium which covers basic molecular pathology at various sites).

Gynaecological Pathology Audits

The RCPath has developed audit templates for use when conducting personal audit. These templates have been approved by the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) on Cellular Pathology. An audit template entitled “An audit of reporting of endometrial carcinomas on biopsy specimens” is available on the RCPath website (section on Clinical Effectiveness, under clinical audit templates).

Professor Glenn McCluggage , Belfast

National Gynaecological Pathology EQA Organiser — end of an era

In the early 1990s pathologists recognised that they had no way of assessing the quality of reporting in histopathology. Starting with local, general slide schemes, test sets were sent out in an attempt to identify those pathologists whose performance was below standard. It was very quickly realised that such peer-reviewed slide schemes could never have enough sensitivity to identify dysfunctional pathologists even though they might pick up diagnostic errors, because the test samples were always too small. Since then, most pathologists have come to see that EQA schemes are primarily educational and that it is exceptional they will highlight a "persistent poor performer".

In 1994, I invited around 40 pathologists whom I knew to be working prominently or primarily in gynaecological pathology to join a National Gynaecological EQA scheme. Since then, in 41 circulations the membership has risen to nearly 400 and I have entered approximately 160,000 lines of participants' responses. Over that time I have seen consensus developing on typing and grading of gynaecological tumours and diagnostic terminology move from idiosyncratic to internationally accepted terms. Most memorable has been the discussion and debate at the participants' review meetings.

I have enjoyed running the National Gynaecological EQA scheme, not only for the insight into how subjective opinion can be changed to diagnostic, evidence- (or at least case series-) based objectivity, but also for the pleasure of meeting colleagues who are interested in raising standards in gynaecological pathology.



I have now handed on the running of the scheme to the safe hands of Dr Raji Ganesan, whom I'm sure most of you will recognise as an exemplar of objectivity and authority in our field. I wish her every success.

Dr Laurence Brown, Leicester

WEBMASTER'S REPORT



The BAGP website has been very active over the past year. All forthcoming and recent events are available online. We are nearly at the end of a process of a producing a verified members list. Details of the list are held by the Treasurer, Secretary and Web Administrator and details are not available on any public domain. All verified members of the BAGP have been sent an unique membership number and password for accessing members-only area of the website.

As the BAGP has grown, the Council has decided that the website needs to be supported by professionals. This will enable website registration for meetings and uploading of scanned slides for review prior to meetings.

It has been a pleasure to take care of the website over the past 4 years; and, thank you to all those who have helped me especially Mr Jonathan Lugg - the web administrator.

Dr Raji Ganesan, Birmingham

11th Annual BAGP Meeting 2014

London – 13th June 2014.

This one-day meeting will be held at the Institute of Child Health in London. Speakers representing FIGO will describe the activities of FIGO and the new FIGO staging for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal carcinoma. Dr Blaise Clarke, our invited guest speaker from Toronto General Hospital, will be talking about Molecular and Genetic testing in gynaecological pathology, and Prof Simon Herrington will present the new WHO classification of gynaecological tumours. A range of topics including the endometrial biopsy in infertility and dysfunctional uterine bleeding, benign mimics of cervical malignancy and an update on sex cord-stromal tumours will be covered by nationally and internationally renowned speakers, and part of the afternoon session will include a debate about the pros and cons of frozen section in gynaecological pathology. The meeting programme will be posted on the BAGP website shortly. A formal dinner will be held on the evening of June 12th – BAGP members and non-members are encouraged to attend.



FROM THE JOINT BAGP/ISGYP MEETING 2013