THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

BAGP NEWSLETTER 2013

Message from President

2014 has been a busy and productive year for the BAGP. The agenda at Council meetings is always a busy one and because it was not possible to cover all of the agenda items at our June meeting, an additional Council meeting was called in August 2014. Instead of holding physical meetings only twice a year in June and November, Council has agreed to have 2 additional meetings by teleconference each year to accommodate this increased activity.

Appointment of a BAGP Administrator



At our June meeting Council approved the appointment of an administrator who will provide technical and administrative support for BAGP Officers and Council, and act as a fixed contact point for BAGP members. Elsa Taylor was appointed to this role from October 1st 2014. Her email address is: bagp.org@gmail.com. Elsa will deal with all general enquiries, and specific queries related to BAGP courses, meetings and payment of membership fees. Applications for membership should still, however, be made to the Hon Secretary of the BAGP, Dr Asma Faruqi (Asma.Faruqi@bartshealth.nhs.uk). Membership application forms are available on the BAGP website. Please encourage colleagues and trainees to join the BAGP. It is important that we continue to expand our membership so that we can achieve the educational and training goals that the BAGP espouses, to improve standards in gynaecological pathology in the UK.

New Subcommittees

In order for the BAGP to take a lead in training in gynaecological pathology, a subcommittee for training in gynaecological pathology has been formed. The members of this subcommittee are Drs Dina, Faruqi and Ganesan. The members will meet during the course of the next 6 months to elect a chair and discuss a web-based teaching programme in gynaecological pathology for histopathology trainees and scientists.

The BAGP would like to provide support for members who are applying for higher awards and have established a CEA subcommittee to consider members' applications. The subcommittee will be chaired by Dr Raji Ganesan, and will include 3 BAGP members, 3 members of BAGP Council, a lay member, and include a mix of award holders and non-award holders. The committee will agree a standard operating procedure in compliance with ACCEA requirements, and will receive, review and rank all applications for higher awards and submit citations for those whose applications are supported. Non-award holders are still needed and I would be grateful for some volunteers.

Formal links with other professional organisations

The BAGP has now established formal representation on the main NCRI Clinical Studies Group (CSG) and the NCRI subgroups, in order to keep abreast of clinical trials that are in development, and organise central review of histological material when required. Prof Iain McNeish is currently Chair of the main NCRI CSG, and will be invited to attend the BAGP meeting in June 2014. I represent the BAGP on the main NCRI CSG, and BAGP representation on the NCRI subgroups is as follows: The BAGP has also established formal agreement for the President and Hon Secretary of the BAGP to represent the BAGP on BGCS Council.

BAGP Constitution

The revised constitution was circulated to the membership for comment in July 2014. There has been very little feedback to date. Please would members submit any feedback to me (lynn.hirschowitz@gmail.com) before the June 2015 Annual BAGP meeting so that the revised Constitution can be ratified formally by the membership at the AGM?

Publication of new guidelines and documents

A revised uterine sarcoma dataset has been published by the RCPath and a Tissue Pathway in Gynaecological Pathology is currently on the RCPath website under consultation. Your participation in the consultation process would be most welcome. An international consultation has just closed on a new ICCR Cancer Dataset for carcinomas of the ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal site. In addition to including the current FIGO staging system and WHO classification of these tumours, the dataset will cover issues such as primary site assignment and chemotherapy response scoring, both of which will be presented in greater detail at the forthcoming BAGP annual meeting in June 2015.

Gynaecological pathology meetings

Following the success of the 2014 BAGP annual meeting, Council has decided to extend the 2015 meeting to include a half day slide seminar. It would be most helpful to have feedback to inform future decisions about the changed format of BAGP annual meetings. As you will see from the Meeting's Secretary report below, the BAGP will be running 2 further educational courses in 2015. Courses in gynaecological pathology will also be held at the Birmingham Cytology Training School in 2015, and of course, USCAP and the ECP include gynaecological pathology sessions.

Challenges

The main challenge that the BAGP is facing is the development and upgrading of its website. The aim is to produce a user-friendly website that meets the specific educational and professional needs of its membership. Web design companies are currently being approached and the BAGP webmaster, Dr Rahul Fulmali, and the BAGP Administrator will take lead roles in progressing the website development process. Hopefully we will have good news to report on this front in 2015!

Finally I must reiterate that your involvement in the BAGP is important; please let me have comments about the any of the matters that I have raised or anything else that you consider to be important for the BAGP, and do consider becoming a member of CEA subcommittee if you can. My good wishes to all BAGP members for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Dr Lynn Hirschowitz, Birmingham

BAGP Meeting Secretary's Report

2014 has been an excellent year with regard to BAGP meetings and educational events. In March 2014 we held a one-day course on a practical approach to cervical pathology at the Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London, which included formal lectures and practical microscopy sessions. The speakers on the course were national experts and specialists in the field of gynaecological pathology.



In June 2014 we had our annual meeting at the Institute of Child Health in London. All contributors were nationally and internationally renowned speakers. This year we were honoured to have FIGO as a guest organisation, represented by Professor Jaime Prat. The meeting included lectures, cases presentations and updates on different topics in gynaecological pathology, including updates on the 2013 FIGO staging system and the 2014 WHO classification of gynaecological tumours.

The participating delegates for both the cervical pathology course and annual meeting were from different parts of the United Kingdom and Europe. Both meetings received positive feedback.

With the conclusion of meeting activities for 2014 and with 2015 only a few days away I am pleased to announce that the BAGP Annual meeting for 2015 will be held at The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 12-13 June 2015. This will be a very special one and a half day meeting with lectures and case presentations on the first day, and 4 slide seminars on the morning of the second day.

Building on the success of this year's meeting, on 13th March 2015, we will run a BAGP course on cervical pathology at the Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London. In the second half of 2015 we will be running a course on endometrial pathology.

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

Dr Mona El-Bahrawy, London

Treasurer's Report



This is my first full year in post as BAGP Treasurer and it's a great privilege to have been elected to this position. I am thoroughly enjoying the role and the variety of responsibilities it brings. I attend two council meetings per year for which I prepare a financial report on income and expenditure. I liaise with other BAGP officers in relation to the income and expenditure for courses and meetings, decide whether costings for these are within budget and if not, where savings can be made.

The BAGP finances are healthy and membership is consistently growing which is really encouraging. Our most recent financial summary is as follows:

Current account 1	£32,589.87 (as of 30 05 2014)
Current account 2 (non-active)	£5,019.26 (as of 31 10 2013)
Reserve account	£38,639.46 (as of 21 05 2014)
Total Assets	£76,248.59 (as of 30 05 2014)

We have for the first time employed a chartered accountant to audit our finances and I am pleased to say the books are in tip-top order. Due to the increased cost of the venue hire for the forthcoming 2-day annual meeting in London, we have increased the registration fees for this meeting. We will be offering early bird discount and trainee discounts as in previous years.

After some discussion at the November 2014 Council meeting, Council agreed to reduce trainee membership fees to £10, in line with trainee membership fees of other professional organisations in the UK. The proposed membership fee increase from £30.00 to £40.00 per year has been deferred and will only take effect from 1st April 2016 when reconciliation of the numbers of paying BAGP members and the official membership roll is finalised, and the process of setting up electronic banking for the organisation is completed. This will be the first increase to the membership fee that the BAGP has made since the organisation was first established. This year, for the first time, Council appointed a BAGP administrator to provide support for Office Bearers and Council activities. Over the last few years Office Bearers have seen a steady increase in administrative duties and on that basis Council has decided to employ an administrator. Elsa Taylor has been successfully appointed into this position.

Dr Gerry Van Schalkwyk, Derby



Report of RCPath Subspecialty Advisor in Gynaecological Pathology

British Association of Gynaecological Pathologists (BAGP)

The 11th annual BAGP meeting was held in London in June 2014. This was a joint meeting with FIGO and the meeting was well attended. The membership of the BAGP continues to grow. There is an ongoing programme of BAGP sponsored study days for trainee and consultant pathologists; these are very popular and always oversubscribed. Membership of the BAGP is open to any pathologist with an interest in gynaecological pathology in the UK; several overseas members have also joined. The increasing membership of BAGP and the continuing successful meetings reflects the increasing subspecialisation in gynaecological pathology taking place in the UK. Lynn Hirschowitz is currently in her second year as President of BAGP.

National Gynaecological Pathology EQA Scheme

Raji Ganesan has taken over from Laurence Brown as organiser of the Gynae EQA scheme. This scheme continues to run successfully. There are now 354 registered participants, up from 325 a year ago.

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.

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR)

The ICCR was established in 2011 as a quadripartite alliance between the Colleges of American, Australian and UK Pathologists, and the Canadian Association of Pathologists in association with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. The group agreed to collaborate in the development of standardised cancer reporting protocols and to produce 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. A paper detailing the entire process of development of the endometrial cancer dataset was published in International Journal of Gynecological Pathology (2013;32;45-65).

A similar process has just concluded for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal carcinoma. This was again coordinated by Glenn McCluggage and Lynn Hirschowitz. The dataset has been produced and international open consultation has just closed. Following this, the final dataset will be published on the ICCR website

and a paper regarding the dataset development will be submitted for publication in a major peer-reviewed journal. The ICCR now includes the European Society of Pathology as a foundation member.

New FIGO Staging System for Ovarian, Fallopian Tube and Primary Peritoneal Carcinomas

An updated FIGO staging system for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal carcinomas was published in 2013. This has amalgamated the staging of these 3 tumour types into one. Integration of the new system into gynaecological oncology multidisciplinary team meetings and pathology reporting in the UK seems to have gone smoothly thanks to coordination by BAGP and other interested parties.

Revised WHO Classification of Tumours of the Female Genital Tract

The new WHO Classification and blue book was published early in 2014.

College Documents

A revised version of the Endometrial Carcinoma dataset was submitted and is now published on the RCPath website. The uterine sarcoma dataset has also been revised and is now published on the RCPath website. The vulval dataset is currently being updated. Since a new FIGO staging system for ovarian carcinoma and a new WHO Classification have been published, the ovarian cancer dataset will also need to be updated. This will be done once the ICCR ovarian cancer dataset is formally published. The tissue pathway for gynaecological pathology has also been revised and is currently under consultation.

IBMS Specimen Dissection

A group has been set up under Dr 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).

Professor Glenn McCluggage

November 2014



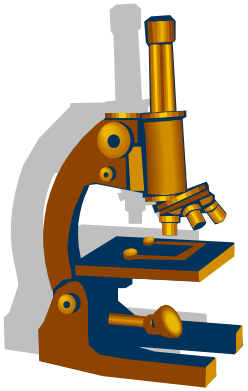
National Gynaecological Pathology EQA Report

It is the end of my first year as the National Gynaecological EQA Organiser. During this year, we have updated the Standard Operating procedure . We now have a new Deputy Organiser post. The first Deputy Organiser of the National Gynaecological EQA is Dr Jason Wong. We have instituted an active educational component for the autumn review meeting. The first educational meeting was held in November 2014 and the meeting had a record number of attendees. From 2015, the EQA will have electronic result entry with the correct diagnosis chosen from a drop-down list of diagnoses. Scanned slides will be available at the same time although there is no intent to imminently stop usage of glass slides.

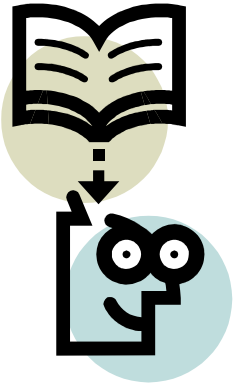
The National Gynaecological EQA is growing in membership and the steering committee will e considering inclusion of non UK members.

Dr Raji Ganesan

Birmingham



BAGP and BAGP supported educational meetings for 2015



In London

BAGP Annual Meeting—June 2015

Cervical Pathology Study Day - March 2015

Uterine Pathology Study Day—September 2015

For details contact : bagp.org@gmail.com

In Birmingham

Gynaecological Sarcomas Study Day—April 2015

Ovarian Pathology Study Day—September 2015

For details contact: Amanda.lugg @bwnft.nhs.uk

WEBMASTER'S REPORT





Dr Rahul Fulmali is the incoming Webmaster and I am working with him and the President to have a new website.

The present website is still functional and hosts various documents in relation to past and forthcoming BAGP meetings.

Dr Raji Ganesan, Birmingham

FROM A NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER



I was elected to the Council of the British Association of Gynaecological Pathologists in 2013 and feel honoured to be part of such a dynamic, dedicated and professional team.

I would encourage all colleagues with an interest in gynaecological pathology to join the BAGP so as to be kept informed of the many new developments in this rapidly evolving field and to access the growing collection of educational cases on the BAGP website. An exciting programme of meetings and workshops is planned for 2015 – be the first to know about them!

Dr Alexander Polson

London