THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

BAGP NEWSLETTER 2016

President's Report



This has been an exciting and productive year for the BAGP. For me personally, the dizzy exhilaration of being nominated for President by two past Presidents, Glenn McCluggage and Lynn Hirschowitz, was followed by the humbling reality of taking up this position knowing I would be following in the footsteps of these and others. Together with existing councillors Asma, Gerry and Raji, I was happy to welcome Ye Lin Hock, Saimah Arif, John Smith and Bruce Tanchel into the new council, making up a team with a range of experience and backgrounds which even in a few short months has shown itself to be enthusiastic, committed, clear-thinking, and in all respects a pleasure to work with.

The calendar year commenced with a survey on primary site assignment in tubo-ovarian high-grade serous carcinoma run jointly between the BAGP and the International Society of Gynecological Pathology (ISGyP). Aside from the specifics of this survey, this demonstrates the strengths of the BAGP as a forum to promote evidence-based practice where evidence exists, and where it does not, to gather opinions from the membership to develop best practice based on our collective experience and judgement.

Our annual meeting remains the only event of its kind held regularly and consistently attracting delegates from overseas, and our educational courses have run regularly as in past years, this year focusing on endometrial and cervical pathology. New on the agenda and additional to existing events is a week-long residential course planned to commence in Spring 2018 covering all aspects of gynaecological pathology for consultants seeking an update in preparation for specialisation.

A project on variation in technical protocols and interpretation of p53 immunohistochemistry was launched in the autumn in collaboration with UKNEQAS. This is intended to be the first of several similar projects looking towards establishing accuracy in the reporting of actionable biomarkers. Over 40 laboratories and about 75 pathologists expressed interest in participating and results will be published on the BAGP website over coming months. This project also gave us the opportunity to produce a reporting guide for p53 immunohistochemistry.

Next in line is a survey on the reporting of mismatch repair gene protein immunohistochemistry and other aspects of Lynch Syndrome in gynaecological cancer, to establish variation in practice that in turn will serve as a background to develop guidance for uniform practice nationwide.

The BAGP also aims to support national research projects and clinical trials by hosting pathology protocols on its website, and through other means. The 2017 annual meeting will feature posters from trainees, offering a platform for where they can receive constructive criticism from experts prior to presentation at larger events and/or publication of their research. Depending on the response, a small annual research bursary is planned, to enable trainees to carry out and present a project at a suitable meeting.

Our aim to promote excellence in gynaecological pathology reporting is not confined to within our borders. Continuing from previous years, it is our intention to develop educational

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programmes overseas, alone or in collaboration. The BAGP has undertaken or supported courses in Eastern Europe and Nepal in previous years. In 2017 we are jointly hosting an educational meeting in India, in collaboration with ISGyP and the Association of Indian Pathologists of North America, with similar events in the pipeline in Europe and farther afield. Apart from their educational value, these provide exciting opportunities for travel, collaboration and boosting membership.

Overall each year has seen the BAGP move from strength to strength. We continue to look to our most valuable asset, our membership, to provide guidance on ways to develop and enable ourselves to become a useful society, responsive to the needs of its members and of our patients.

With all good wishes for 2017,

Naveena Singh

Honorary Secretary's Report

It was another busy year for the BAGP with a great annual meeting, short courses and a new, rather more slick website. There is continued interest in the BAGP amongst UK and European Pathologists and several new members have joined. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue as we welcome members from all over the world.

The amended Constitution was ratified at the AGM in May.

Those of you attended the Annual meeting will know that it was opened by the outgoing President Lynn Hirschowitz and closed by the incoming President Naveena Singh. Naveena has picked up the reins with customary enthusiasm and energy and continues to work towards keeping the BAGP involved in important projects. I can attest to her passion for Gynaecological pathology as she lives down the corridor from me at the Royal London (surrounded by piles of slides and random students and researchers). The incoming Councillors, John Smith, Saimah Arif, Bruce Tanchel and Hock Ye Lin, all bring their particular brand of expertise and experience to the Council.

My term as Honorary Secretary will come to an end in



June 2017. It has been a privilege and a wonderful, rewarding experience that gave me an opportunity to contribute in a small way towards promoting Gynaecological pathology in the UK and also gave me the chance to meet and talk with so many of you and to hear your views and comments.

Best wishes for a prosperous and fruitful year.

Asma Zaman Faruqi

Message from the Treasurer



I am now in my third year as being the Treasurer for the BAGP. I attend up to four council meetings per year in which I prepare a financial report on income and expenditure. I liaise with other BAGP officers in relation to receiving monies owed from courses/ meetings etc. I make the decision on whether costings/estimates are within budget for courses and meetings.

The BAGP finances are satisfactory and we are consistently growing in members each year which is really encouraging.

Over the next few weeks we shall be upgrading our bank account so we are able to provide external electronic payments. We currently receive incoming electronic payments.

We have had a significant spend in the last year for the new website including annual costs and deposit for the BAGP 2017 Annual Conference. The short courses have made a modest profit over the last 3 years.

As of 1st April 2016 there was also a small increase in your membership fee from £30.00 per year to £40.00 per year in line with increases in costs. This was the first increase the BAGP has made since the group was formed. Thank you to those members who have updated their payments however there is a significant amount of members who have not updated, it would be really helpful if you could amend your standing orders/electronic bank requests.

The satisfactory financial situation of the BAGP is due to the continued support of all council and BAGP members who show enthusiasm and commitment each year.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year,

Gerry van Schalkwyk

Education Subcommittee of The BAGP

This is a newly formed committee and consists of 3 Council members with a three-year term of office with the option of co-opting up to 2 members. The broad objective is to raise standards of gynaecological pathology amongst junior pathologists, advanced practitioners (AP s) and AP trainees by running courses mapped to curriculum and providing online resources including webinar type teaching. This committee will also help to resource short attachments if needed.

Trainees will be encouraged to submit abstracts for posters for the annual meeting with prizes for the best posters.

NATIONAL GYNAECOLOGICAL EQA ORGANISER REPORT

The National Gynaecological EQA had two circulations in 2016. The June 2016 review meeting was held in Manchester. This was with a view to improving attendance at the review meetings by moving the location of the meetings. At this meeting, remote attendance and voting were used. The November 2016 review meeting was held in Birmingham. The theme for the educational cases was vulvar inflammatory disease and the cases were provided by Professor Angelica Selim, Duke University, USA. She lectured on vulvar pathology in various age groups and provided an approach to vulvar inflammatory diseases through a slide seminar. Professor Glenn McCluggage provided an update on vulvar mesenchymal disease and Dr Shireen Velangi provided a clinician's perspective. The electronic result entry is working well. Participants can secure their certificates and download presentations via the website.

Circulation T will start on 13th February 2017 and the review meeting will be held on 12th June 2017 in Birmingham. Remote voting via PowerVote will be used. Participants will need to logon to see the presentation and vote via their website, and will be able to hear the speaker/s via telephone. Remote attendance will be awarded 1 CPD point and attendance in person will secure 2 CPD points. In circulation T the educational cases will be provided by steering committee members. The educational theme for the November 2017 meeting will be molecular pathology and the review meeting will be held in Birmingham.

BAGP MEETINGS SECRETARY REPORT

The first meeting I organised in this role was in September 2016 on the Pathology of Cervical Carcinomas. We ran a meeting for consultants on Friday 16th September and one for trainees on the following day. Both meetings were well attended and received good feedback. Our guest lecturer was Dr Kay Park from Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Centre, New York. Professor Glenn McCluggage, Dr Paul Cross and Dr Michael Coutts delivered lectures and conducted slide seminars and were joined by Drs Linmarie Ludeman and Jo Vella with case presentations.



We have a number of courses lined up for 2017. On 31st March 2017, we will be running a course on the Pathology of Ovarian Neoplasia. We will run courses for consultants and trainees simultaneously at the same venue in Birmingham. Full course details will be available on the website from 10th January 2017. Please set the date aside!!

Our 14th annual Meeting will be held in London at 1 Euston Square on 19th and 20th May 2017. On Friday we will have a galaxy of speakers including Professors McCluggage, Gilks and Oliva lecturing on various aspects of uterine pathology. There

will be short talks – 'sound bites' – on practical aspects such as workload issues and p53 interpretation. The meeting will continue until lunchtime on Saturday with a series of slide seminars featuring pre-circulated scanned slides. We will have poster submissions by trainees. Our meeting dinner is always a great opportunity to enjoy great food and meet new friends.

The British Division of the International Association of Gynaecological Pathologists (BDIAP) is holding its annual meeting at Belfast and on 20th June there is a whole day devoted to gynaecological pathology, organized in collaboration with the BAGP. Full course details will be available on BDIAP and BAGP websites.

In the autumn of 2017, a joint meeting is planned with UKNEQAS. The meeting will focus on the practical aspects of use of ancillary techniques in diagnostic gynaecological pathology. Further details will follow in due course.

In addition to UK events, the BAGP are also co-organising an update in gynaecological pathology together with the International Society of Gynecological Pathology (ISGyP) and the Association of Indian Pathologists of North America (AIPNA) to be held in India in November 2017.

A Trainee's Perspective



The *Pathology of Cervical Carcinomas for Trainees* meeting run by the BAGP in September ambitiously set out to provide a practical précis of the pathology of cervical carcinoma, from the very basics through to the latest research. It comfortably achieved this aim, being useful to the whole audience, which ranged from first year trainees in their second month of pathology training, all the way to those preparing to take up consultant posts. It was a rare, valuable and inexpensive opportunity to hear from and to ask questions of national and international experts in the field. From a trainee's perspective, this expansive range of coverage in a single day – from the very basics to the complexities and rarities – is invaluable in consolidating learning, and would be very much welcomed in future meetings. For me, a trainee at the mid-point of the training programme, particularly valuable future topics would include vulval lesions (with a particular focus on mesenchymal lesions), an approach to endometrial biopsy assessment, and the more unusual sex cord stromal and germ cell tumours of the ovary.

Dr Matthew Evans
Academic Clinical Fellow
West Midlands Deanery

Report on the BAGP Council



As a mere DGH general histopathologist with a special interest in gynaecological pathology, it was a daunting prospect for me to join the existing councillors of BAGP, who are well-known and well-respected specialists in the gynaecological pathology circle. However, my unfounded apprehension soon dissipated following the welcome e-mails. I quickly realized the genuine democratic process of the council when we tried to arrange what for me would be the first council meeting. This telephone conference was arranged very efficiently and democratically by the association's administrator Elsa. This occurred on 23 September 2016, and all councillors except one managed to dial in. Even though I have an inherent bias against remote conferences, I have to admit this particular one was a success, and our president Naveena chaired this telephone conference brilliantly making sure all had their says. The second council meeting was a face to face one, and we met in Birmingham Women's Hospital on 25 November 2016. That meeting took much longer than expected as we had to deal with a few issues requiring much debate and discussion. At both meetings, we discussed the 'BAGP-NEQAS p53 project', in which many of you have participated. It was heartening to know that 44 labs had signed up for the 'p53 pilot project'. We will soon find out how consistently (or inconsistently) we, both the labs and the gynaecological pathologists, manage to stain and report on p53! 'Survey on DNA mismatch repair gene protein expression in gynae tumour' project, which is a multi-disciplinary survey with a view to developing guidance on the best practice, was also discussed in both meetings.

Detailed discussion of the future annual conferences and other meetings took up a big chunk of time in both council meetings, as the council wants to ensure that these meetings meet the needs of both DGH pathologists and specialist gynaecological pathologists, as well as trainees. The council was unanimous that the venue should be a convenient one for most delegates, and Gerry, our treasurer had to keep reminding us not to break the bank in choosing the venue. Raji, our meetings secretary had already produced a good choice of venue options as well as topics and speakers, which made our discussion much smoother. The details about these meetings will soon be available on the website. I am sure all these meetings will be very successful and hence would encourage you all to book for these as soon as possible. Gerry also briefed us on the BAGP finances and it is reassuring to know that we have a healthy balance sheet. Elsa updated us on BAGP website and I hope you all find the website user friendly. Please do not hesitate to let the council know if you have any suggestion to further develop our website.

Additional to these formal council meetings, we also had regular e-mail correspondences and discussions on various topics requiring urgent attention.

I have been in the council for only a few months, but have found its work interesting, engaging and challenging. I would definitely encourage everybody to think about joining the council and to put your hat in the ring the next time a vacancy arises.

Ye Lin Hock

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

The Annual Meeting 2016!



Administrators Report



What a busy year in the office! In the first part of the year we launched the new BAGP website. A significant amount of behind the scenes work was taking place months before the launch date in early March. Lynn Hirschowitz (past President) and I spent some days in London being trained in web design and how to use the software. The go-live date went ahead on 2nd March 2016 with very few hitches. I am now responsible for posting content and updating the website.

In the summer this year we welcomed our new President Naveena Singh. I support Naveena with many important tasks, in particular our communication to members and councillors. Raji Ganesan is the newly appointed Meeting Secretary and is keeping me very busy with the administration of our courses and conferences throughout the year. I closely support Asma Faruqi with member enquiries, preparation for council meetings and minute taking, and lastly our Treasurer, Gerry van Schalkwyk receives my support in the upkeep of the BAGP financial books, payment reminders and financial administration.

The BAGP keeps growing each year, moving from strength to strength. This is really encouraging and my role is instrumental in providing a central point of communication to all its members and non-members.

Please feel free to email me at any time with website queries or for support at bagp.org@gmail.com.
Elsa Taylor, BAGP Administrator

Forthcoming Educational Meetings 2017

31 March 2017

LECTURE SERIES IN GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY
PATHOLOGY OF OVARIAN NEOPLASIA
QE PGC, BIRMINGHAM

19th – 20th May 2017

Annual Meeting
RCGP, London

September 2017

LECTURE SERIES IN GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY

IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY
WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY

JOINT COURSE WITH UK NEQAS

Venue: TBC

November 2017

EQA REVIEW

Venue: Birmingham

For further details please see our events calendar available at http://www.thebagp.org/meetings/events.html or contact Elsa Taylor, BAGP Administrator by email at bagp.org@gmail.com