THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

BAGP NEWSLETTER 2017

President's Report



The year 2017 has featured many things to look back upon with pride, expanding the spectrum of activities through which the BAGP contributes to patient care. The year began with the opportunity to analyse and compare the technical and interpretive performance of p53 immunohistochemistry of different laboratories and individuals, a unique project carried out by the Association in collaboration with UKNEQAS. This showed very good interpretive performance, testimony to the high level of engagement with educational updates by members of the BAGP. There is room for improvement in technical performance to be addressed by feedback to individual laboratories, and monitored with a similar follow-up project in due course. It was with the greatest pride that I presented these results as a platform presentation under the BAGP banner at the European Congress of Pathology in Amsterdam in September 2017. Following on from this are upcoming projects of a similar nature covering the performance of additional key biomarkers in gynaecological pathology: p16 and mismatch repair protein immunohistochemistry. As for p53, both of these will be accompanied by development of BAGP guidance in reporting these biomarkers, including recommended terminology. We look forward to the participation of as many members as possible in these projects.

As in previous years our Annual Meeting and separate courses have all attracted high numbers of delegates and received excellent feedback. The two major new events in 2017 were our first international event, and our first meeting solely devoted to molecular advances. Two meetings were held in India, jointly organised

between the BAGP, the International Society of Gynecological Pathologists (ISGyP) and the Association of Indian Pathologists of North America, together with local hosts. The events were held on 28-29 October at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, and 4-5 November at the Basavatarakan Indo-American Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad, encouraging the widest possible participation. The speakers on behalf of ISGyP were Professor C Blake Gilks, ISGyP President, and Dr Oluwole Fadare, with Dr Joseph Rabban participating through Skype/video, while AIPNA was represented by Dr Srini Mandavilli. Dr Naveena Singh and Dr Raji Ganesan were the BAGP speakers. Overall more than 600 delegates participated in the two events, both receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback. Many delegates expressed an interest in joining the BAGP and participating in collaborative research projects. The molecular pathology meeting is likely to become a regular update in the BAGP calendar, to keep our members up-to-date with this rapidly-changing field. We also contributed a half-day symposium to the joint BDIAP-Path Soc meeting in Belfast, another likely recurrent contribution. New in the 2018 calendar is our third joint BAGP-ISGyP meeting to be held in London in June, and a week-long course in gynaecological pathology in September aimed at consultants seeking an update or needing to sub-specialise in this area.

We have also taken steps to encourage research in gynaecological pathology. Starting in 2018 we are introducing a modest annual research bursary and will invite members to apply. We have also agreed to part-fund and host a joint Tissue Bank for storage of tissue blocks to support a study seeking to register patients with rare gynaecological tumours, with a view to promote collaborative translational research directed to improve outcomes in these patients.

We carried out a survey on attitudes and practices in Lynch Syndrome testing, which was then repeated within ISGyP. This added impetus for producing universal guidance for Lynch Syndrome testing and standardised terminology for mismatch repair protein immunohistochemistry reporting which will soon be forthcoming. This project paved the way for exploring areas in pathology reporting that are in need of clarification/standardisation. A brief survey will be sent to members of the BAGP to seek opinions on the extent to which the BAGP should engage in such initiatives.

Our aim through these activities is to raise the profile of the BAGP in the International arena and continue to improve not only what we provide to our members but also to patient care. Our forthcoming goal is to upgrade our website and make this more useful to members by providing a range of online educational facilities. To support these plans we put forward a proposal to increase our annual subscription to £80 that received majority approval by at the last annual general meeting; this increase will apply to the next subscription that members pay on or after April 1, 2018.

With this I look forward to another exciting year and wish all members a healthy, happy and successful 2018!

Naveena Singh

President, BAGP

Honorary Secretary's Report

This last year has seen some changes within the BAGP council. Dr Asma Faruqi has completed her term as Honorary Secretary and I have taken up the role. I thank Asma for the enthusiasm and vigour which she brought to the role and infused into the council. She did a superb job. We have also recently welcomed Dr Pinias Mukonoweshuro to the council filling the vacancy left by Asma. Welcome on board Pinias.



Membership applications continue to trickle in with a slow but steady stream of applications followed by a healthy dose of applications around the Annual Meeting. The application pathway has been streamlined resulting in faster processing of applications.

The BAGP has once again continued to drive forward education for Gynecological pathologists by hosting various meetings and an Annual conference. This will be enhanced by a long course in 2018 and a redesign of the website. If there are features you would like to see in the website please contact Elsa or myself and let us know.

Season's greetings and all the best for 2018.

Bruce Tanchel

Honorary Secretary, BAGP

Message from the BAGP Treasurer

I am now in my fourth year as Treasurer for the BAGP. I have attended all council meetings this year (x4) in which I prepare a financial report on income and expenditure. We have recently opened a PayPal account and are using this account as an option for delegates to pay for courses. We have had a significant spend in the last year which includes the running of the website, increase in administrator wages, trialling an App for conferences and on-line registration system. The annual conference and the short courses have made a modest profit this year.

As of 1st April 2018 there will be an increase in your membership fee from £40.00 per year to £80.00 per year in line with increases in costs. The membership took a vote at the annual conference in May 2017 and the majority agreed the uplift. The association will continue to keep the conference delegate fees as low as possible.

Thank you to those members who have updated their payments however there is a significant number of

members who have not updated, it would be 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.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Gerry van Schalkwyk

Treasurer, BAGP



National Gynaecological EQA Organiser Report

The National Gynaecological EQA, in 2017, had two circulations. Both review meetings were held in Birmingham. The theme for the educational cases for the autumn round of EQA was based on cases that needed molecular pathology tests to arrive at a diagnosis. Cases were provided by Professor Glenn McCluggage, Belfast and Dr Lien Hoang, Vancouver. The study day on update in immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology was jointly held with the BAGP at the Great Hall, University of Birmingham. The review meeting followed the study day. There was a scheme update presented by Drs Ganesan and Lonsdale. This included a recap of the processes in handover of slides between departments, inability to accept late submissions, update of the SOP in line with RCPath document on guidance for interpretative external quality assurance schemes, update on cases from circulation T and an audit of scoring cases. The audit concluded that a large part of routine practice is underrepresented in the EQA as a consequence of lack of small biopsies. From Circulation W, 2 of 10 scoring cases will be available as digital slides online and glass slides will not be available for these cases.

Circulation V will start on 5th February 2018, close on 1st June 2018 and the review meeting will be held on 15th June 2018 in Birmingham. In circulation V, EQA members will provide the educational cases. The educational theme for circulation W and November 2018 review meeting will be material that is underrepresented in the EQA and diagnoses on which it has been difficult to obtain consensus. The review meeting will be held in Birmingham on 16th November 2018.

BAGP Meetings Secretary's Report

2017 has been an eventful year! The first meeting of the year was in March on the pathology of ovarian neoplasia. Two courses – one for trainees and the other for consultants – were held simultaneously. Both received good reviews. An app was used for this meeting and was received well by some of the attendees.

The 14th Annual Meeting was held in London at 1 Euston Square on 19th and 20th May 2017. This was a one and half day course with the slide seminars held on the Saturday. A galaxy of speakers including Professors McCluggage, Gilks and Oliva and Dr Bosse provided excellent talks. Dr. Gareth Rowlands' talk on workload recommendations was well received. The attendance exceeded 200 for the first time – a testament to the speakers' knowledge and skills. The sound bite presentations were appreciated and this format will be maintained for future annual meetings. For the first time, the BAGP Annual Meeting had a poster presentation session for trainees.

The autumn 2017 meeting was held jointly with the EQA at the grand Great Hall in the University of Birmingham. The BAGP jointly supported, along with International Society of Gynecological Pathologists and Association of Indian Pathologists of North America, two meetings in India in October – November 2017.

The course calendar for 2018 is detailed on the BAGP website. On 20th April 2018, the BAGP will host a course titled Diagnostic challenges in gynaecological pathology. The 15th Annual meeting is a two full day event and held jointly with International Society of Gynecological Pathologists. Full details will be available soon on BAGP and RCPath websites. On 17th September 2018, the BAGP will be running the first ever week-long course in gynaecological pathology in the United Kingdom. This course will be limited to 24 participants, and aims to be a mid-career refresher or starter course for those taking on a subspecialty responsibility in Gynaecological Pathology, suitable for senior trainees, new consultants as well as experienced consultants.



We look forward to your participation at the meetings in 2018!!

Raji Ganesan

National Gynaecological EQA Organiser

Meetings Secretary, BAGP

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

View From a New Council Member

I am a few months old as a BAGP council member. The BAGP council consists of a mixed group of Pathologists with a shared passion for improving and updating the practice of gynaecological pathology in the UK. As a Pathologist with a special interest in Gynaecological pathology, I have always marvelled and enjoyed BAGP organized courses and conferences and regard the annual BAGP meeting as a yearly pilgrimage to brush shoulders with the good and great in gynaecological pathology and gain essential CPD to keep my skills up to date. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to the work of the BAGP as a council member. The council meets 4 times a year and these meetings cover an interesting and diverse agenda including educational activities, surveys, future meetings, educational courses, finances of the organization, EQA, international meetings and collaborations with other organizations nationally and internationally. Issues of interest on the horizon in 2018 include a p16 project, results of a survey on chronic endometritis, educational courses and the annual BAGP meeting in 2018.



I look forward to my tenure as a BAGP council member and would like to encourage all Pathologists with an interest in gynaecological pathology to consider joining the BAGP.

Pinias Mukonoweshuro

Council Member, BAGP

View From a Trainee

Lecture series in gynaecological pathology: Pathology of ovarian neoplasia for trainees

31 March 2017

QE post graduate centre, Birmingham:

A one day programme covering five ovarian tumour topics, frozen sections and macroscopic assessment, delivered by eminent pathologists was too good to miss. An extra incentive, if one was needed, was that there was no conference fee for trainees. Our department generously permitted half of the trainees to attend.

The venue at the QE hospital was adequate in terms of room size and AV facilities. When we arrived I discovered that there was a parallel programme for consultants in another room. It was not clear as to the purpose of separating the sessions as I did not see the consultant programme. The speakers were presenting to both groups which probably made the logistics of the day complicated for them and the organisers. One downside to this separation was the loss of networking opportunities during the breaks. The catering was very good, although due to staggered breaks tea and coffee were not always available.

There were five slide seminars uploaded in advance of the meeting for us to review. The quality of the scanned slides was good, although some people had had technical difficulties in accessing them, and the lead in time prior to the meeting was too short to have made the best use of the material (released on the 29th March). Most of the speakers covered the uploaded cases in their presentations, but there was not time to discuss them all.

A first for me at a pathological conference was an interactive app, launched before the event; it contained the programme, list of speakers, attendee list, venue map and functionality to message other delegates or give feedback on the sessions. I logged in several times, but no one was using it. This doesn't surprise me, having attended large clinical conferences and finding twitter ablaze with comment and discussion only to find at pathology events it is often just a handful of people. I thought this was a great idea and I am sure that as a 'tribe' we will eventually adopt these new technologies.



The programme was comprehensive and informative. I am lucky to have trained with several of the speakers and am somewhat biased. Sessions included serous epithelial tumours, ovarian tumours associated with endometriosis, common germ cell tumours, sex cord stromal tumours and ovarian mucinous tumours. Short sessions on frozen section diagnosis and macroscopic/ trimming of specimens were possibly the only 'trainee' type sessions. The speakers clarified the diagnostic criteria of the entities and offered up to date information on immunohistochemical strategies and molecular discoveries.

This was a very useful education meeting and a good use of study leave.

Dr Kirsty Lloyd
SpR Histopathology
Royal London Hospital

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Administrators Report

Towards the end of last year and early this year was a busy time administering the Ovarian Neoplasia conference in Birmingham. We used an on-line software events company as a trial. This system allowed delegates sign up for the course, pay for fees electronically and a conference App was created.

The Annual Conference was held in May 2017 at the Royal College of General Practitioners. The BAGP used an external events team for some preparations and I prepared sponsorship packs and uploads to the BAGP website.

In June this year Gerry and I scoped new website companies. The BAGP council agreed to go with the Net Effect website company on the recommendation of the North East Pennine Cytology Training Centre . I spent the afternoon in Sheffield with Wendy and Dan and together drafted a proposal for council to review. The proposal was accepted at the council meeting and construction of the new website will take place in the coming weeks with formal launch scheduled for late February/early March.

Over the last few months I have been busy preparing the administration for the BAGP/EQA November course. 126 delegates booked on this course and I secured three sponsors. I assisted Gerry in setting up the PayPal link as an option for delegates to use along with electronic and cheque payments. All these options have worked well. The administering of this course was very smooth, majority of the payments were received by electronic banking payment method and a proportion of delegates used the PayPal and cheque option.

Moving into the new year I shall be administering our April conference in Birmingham and week-long course in September. We shall continue to use the same method of booking onto the course as we did in November 2017. Registration and booking information will be available on our website.

Towards the end of January Naveena, Bruce and I will be heading to Sheffield for some training on the new website ready for our launch date February/March 2018.

Late February early March Gerry and I will be working through the BAGP files and accounts preparing our books for submission to the accountant.

I wish all our members a very Happy New Year.



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

Elsa Taylor

Administrator, BAGP

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Glimpses of 2017
















ONAL CME ON GYNECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY RECENT ADVANCES
THEME: Game Changers in Diagnosis and How to Spot them
October 28th-29th, 2017
Organized by:




30 Euston Square






30 Euston Square









Forthcoming Educational Meetings 2018

20th April 2018

Diagnostic Challenges in Gynaecological Pathology

Women's Hospital, Birmingham

7th—8th June 2018

Annual Meeting

Joint BAGP-ISGyP Meeting on Lower Genital Tract Pathology

RCGP, London

17th—21st September 2018

Week Long Course

Birmingham Cytology Training Centre

16th November 2018

EQA REVIEW

Venue: Birmingham