

**Notes of the 10th Annual General Meeting of the BAC held on 15th October 2021 at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Nottingham**

There were 82 participants at the AGM

40 Virtual and 42 in-person

Chaired by Mrs Alison Cropper, BAC President

1. **Apologies and welcome**

Mrs Cropper welcomed all to the AGM, with no apologies to be noted.

1. **Adoption of the minutes of the AGM 2020 held on 2nd October 2020.**

The AGM notes from 2nd October 2021 were accepted as a correct record of proceedings by Professor Allan Wilson and seconded by Dr Kay Ellis.

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **BAC Ballot 2021**

Elected to the BAC Executive following the 2021 ballot:

Mrs Kirstie Rice

Dr Martina Munonyara

Dr Bijal Shah

The President welcomed the new Executive members and thanked Mrs Eva Halloran and Mr Hedley Glencross for their service to the BAC and the Executive.

My Voice was used to organise the ballot and from the Executive’s point of view worked well. The President asked those attending if they agreed and the overwhelming opinion was positive.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Dr Kay Ellis reported that the finalised financial report was delayed due to Covid-19 but will soon be available, and the accounts will be posted in the members section of the BAC website.

Due to the continued healthy financial situation of the BAC accounts the Treasurer proposed that membership structure and fees would stay the same (1st October to 30th September subscription year). Fee rates: Proposer Professor Allan Wilson and seconded by Dr Anthony Maddox. The Treasurer highlighted the availability of the BAC Bursary for education events.

1. **Membership Report**

Membership statistics

Dr Louise Smart updated as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Total** |
| Honorary | 10 |
| Trainee pathologist | 25 |
| Member (APBMS) | 29 |
| Member (BMS) | 173 |
| Member (Consultant) | 104 |
| Member (Screener) | 9 |
|  | **349** |

Not surprisingly, given retirements and the closure and consolidation of cervical cytology laboratories due to introduction of hr-HPV screening, BAC membership is down compared to last year and currently stands at 349 members.

A question was raised in relation to the introduction of a membership category for retired members.

It was agreed this would be discussed at the next Executive meeting

1. **Honorary Members**

The Executive had proposed one member for Honorary Membership. The Chair noted that Honorary Membership is “the highest honour the Association can confer and shall be restricted to those of eminence in the field of cytology or allied subjects”.

The proposal for Honorary Membership is Dr Paul Cross for his big contribution to BAC and cytopathology. The nomination was proposed by Dr Kay Ellis and seconded by Professor Allan Wilson.

1. **The Mina Desai Bursary**

Professor Wilson announced that due to the generosity of the Desai family to mark Prof Desai’s 70th birthday in 2020, two bursaries were now available:

* A bursary for the European conference up to £500 per year (targeted at early career participants)
* A bursary for the international meeting up to £1000 every three years (targeted at early career participants)

Full details and an application from would be posted on the BAC website in due course.

1. **Publications and Social Media Update**

A report about Cytopathology ans Scan had been presented earlier in the ASM.

Dr Ashish Chandra announced two more awards that have been made available due to the generosity of the Desai family.

*Mina Desai Award for Research Excellence*

The Cytopathology Editorial Board selects one article of particularly outstanding quality, which has been published in the journal during the preceding year. Selection criteria are based on scientific quality, advancement of the field, scholarly reception, and excellence in content, structure, and insights.

*Mina Desai Early Career Investigator Award*

The Early Career Investigator Award is given to an author who has contributed extensively to a paper but who is still in a training/early career position or has been in a senior position for less than 5 years. We ask that submitting authors indicate if a co-author is eligible for the award at submission. The awardee is selected by the Cytopathology Editorial Board based on papers published in the preceding year.

At the BAC AGM 2020 on 2nd October, it was reported the **@BritishCytology** Twitter account had 1452 followers. As of today, the account has 2018 followers. Mr Burt requested that BAC members follow the account, retweet, and tag the BAC into any important and topical tweets.

1. **Chair Report**

The Chair updated participants that a full Chair report had been enclosed with the membership renewals and the report was also available on the BAC website.

The Chair thanked key people and members for their adaptability during a year dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The BAC was pleased it had been able to run six webinars during the last year and were grateful to Alison Malkin and the diligence of the meetings sub-Committee.

Plans for a BAC Strategy were underway including themes such as future education and training & collaboration with other professional bodies at an International, European, and national level.

Any members who want to volunteer to be a member of the Executive were also encouraged to do so.

1. Any Other Business

Dr Desai asked if the BAC would consider a retired members forum which could work in the same way as that organised by the BMA. The President agreed to add to the net Executive meeting agenda.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

A date TBC in October 2022.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |