

**Notes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the BAC held on 15th November 2023 over Zoom**

There were 61 members in attendance at the AGM including the following in-person Executive at 12 Coldbath Square:

Dr Anthony Maddox (Chair)

Alison Cropper (President)

Sue Mehew (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Kay Ellis (Treasurer)

Helen Burrell

Alison Malkin

Dr Martina Munonyara

Leonie Wheeldon

Professor Allan Wilson

Dr Bijal Shah

Kirstie Rice

**Also in-person**

Antonia Tweed

Karina Evans

Chaired by Mrs Alison Cropper, BAC President

1. **Apologies and welcome**

Mrs Cropper welcomed all to the AGM, with apologies noted from Dr Ashish Chandra and Dr Paul Cross

1. **Adoption of the minutes of the AGM 2022 held on 16th September 2022**

The AGM notes from 16th September 2022 were accepted as a correct record of proceedings by Professor Allan Willson and seconded by Dr Louise Smart.

1. **BAC Executive Ballot 2023 results and election of new Chair, President, and Honorary Secretary**

Several Executive members due to stand down. The formal ballot had taken place over the Mi-Voice platform and the results were as follows:

*Re-elected for a three-year term of office*: Dr Ashish Chandra, Professor Allan Wilson, and Leonie Wheeldon.

*Newly elected for a three-year term of office*: Karina Evans, Donna Morrison, Susan Smith, Susan Guy, and Antonia Tweed.

Honorary officers were elected as follows:

Dr Anthony Maddox was elected as the new President.

Sue Mehew was elected as the new Chair.

Helen Burrell was elected as the new Honorary Secretary.

Dr Kay Ellis was co-opted as Treasurer for six months.

1. **Financial Report**

Key points reported:

Finances remain stable and meet the Charity Commission requirements for viability and the accounts had been submitted to the auditor (Ellis Atkins). The subscription fees will remain the same for the year starting 1st October 2024, although it was proposed to look at these over the next 12 months. The major area for investment had been the new BAC website.

Members were reminded of funding opportunities:

*Bursary scheme for continuing education*: funding is available to support registration fees and /or travel expenses for BAC members of over one year's standing with the association.

Mina Desai Bursaries - the BAC will award a bursary for a European conference, up to £500 per year and one for an international meeting up to £1000 every three years.

Successful applicants, as a condition of the funding, were required to submit a blog article for the BAC website.

1. **Membership Report**

Membership statistics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Total** |
| Honorary | 11 |
| Trainee pathologist | 32 |
| Member (APBMS) | 27 |
| Member (BMS) | 159 |
| Member (Consultant) | 91 |
| Member (Screener) | 9 |
|  | **329** |

Dr Louise Smart updated as follows.

It was pleasing to note that this was just 2 fewer than the previous year, and screener numbers were low due to significant changes in the workforce. 60 applications for membership had been made via the new online website form.

1. **Publications and Social Media Update**

At the BAC AGM 2022 it was reported the @BritishCytology X account had 2551 followers. As of today, the account has 2965 followers.

Members were encouraged to follow the account, retweet, and tag the BAC into any important and topical tweets.

Dr Anthony Maddox provided an update on the *Cytopathology* journal.

Move towards Open Access. Compared to subscription-based. Benefits include:

* 3.2x more downloads
* 1.5x more citations

Easier author submission process:

* “Free format”
* Enhanced referral to other journals in the event of rejection

Readership 2022, top 5 was noted as:

* USA 19%
* China 17%
* Japan 7%
* UK 6%
* India 6%

Author countries 2022, top 5 was noted as:

* India 36%
* USA 16%
* UK 9%
* Japan 8%
* Italy 6%

Mina Desai Award for Research Excellence winners:

Matthew Hanks, Stephen Ryder, and Abed Zaitoun, for their paper, *The role of cytology in the investigation and management of pancreatobiliary lesions with a transition towards a standardised reporting system: An institutional perspective*.

Mina Desai Early Career Investigator Award

Alexander Plonkowski, lead author of *Polarising rhomboid crystalline structures in drain fluid following endoluminal vacuum sponge therapy for post-surgical pelvic collection*.

Mrs Wheeldon provided an update on the new BAC website. There had been:

* 55 new and 5 retired membership registrations
* 3 successful bursary submissions
* 11 general queries
* 6 Ask the expert enquiries
* 8 blogs
* 10 case studies
* 6 quizzes
* 51 news items
* 6 events live on the new section – Purchase of tickets and CPD record of attendance
* Access to BAC webinars
* Links with training schools and courses provided summary
* Up to date relevant documentation / publications
* Launch of a social media policy

Planned next phase website developments included:

* New role for maintaining website content
* Membership payments and renewal
* Increase engagement from members / non members
* Development of the RCPath portal

The President expressed a massive thank-you to Mrs Wheeldon and Mr Burt for all their hard work with developing the website and encouraged members to use it.

1. **Chair Report**

The Chair updated members that a full Chair report was enclosed with the membership renewals and the detailed report was available on the BAC website.

The Chair gave huge thanks to the outgoing Executive members, Mrs Alison Cropper, Ms Alison Malkin, Dr Louise Smart, Dr Kay Ellis, and Mrs Kirstie Rice for their tireless dedication to the work of the BAC and the wider cytology workforce.

In the last twelve months several webinars and face-to-face meetings had taken place:

* Cervical cancer audit workshops
* Representation at international meetings
* Spring tutorial with whole slide (scanned) images

The Chair thanked Mrs Wheeldon and Mr Christian Burt for their work with Moresoda in launching the new BAC website. There were further functions to come, including the ability to pay subscriptions on-line.

1. **Any Other Business**

None received.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The AGM 2024 would be held in November 2024, and this would likely be in-person as part of the ASM 2024.