BAC Framework 2022

The aims and objectives of the Association as outlined in the Constitution are:

* To encourage the science and art of Cytopathology by encouraging higher standards in Cytopathology for the benefit of the public
* To encourage research in Cytopathology and related fields and the publication of useful results

In line with these aims, the BAC acknowledge the importance of training and education as helping develop the cytology workforce in delivering a high quality and clinically relevant cytology service. Any training and education must build on the core skills that cytologists, whatever their route into cytology, acquire in basic training and need to add to and develop throughout their professional lives.

The BAC can help with cytology training and education, at all levels, by offering access to relevant educational material. This can be via a mix of hands-on practical sessions, lectures, access to cytology material (glass and digitally based) and web-based resources. The format and mix can and will vary depending on the topic and resources. At a national level the BAC inputs via representation on other bodies into national workforce and educational discussions, to help shape the UK approach to these topics.

Membership survey

A survey of members and interested non-members was conducted in 2021. A presentation with a summary of key findings is here:

<https://britishcytology.co.uk/uploads/files/BAC-membership-survey-2022.pdf>

In response to the survey and other stimuli, the BAC Executive decided to upgrade the website to allow ready access to both BAC webinars and to selected online educational material in like-minded organisations.

Education

The BAC will

* aim for an average of six webinars or scientific meetings per year with subjects from cervical and diagnostic cytology with more general interest topics as well.
* encourage presentations from trainees and BMSs
* facilitate laboratories in the UK to host webinars
* expand the provision of non-webinar based educational material including
  + best practice guidelines
  + static morphological images
  + moving image resources
* facilitate the publication of original research or audit. This may include general advice about writing papers
* enable easy access to the BAC journal Cytopathology from the BAC website. Other high quality free-to-access educational or research material will also be featured.

Training

The BAC will

* work with the Institute for Biomedical Sciences, the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) and other partner organisations to facilitate and encourage development of formalized training programmes and qualifications
* work with existing cytology training schools to promote and facilitate training programmes and courses in both cervical and diagnostic cytopathology

Standards/guidelines

The BAC is the primary owner of or a major contributor to guidelines which bear on the practice of both cervical and diagnostic cytopathology including, as recent examples:

* Recommended code of practice for laboratories participating in the UK cervical screening programmes
* RCPath Tissue Pathways for Diagnostic Cytopathology
* RCPath Guidance on Reporting of Thyroid Cytology Specimens

When new editions of any relevant documents are published, these will be publicised and promoted by means of the BAC website, BAC newsletter, SCAN section of Cytopathology or social media singly or in combination.

Communication

Significant means of communication with the membership will include:

* Website
* Monthly newsletter via email
* SCAN section of Cytopathology – particularly focused on informative good practice articles and developments
* Twitter

Other areas

The BAC will:

* attempt to minimise the environmental impact of its activities
* support the aims and initiatives of the Inequalities in Health Alliance (IHA), to which the BAC is a signatory.