



President's report 2020

What a year it has been. In fact, this report bucks the trend and represents 18 months in office, for reasons that are all too apparent to us all. As I write this, we are beginning to prepare for Christmas, not summer as normal and sadly, not a normal Christmas at that. However, we all have something to be thankful for and on this we must focus and hope for a better year ahead.

This year has challenged the exec to work virtually, something that has not always been easy but it has meant we can shoehorn meetings into a working day rather than taking a day away from our clinical commitments, and for the most part, we have remained efficient with our achievements. I must thank each of the exec for their support and hard work this last year and a bit. Each of us have had personal challenges alongside professional commitments but they have continued to work hard on your behalf.

The credential project is now into its second full year of training, and the majority of trainees progressed through their first year without problem. Given the added issues of COVID affecting training this is a fabulous achievement. The project was shortlisted for a BMJ award in the Women's Health category. We didn't win but the accolade of shortlisting is success in itself to shout about! As Di discusses in her report, supervision requirements are not for the faint hearted but the rewards to our profession are sure to be worth it. Cathy as secretary and myself field enquiries on a weekly basis from young (and not so young) doctors thinking about a career as a breast clinician. This is really encouraging, we all know the benefits of this as a profession, even in the tough times, we must work hard to support trainees to secure their future, and ours, some of us have a few years working yet...

We managed to keep you updated with newsletters and of course our fabulous website with member page features. We are always happy to field questions from members to the network through these methods, providing a spectrum of experience that we can base best practice on going forward. Please continue to tap into our network for this purpose.

The NHS long term plan outlined issues with the Specialty Doctor / Associate specialist grade last year. Sadly, COVID has put the brakes on progress on this and several other non clinical issues, but we will continue to work with the relevant bodies as soon as is possible. I am confident that as the first cohort of credentialled breast clinicians comes into the workforce they will be properly recognised as senior autonomous doctors.

I look forward to seeing you at our virtual AGM, another new experience for us all.

Dr Zoe Goldthorpe, President, ABC. November 2020.