



ABC Secretary Report 2020

At the time of writing we have 57 members (full and associate). PLEASE do keep up to date with all things ABC via our website including of course your membership fees. I am delighted to say that we have had some new young blood joining us who are already working as breast clinicians and of course we welcome our new Credential trainees. Some of our longest serving members have retired and we wish them all the best for a long and very happy retirement. I would like to thank those recently retired members for their contribution to the ABC but of course thank them also for their service to the Breast Units across the country who could not have survived without the help of a breast clinician.

At the start of 2020 I was very privileged to be asked to become a Trustee for Symposium Mammographicum (SM). I will use my position to ensure that the Association of Breast Clinicians remains represented at SM. We do of course have our online Symposium starting the 7th February 2021. I would encourage all our members to sign up for this event, noting that we have negotiated very favourable rates for ABC members. Watching the live event for three consecutive days may not be possible in these challenging times but be assured that if you watch later on “catch up” you will still be able to get your cpd certificate.

As an executive we have met regularly in 2019 and in 2020 but of course since March 2020 all our meetings have been via Zoom and Teams. This has reduced the burden of travelling around the country and I suspect the committee will continue to meet in this way for the foreseeable future. There is therefore no excuse now for not joining the committee even if you live in the far flung parts of the UK. Your ABC executive needs YOU!

In addition to the executive meetings we have been busy finalising the curriculum for the Breast credential, launching the training programme, being trainers (Di) and some of us being on the ARCP review panel (myself and Zoe). We have been meeting regularly with the teams from the Royal College of Radiology and the National Breast Imaging academy, doing our best to raise the profile of the ABC and trying to ensure the future of our profession by standardising the training. It was a privilege to be part of the ARCP panel both for me professionally and to see how well the new trainees have done in their first full year of training in such challenging circumstances.

In this my final annual report as Secretary I ask you to look after each other and continue to support each other. I'd like to thank all the current and former executive members for all their support over the years for allowing me to learn on the job convening study days and attempting to be ABC secretary. I have had the most wonderful of experiences working with some truly fabulous people. If you have had even the slightest thought about putting yourself forward to be on the executive committee, I would just say one thing. “DO IT”. The future of the ABC depends on its most valuable asset, its members.

Cathy

Dr Cathy Coleman, Secretary of the Association of Breast Clinicians. 5th December 2020