



Vice President's report for AGM June 2019

As the end of my first term as VP of the Association of Breast Clinicians (ABC) approaches, I reflect on how 3 years ago I fell in to this role in a rather unplanned way. More hands were needed on deck to assist with the committee's agenda, in particular the promise of a project to address the long-awaited standardisation of training for breast clinicians. How could I possibly have said anything but yes to the prospect of assisting with this venture which I had seen developing in various ways since my first attendance at an ABC AGM way back in 2001!

This was when the first cohort of breast clinicians had completed university-based training. Some years later PMETB rejected the application by a highly experienced breast clinician for approval to the GMC for inclusion on the speciality register. The ABC at that time soon came to realise that the most likely route to recognition of our skills would be achieved with support of our training through one of the medical Royal Colleges. However, interest from the Colleges was lacking, and a brief interlude followed with the participation of the ABC in a GMC pilot for establishing a credential for breast clinicians. As mentioned in a previous report from the President of ABC, this did not lead anywhere as the issue dropped off the GMC's priority list, around the time of the general election.

The looming crisis facing the breast imaging workforce finally shook in to action the leading breast radiology and training groups in the UK, and so it was thus that our group started to receive some attention. Consequently, the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) invited us to meet with them to discuss our training and the potential for developing this further. This time a year ago we were hopeful but not certain whether this would lead to anything. We can say now that we are indebted to them for steering the RCR-ABC-HEE (Higher Education England) collaborative training pilot as it stands now - a breast clinician credential in breast disease management.

The progress made since the start of this exciting project is quite staggering. As I write this, the first job adverts for the 10 pilot trainees have appeared. Despite the many hours of meetings and intense preparation for each one, it has been an absolute privilege to have served on the project board for this credentialing project, and to have worked so closely with Zoe and Cathy with their endless enthusiasm. If successful, this pilot should pave the way for the training and credentialing of breast clinicians of the future whilst going some way to alleviating the current breast imaging workforce crisis.

Over the past year the executive committee meetings have been held on a very regular basis, usually in London, where we have consolidated thoughts on the credentialing projects but also focussed heavily on putting together an excellent programme for our scientific study day.

Turning to less exciting but equally important matters, on 25 May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force and was designed to modernise laws that protect the personal information of individuals. The ABC executive committee takes this issue very seriously and we have worked on securing your information during the course of the year. We are now GDPR compliant

and accordingly our privacy policy on the website has been updated. Please let the secretary know if there have been any changes to your contact details and we will update these immediately.

Staying on the subject of the website, we have welcomed additional help with the design of the website and keeping things up to date. I trust by now you may have noticed the much-improved layout and user-friendly links to events, news and other information. We also have journal club articles with reflective template for CPD. Please can I take the opportunity to encourage you to use the website and all the information on offer, and in particular to keep you updated about progress with the training pilot.

It has been a challenging year for all of us in this field of medicine, with seemingly ever-increasing workloads and pressures to meet targets, all in the face of retirements and unfilled posts, paucity of locums and reduced interest from neighbouring EU doctors to assist with the crisis. However, to any newbies you may know of who may be expressing an interest in the training pilot, I am sure you would not hesitate to recommend that they pursue what should ultimately prove to be a very satisfying career in breast imaging, with the reward of a recognised training pathway and better earning potential as the nationwide move towards re-opening of the Associate Specialist grade progresses.

I wish you a successful and healthy year ahead, and a reminder to maintain the work-life balance which breast clinicians have always chosen to follow.

All the best

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Dr Di Dalglish
Vice president, ABC
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