



President's report 2022

Hard to believe it's time for report writing yet again. It has been 18 months since our last AGM as we now hope to get back onto an annual meeting as we move into the new phase of living with COVID. It is almost as difficult to comprehend is that we are still living with it, staff shortages impacting us all daily and no doubt backlogs and burgeoning referrals affecting us all.

This year the exec has continued to work virtually, shoehorning meetings into lunchtimes or after clinics. I am incredibly grateful to all the exec members for their efficiency and tolerance of this way of working. We have fully welcomed two new members to the team, Sally as secretary and Nadia to the training officer post. They have both got off to a flying start and the study day will be testament to their work. I must also thank Cathy Coleman who continues to offer the exec support despite stepping down in an official capacity last year after 12ish years of brilliant service.

The credential project is now recruiting its second cohort of trainees, with some of our original trainees expected to complete the qualification / training pathway in the next few months. The project has pushed the profile of our profession high up in the breast workforce agenda, and I regularly have enquiries from units unable to recruit radiologists on how to find a breast clinician. The multi-skilled nature of our work means breast units are benefitting within the first year of a trainee being in post, with service provision in clinical services and risk assessment. The second round of recruitment took place nationally last spring and although we were unable to perfectly match every candidate to a job in their preferred location, we as a project board were able to learn a huge deal about those interested in our profession.

Going forward, we continue to work with Symposium Mammographicum, and anticipate our 2023 event to be part of this excellent multi-disciplinary conference in Glasgow next summer. Following on from the UKIBCS event in January 2022 I am delighted to have been invited to collaborate with this group for their next conference also. In addition to working with the NBIA and HEE on training projects, the newly restructured NHSE/I Breast Screening Workforce, Education & Training Strategy Group is looking at all tiers of practice within our sphere and how we can improve our services, both for us as members of staff, and for our patients. Common themes regarding the robbing of screening time to pay symptomatic services and staff burnout are being heard, although no magic solutions have yet been found.

I was delighted to hear that several of our members had successfully regraded to the new Specialist grade last year after the introduction of contractual reform. There is a statement regarding this on the website intended to assist other members going through this process. Do get in touch if I can help.

I look forward to seeing you face to face at our study day and AGM.

Dr Zoe Goldthorpe, President, ABC. May 2022.