

BAAB ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Chair's Report for the 18th Annual General Meeting December 2008

The Board has continued with the work of accrediting prequalification acupuncture courses for 14 teaching institutions in formal relationship with the Board.

Our developmental model of accreditation is well supported by the Council of Heads of Acupuncture Courses, individual teaching institutions, and the profession via the British Acupuncture Council. Our good working relationships with these organisations are the basis of maintaining educational and professional standards in prequalification courses.

The progress for the acupuncture profession to obtain statutory regulation has slowed this year. The Board is taking this opportunity to look to the future for pre-qualification accreditation that will continue the high education and professional standards in the courses. The Board is committed to the developmental model of accreditation with allocated accreditation officers linked with specific teaching institutions, to support the development of courses through the accreditation processes. The Accreditation Committee oversees these processes, reporting their recommendations to the Board. The Board has developed a website with a wide range of information about the Board and with a link from and to the BAcC website which also promotes the work of the Board.

Each year, the Board evaluates its performance and again there is overriding support for the work and processes. Whilst the Board membership has reduced, there is a richness of member knowledge and experience that is valuable for our work.

Next year, the Board will be considering changes in the way that we undertake our work, to prepare for the future. Ruth Champion will become Board Adviser and undertake project work. Norma Morris will Chair the Accreditation Committee, and Allen Parrott will be lead Accreditation Officer, undertaking both liaison and co-coordinating work and maintaining some accreditation work. We welcome Alison Gould, who is taking an accreditation post with Roger Hill continuing.

There have been some membership changes. We welcome Dr Ming Cheng as CHAC representative, Janine Leach as a representative of other complementary therapies, and Professor Karen Harrison as an educationalist. We thank Pauline Van Buren, Linda Goodman, Rosemary Richardson, our Treasurer, and Peter Mole for their valuable contribution to the Board.

A thank you to all Board and Accreditation Committee members, the Accreditation Officer team and Petra and Pippa, our secretariat, without whose hard work and commitment to the Board, we could not function as efficiently. Finally, we look forward to Ruth Champion undertaking her new role, assisting the Board in formulating our future role in the statutory regulatory model. Ruth's contribution to the Board has been fundamental to the success of its work and the status that it has within acupuncture and much wider.

**Rita Lewis
BAAB Chair**

December 2008

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE REPORT: 2007-08

The Accreditation Committee has met five times in the year. It has produced reports for the Board based on balanced and informed debate by experienced professionals from a range of health and higher education backgrounds. The strength of the Board's accreditation system remains its developmental approach to teaching institutions, which encourages high professional standards to be firmly rooted by the time a course achieves full accreditation.

At the end of the academic year there are fourteen teaching institutions in a formal relationship with the Board compared to thirteen at the same time last year. One university has initiated its accreditation process with the Board in 2007/8, which means there are now seven universities and seven independent colleges in a formal relationship with the Board. As of December 2008, nine courses are fully accredited, four are at Stage One and one is in Notification. Courses in five of the independent colleges are validated by universities and the other two are actively seeking similar validation. There is a geographical imbalance in acupuncture degree provision across Britain, because seven of the fourteen teaching institutions operate in London, while there are no Board-accredited degree programmes in Scotland, Wales or the south west of England.

Good practice in the teaching institutions

All institutions were visited and fully discussed at Accreditation Committee meetings at least once during the year. The following are examples of good practice observed in more than one teaching institution, which were brought to the attention of the Accreditation Committee and the Board during the year:

- Extensive use of the BAcC Standards for the Practice of Acupuncture (SPA) document to inform and enhance the acupuncture curriculum, especially for students in their final year.
- Encouragement for students to join the BAcC as associate members, to participate in web-site discussions and to attend the annual conference
- Several final year student dissertations judged by External Examiners as 'of publishable standard'
- The introduction and dissemination of institutional 'house journals'
- Advanced curriculum development, including new Masters Degrees

The following are examples of good practice observed in individual teaching institutions:

- A publicised willingness to recruit and support suitably qualified visually-impaired students to join a sighted group of acupuncture students
- A recruitment process that includes a day-long workshop and two-way conversations as well as a formal interview, in order to ensure that students are as well prepared as possible for the challenges of a professional degree
- A list of criteria defining 'unsuitability' for the profession, instead of trying to define 'suitability'
- The provision of high quality training and staff development for the institution's administrative and managerial staff, as well as for its teachers and supervisors.

Issues arising from all aspects of the Accreditation Committee's work

There is a need for teaching institutions in 2008/9 to:

- a) consider very fully all their processes in the event of *clinical incidents*
- b) share experiences of how *e-learning* or *blended learning* can enhance the curriculum
- c) emphasise to students their '*limits to competence*' in specialist areas of practice like paediatrics, obstetrics and mental health
- d) draft and implement a policy on *staff-student personal relationships*
- e) agree and implement a BAAB policy on the use of *external or satellite clinics* away from the main or 'home' clinic

The Accreditation Committee itself needs to:

- a) collaborate with the Board and with the Council for the Heads of Acupuncture Courses (CHAC) in debating the future of accreditation, in the light of anticipated financial and regulatory changes
- b) finalise the policy for the external verification of safe practice in external or satellite clinics
- c) work with the Health Professions Council (HPC) if indicated to prepare for course approval within their statutory regulatory system

**Allen Parrott, Lead Accreditation Officer,
January 2009**

BAAB FULLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS AND COURSES DURING 2008

COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED CHINESE MEDICINE

Reading, Berkshire

COLLEGE OF TRADITIONAL ACUPUNCTURE

Hatton, Warwickshire

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ORIENTAL MEDICINE UK

East Grinstead, West Sussex

LONDON COLLEGE OF TRADITIONAL ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE

London

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

London

NORTHERN COLLEGE OF ACUPUNCTURE

York, Yorkshire

SCHOOL OF FIVE ELEMENT ACUPUNCTURE

London

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Brayford Pool, Lincolnshire

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

London

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

Salford, Greater Manchester

Short accounts for the 12 month period 1 January 2008–31 December 2008

Income		Expenditure	
Contributions	£105,000	Accreditation expenses	£ 124,576
Accreditation fees	£ 64,842	Members' fees and expenses	£ 1,200
Bank interest	£ 2	Secretarial and office expenses	£ 30,056
		Accounts, bank charges, depreciation	£ 2,817
		Services, insurance, room hire, misc.	£ 5,369
Total income for the period:	£169,844	Total expenditure for the period:	£ 164,018

BAAB Board Members

Janice Booth
Mark Chamberlayne
Dr Ming Cheng (from Aug 2008)
Zofia Dymitr
Linda Goodman (until Aug 2008)
Prof Karen Harrison (from Sept 2008)
Paul Hougham (from Dec 2008)
Rob Hughes
Janine Leach (from Dec 2008)

Rita Lewis (Chair)
Peter Mole (till Dec 2008)
Norma Morris
Dr Rosemary Richardson (till Aug 2008)
Dr Jonathan Ross
Jasmine Uddin
Pauline van Buren (till April 2008)
Mei Xing

Appointed Officers

Consultant:
Strategic Officer/Chair of the Accreditation Committee:
Lead Accreditation Officer
Accreditation Officer:
Accreditation Officer:
Treasurer:
Finance Officer/Treasurer:
Secretary to Accreditation Committee:
Board Secretary/Company Secretary:

Earl Baldwin of Bewdley
Dr Ruth Champion
Dr Allen Parrott
Roger Hill
Alison Gould (from Oct 2008)
Dr Rosemary Richardson (till Aug 2008)
Dan Regan (Treasurer from Aug 2008)
Pippa Sequeira
Petra Nannes

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