

## bscc terminology 2002

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- **Dr Amanda Herbert's presentation - [The way forward](#) (56k powerpoint file)**
- **Dr. A. Herbert, [presentation](#) at Cambridge 2002 (5,493k powerpoint file)**

The BSCC Terminology 2002 Conference held on the 18th and 19th March proved an important, groundbreaking and welcome addition to the scientific programme of the Society this year. The Conference was held at the prestigious G-MEX International Conference Centre in Manchester and attracted over 300 delegates from a wide range of disciplines within the cervical screening programme. It was intended to provide a forum for debate and a vehicle by which many of the differing views within the programme regarding terminology could be expressed. The format was highly interactive and truly democratic with votes being taken on all of the major topics discussed.

The Conference was preceded by an interactive, web-based bulletin board comprising nine different fora. These included principles of terminology and correlation with other systems; the assessment of smear adequacy; the negative smear; squamous dyskaryosis and koilocytosis; glandular dyskaryosis; non-koilocytic borderline nuclear change; the configuration of the report and its format; and the impact and potential application of liquid based cytology. A final section provided cytological images for interpretation. Registrants to the site were invited to access some or all of these sections and to enter free text comments, answers to specific questions or diagnoses. A total of 373 different individuals registered on the board with over 800 responses being recorded both to the free text and questions sections. These are impressive totals. Many thanks to all those who worked their way through the detailed morass of questions - quite an achievement!

The many and often differing views from the bulletin board were carried forward to the Conference by the forum moderators and incorporated into the presentations on the first day. The debate was further widened on the second day by contributions from primary care, colposcopy, public health and a lay advisor to the screening programme. It was perhaps surprising, certainly towards the end of the Conference, to note the level of agreement rather than dissent, with many of the votes being carried by overwhelming majorities.

The main agreements reached during the Conference are summarised as follows:

- The term 'dyskaryosis' should be retained
- The revised BSCC Terminology should be modelled on some but not all components of the Bethesda System
- The term 'inadequate' should be replaced by 'unsuitable'
- A statement regarding visualisation of the cervix and appropriate sampling should be included on the request form
- Variable criteria for smear/specimen adequacy to be devised
- The presence of transformation zone indicators to be fed back to smear takers as an audit tool but not in the text of the report
- The reporting of infections to continue, with the exception of bacterial vaginosis
- Use of the phrase 'organisms present, exclude infection' is suggested
- A two-tier system for the reporting of squamous dyskaryosis should be adopted. In this proposal, borderline koilocytic lesions would be grouped with

mild dyskaryosis into a low-grade category. Likewise moderate and severe dyskaryosis would be grouped to form a high-grade category.

- Glandular abnormalities should be subclassified according to likely site of origin
- The borderline category should be retained and subdivided into BNC (NOS), BNC glandular and BNC high-grade dyskaryosis not excluded.

In terms of the way forward, the proposed revisions to the BSCC Terminology will be presented to BSCC Council for ratification in June. Thereafter, the implications will be discussed with a wide range of professional and other bodies including the NHS CSP, the Royal Colleges, the IBMS, the NAC, the Department of Health and the Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening. A number of workshops are planned to provide detail to some of the recommendations and illustrations need to be gathered for subsequent publication. There remains much to do and yet huge strides forward have already been made. A big 'thank you' once again to the Conference organisers, speakers and all participants for their hard work and commitment and for making the Terminology 2002 Conference an outstanding success.