

BAAB Education Day 2020

BAAB held its annual Education Day, using Zoom, on June 18th. Over 60 delegates from BAAB-accredited courses attended including, for the first time, student representatives. Recordings of all the day's sessions are now available – see below for links.

Inevitably, discussion centred upon the colleges' responses to the COVID-19 crisis. We heard that staff and students have risen to the challenge magnificently, moving swiftly to transfer teaching and assessment online. At the time of the Education Day, acupuncture courses were actively tackling their next major challenge - resuming face-to-face teaching, so that students can learn practical skills and gain clinical experience, and a lively workshop explored the difficulties of clinical teaching in a COVID-secure environment.

Other sessions at the Education Day were led by BAAB's new Chair, Professor Mike Saks, who gave delegates an overview of the pandemic's impact on UK higher education; Alex Jacobs, Chair of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine, who prepared delegates for their lunch break with an informative and entertaining talk on Chinese Herbs in the Kitchen; Michelle Venter, a graduate of The Acupuncture Academy, who gave an inspiring talk about her BAAC-funded research project investigating the effectiveness of Five Element acupuncture as a treatment for students from a local university experiencing mental health issues; and Paul Blacker, Chair of BAAC's Professional Standards and Regulatory Committee, who set out some of the key points to be tackled if acupuncture is to follow other professions in establishing a structure of accredited CPD.

The Education Day is now established as a key date in BAAB's calendar, and the positive feedback from delegates showed that there is a continuing thirst for such events. The students were particularly positive, and one summed up the day perfectly: "I am happy to witness the coherence and collaboration of multiple learning institutions sharing best practice and working hard to shape the future landscape for learners. "

The recordings of the day are available on YouTube, they are 'unlisted' so you will need these links to access them

1. Overview of the Impact of Covid 19 on Higher Education by Prof Mike Saks, Chair of BAAB - <https://youtu.be/iRuN2rYwM5g>
2. Group discussion on Impact of Covid 19 on Acupuncture Education, chaired by Ric Chamberlain - <https://youtu.be/PgKiN3iEObE>
3. Chinese Herbs in your Kitchen by Alex Jacobs, RCHM - <https://youtu.be/nljiqS8lR5o>
4. Student Mental Health : an acupuncture pragmatic intervention service (HAPI) by Michelle Venter, Graduate of TAA - <https://youtu.be/f7ZEX9SBuPs>
5. The PSRC and maturing of the acupuncture profession, Paul Blacker, Chair of PSRC - <https://youtu.be/H8U5ijWTYiU>
6. Teaching and Learning Point Location, Alex Humphries and Lara McClure, NCA - https://youtu.be/-q-B_COkvYM
7. Learning practical and clinical skills in a Covid safe environment, afternoon workshop Chaired by Charmian Wylde – Introduction - <https://youtu.be/l3-2EWE5lUA>