



## Australasian Division of International Academy of Pathology Limited (IAP)

President Report, June 2020  
Jane Dahlstrom OAM



My first year as President has certainly been eventful. I have very much appreciated the support of the Board and Executive in navigating some complex issues. The 2019–2020 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic caught the global health care sector unaware on how to combat it, not to mention to prevent its prevalence. The events over the last seven months have however highlighted the key role pathologists, and pathology testing, play in the diagnosis and management of disease. This pandemic has tested our resilience as a profession but also has resulted in ingenious solutions to difficult problems. It has highlighted that accurate information leading to clear understanding is the key to enabling appropriate decision making. It has been fascinating to see how friends and colleagues have settled into what is, for now, the new way of living.

COVID-19 has revealed some issues entrenched in our global approach to continuing professional education traditionally focused on face to face meetings. For the Australasian Division of the IAP the lessons learnt in terms of organising our 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting, and other activities, will hopefully avoid future pitfalls.

### Annual Scientific Meetings

#### 2019

The 2019 led by Peter Bethwaite was a great success in terms of its program, attendance and finances.

#### 2020

The Board of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) met by teleconference on 17 March 2020 and made the difficult decision to cancel the 44th Annual Scientific Meeting of our Division that was to be held in Brisbane. In deciding to take

this action we were influenced by the concerns expressed by our membership, the cancellation of other medical meetings in Australasia, ban on events with more than 500 people, and decisions of many health care services around the world to restrict the travel of their workforces and for all international arrivals to Australia to self-isolate for 14 days.

We examined the possibility of running a virtual meeting however the challenges of being able to provide a high quality product from scratch in the time available were too great. We had hoped to be able to postpone the meeting until later in the year however we were unable to secure an appropriate venue for this to happen.

I appreciate all the hard work put in by our companion club convenors, our speakers and sponsors towards the preparation of this meeting and the disappointment for our membership. We provided a full refund on registrations. We incurred a small loss, largely related to loss of refunds from international speaker's flights. The Treasurer's report will provide more details.

**Ruta Gupta** completed her term as the inaugural Head and Neck Companion Club Convenor in 2019. A certificate of appreciation has been posted to her in recognition of her significant contribution.

I am delighted to announce the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Pathologist Award is **(Sally) Fiona Bonar** from NSW, in honour of her enormous contributions to pathology in Australasia and beyond. She is also the first female recipient of this award. Her award will be presented at the 2021 meeting.

Our Vincent McGovern lecturer, **Stephen Fox**, will now deliver his lecture in 2021.

## 2021

A joint meeting of the 45th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) & the 10th Histology National Conference 2021 is planned to be held at the International Convention Centre, Sydney from Friday the 4th June to Sunday the 6th of June 2021. Our keynote international speakers include **John Goldblum** (General Pathology and Immunohistochemistry), **Linda Ernst** (Pediatric and Perinatal) and **Lynette Scholl** (Lung and Molecular). The masterclass speaker will be **Bastiaan de Boer** (Liver Pathology). Special sessions on Molecular Pathology and Pathology Education are also planned for the Friday.

In terms of the formula of this meeting I will seek input from the Board ensuring decisions are viewed through a reputational lens and are anchored to core principals or values. There may well be a need to balance competing stakeholder interests of our membership, meeting delegates, sponsorship and keynote speakers.

## 2023

This meeting will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre 26-28th May. The deposit from 2020 has been transferred to this meeting.

## 2024

This meeting is planned to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre with the date to be finalised at the Annual Board Meeting (ABM).

## International Academy of Pathology Congresses

### 2020

The XXXIII Congress of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) was postponed from late August, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, to 5 – 9 December 2020. It is being held in Glasgow, UK. <https://www.esp-congress.org/>. The Joint ESP-IAP Education Session is on *Education strategies in Pathology for the next decade*, very appropriate given current events.

### 2022

The 2022 Congress will be hosted by our Division in Sydney from October 9-14. The keynote speakers are locked in (**Tan Puay Hoon, Jason Hornick, Barry Marshall and Elizabeth Murchison**). The companion club convenors will shortly be asked to develop their programs and invite speakers.

## Regional Support

We continue to support the region through our bursary program to attend our Annual Scientific Meeting and International Congresses. With the cancellation of our 2020 meeting the six bursary recipients have been offered the opportunity to attend our 2021 meeting. We provided funding (\$6000) for four bursaries to attend the IAP Congress in Glasgow in 2020.

## Board and Other News

Two board members complete their term on June 25, 2020. They are Richard Williams (Victoria) and Cynric Temple-Camp (New Zealand). Wendy Cooper (NSW) has moved into a new role as Abstract Convenor and so will also stepdown as a board member. I thank them for their leadership and support of the objectives of the IAP. Certificates of recognition will be posted out. Expressions of interest will be sought after the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for new representatives for these regions.

Four constitution changes will be discussed at the 2020 ABM for resolution at the 2020 AGM as outlined in the agenda. The ABM will also discuss changes to the membership categories and the merging of the Northern Territory representative with South Australia for voting on at the AGM in 2021.

In 2013 Mike Wells (British Division) reviewed the activities of our Division and had nineteen observations, recommendations or suggestions. Five of these were not well supported by the Executive at the time. Of the remaining recommendations two have been superseded by other events (we now have a virtual office and Singapore and Malaysia are now their own Divisions of IAP Central). Two recommendations were supported in 2013 but are yet to realised (there should be a trainee representative on the Board and Board meetings should be increased to two per year and Board members should have specified roles and accountability). I would like to revisit these two recommendations at the 2020 ABM.

We are moving forward with online payment for membership subscriptions and hope to have this finalised in the next few months. There will also be changes to the members' login such that only financial members will have access to current educational content.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our secretariat Ms Uma Subramanian and Ms Debbie Suann who ensure the smooth running of the Division and its activities.

Finally, thank you to the membership of the Australasian Division of IAP. Without your financial support our Division would not be able to meet its mission of being dedicated to the advancement of Pathology through educational exchanges.