



Australasian Division of International Academy of Pathology Limited (IAP)

President Report, April 2021
Jane Dahlstrom OAM



I am pleased to present my second (and final) report as President on the eve of our 45th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). I appreciate the unfailing support of the Executive (**Peter Bethwaite, Gelareh Farshid, Alfred Lam, Fiona Maclean, and Richard Scolyer**), Board, our Companion Club Convenors, our Abstract Convenor and Judges, our Secretariat (**Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann**), and Speakers. All have navigated some complex issues over the past two years, including the delivery of our first virtual meeting. Thank you.

Last year the Board reviewed the Mike Wells report of 2013. We have now implemented the two final recommendations: the addition of a trainee representative on the Board (**welcome Ingrid Fewings**) and the increase in Board meeting frequency to two per year. I had hoped to hold a strategic planning meeting this year to map our course as a Division over the next 5 years, but the COVID-19 pandemic and holding our ASM in April made this difficult to realise.

When I was voted in as President Elect in 2019, I indicated I wanted to continue to lead the reform of practices and processes in our Division. Over the past two years the Executive has developed and implemented guidelines for selection of Bursary Recipients, general criteria for appointment of new Companion Club Convenors including appointment duration, a standard operating procedure for abstract selection and processes, a policy around criteria for accepting new members (and membership categories which will be voted on at this Annual General Meeting (AGM)), as well as guidelines for meals, transport and incidental allowances for invited IAP Speakers. We have also developed specified roles and responsibilities for all members of the Board and Executive and decided on the criteria for when a retired pathologist may be nominated for honorary membership. At the Annual Business Meeting, we will review the criteria and processes around awarding our Distinguished Pathologist Medal and the Robin Cooke Medal.

My second objective as President was to further develop the Division's outreach programs in the Asia Pacific to assist under-served regions to ensure pathology education is accessible to their trainees, pathologists, and other medical specialists. This year I am pleased to say the Executive agreed that complimentary registration be offered to all pathologists and trainees in underserved countries in our region. More than 100 pathologists from these regions have registered. We also offered complementary registration for up to 200 medical students in Australasia to attend this virtual meeting. We provided \$6000 to support bursaries for the IAP Congress for 2020 that enabled many pathologists from underserved regions of the world to access free registration to the meeting. Our 2021 ASM will also see a Saturday morning session for RCPA trainees focussed on exam preparation to be led by President Elect Fiona Maclean. This year sees the awarding of our inaugural IAP grant in support of Pathology for Medical Schools in Australasia that will be judged by the Board. This grant aims to support broadening the engagement of medical students with Pathology in our region.

Other achievements over the last two years include the upgrade of the IAP Website, reorganisation of the membership database and development of an online payment link for member subscriptions. A decision was also made by the Executive to do due diligence and seek external financial advice every five years and advise the members of the outcome.

I wish **Fiona Maclean** all the best in her Presidency. I am sure her many attributes will make her an excellent President.

Annual Scientific Meetings

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 that was to be held in Brisbane.

(Sally) Fiona Bonar from NSW was the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Pathologist Award for her enormous contributions to pathology in Australasia and beyond.

2021

The decision to host a virtual meeting was made by members in July 2020 following polling, as the COVID-19 pandemic still raged havoc across our globe.

Our stellar keynote international speakers, both from the USA, are **Linda Ernst** (Paediatric and Perinatal) and **Lynette Scholl** (Lung and Molecular).

Stephen Fox from Victoria is our distinguished Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecturer.

Anthony Gill from NSW, an outstanding clinician scientist, is the recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Pathologist Award.

The masterclass speakers will be **Bastiaan de Boer from Western Australia** (Liver Pathology), **Amanda Charlton from New Zealand** (Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology) and **Richard Scolyer from NSW** (Dermatopathology).

2022

We are hosting the 2022 IAP International Congress in Sydney from October 9-14. The keynote speakers are **Tan Puay Hoon, Jason Hornick, Barry Marshall** and **Elizabeth Murchison**. This is now being planned as a hybrid meeting. The Companion Club Convenors will develop their programs and invite speakers after our upcoming ASM.

2023

This meeting will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 26-28th May.

2024

This meeting will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 31st May – 2nd June.

Board, Other News and Acknowledgements

Two Board members will conclude their term following the AGM. They are **Peter Jessup (Tasmania)** and **Parastoo Irandoost (NSW)**. **Marais Combrinck (Western Australia)** concludes his term as the Digital Pathology Convenor. I thank them for their leadership and support of the objectives of the IAP. Peters' contributions to the IAP in various roles has extended over 25 years. He was our first Lung Club Convenor in 1995 at the time of our 1st Asia Pacific IAP meeting and spoke at several meetings over the years. Certificates of recognition will be posted out. Expressions of interest have been sought for new representatives on the Board.

The IAP Secretariat remains housed in a virtual office with a PO Box for receiving mail. The current arrangement began in 2014 and appears to be working well. The email contact is umas@iap-aus.org.au

I extend my appreciation to the **RCPA and Brett Delahunt** for their support in publishing the poster abstracts in the journal "Pathology".

I am very grateful to the support we have received from industry sponsors particularly our Gold Sponsors this year **Leica Biosystems and RCPA QAP**. I appreciated all sponsors who took a leap of faith and have supported our first virtual meeting.

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.