



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

President's Report, AGM 2022

Fiona Maclean

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your current President. During my time as President Elect I had the opportunity to reflect upon which initiatives I would focus on as President. The recent period has been one of rapid change, requiring constant adaptation, and stretching our reserves of resiliency. We have had to change to a new world paradigm where virtual meetings and interactions, with resultant social isolation, became the norm. As we transition back into a more normal existence I feel maintaining good communication is key to remaining relevant and useful to our membership. I've outlined some initiatives we have undertaken along these lines below.

The other key principle during this period is one of gratitude to those who are contributing to our society. Thank you to my fellow executive council colleagues, our board members and our trainee representative for adapting, being creative in addressing needs, and continuing to lean into your volunteer roles while family lives and work lives have been so much more demanding. I also would like to thank our Companion Club Convenors and our Abstract Convenor for their enormous contribution to our Annual Scientific Meetings and the World Congress. Thank you for your personal commitment. I'd like to thank the secretariat, comprised of Uma and Debbie, for pivoting many aspects of what we do. I continue to thank my predecessors for ensuring our division is in a strong financial situation.

While our focus has been on supporting our membership and the association through COVID-19, we have continued to seek opportunities to promote the IAP and our educational initiatives.

This year our Annual Board Meeting for 2022 took place in an on-line format in May and we also held an additional on-line board meeting yesterday.

New Initiatives

As I alluded to above, my principle goal as President of the Australasian Division of the IAP been to enhance communication with members and to facilitate access to education initiatives. I have tried to adopt new methods for communication as follows:

Our website has undergone a major upgrade with a new format and inclusion of additional materials. We would like to thank Dr Samer Yousef, who was integral to the development of the new website. The website is now more user-friendly. Please see the new website www.iap-aus.org.au and explore the material included there. There is a secured membership login page through which we our financial members can access the educational materials from past Annual Scientific Meetings and other useful information. Included in the site are two video clips of principles in setting up a microscope and Köhler illumination provided by

James Townsend (Scientist, TAFE NSW). A series of both interesting and challenging cases have been shared by Dr Denis Moir. Additionally, a new initiative has been creation of a forum page for members to discuss various topics.

We have entered into social media with the creation of an official Twitter page for our division. Last year we appointed our inaugural social media volunteers. We were grateful to have a number of members put their hands up for this voluntary role, and given the experience of both Dr Tristan Rutland and Dr Zaid Househ on the Twitter platform in particular, they were successful in being appointed. Educational cases have been posted with quite good engagement. These cases have been both enjoyable and informative, as well as a fabulous opportunity for international engagement during the pandemic. Twitter has additionally become a forum for advertising our upcoming events such as the current World Congress.. Tristan and Zaid also ran a successful “Twitter for L-Platers” session over zoom, a recording of which can be found on our website. They are planning on presenting a reprised version again in November, and I encourage anyone who is interested to attend. The previous zoom session had a good response.

We have been looking at areas of education and support of anatomical pathologists that are not well covered in other contexts. As such we decided to offer zoom-based forums covering areas of interest to both trainees and qualified pathologists.

Our first Zoom based forum took place in July this year when our Treasurer Prof Gelareh Farshid chaired a session on financial wellbeing in conjunction with a financial planner and accountant provided for our members. This has been well received with requests for similar ongoing financial seminars. For members who could not attend this forum, a copy of the zoom session is available on the members’ area of our website. Further similar sessions in the planning phase, to be given in 2023, include another session on financial wellbeing, a physical wellbeing (physiotherapist-led) session, and psychological wellbeing session.

We have also introduced monthly master classes pitched at registrar level. Our first session which was held in September by our President Elect Clinical Professor Dr Priyanthi Kumarasinghe was on reporting Gastro-intestinal cancers. This initial session was offered to anyone who registered, however the plan is that going forward such sessions will only be available to members. The next planned masterclass for Novemeber will be presented by Prof Gelareh Farshid on breast pathology.

Similar master class sessions are currently being planned for 2023.

We have awarded our inaugural IAP Grant in support of Pathology for Medical Schools in Australasia. We introduced this grant last year to broaden the engagement of medical students with anatomical pathology in our region. Last year the award went to a medical student from University of Newcastle. Implementation of the project was unfortunately delayed due to Covid, but we are anticipating it will be completed this year. The grant was advertised again this year and this year award went to a medical student from University of Sydney. The applicant has been given one year time to complete the project.

Annual Scientific Meetings

2021

After the impacts of Covid-19 resulted in our 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) being cancelled, it was pleasing to hold a very successful virtual meeting in April 2021 under the auspices of Professor Jane Dahlstrom as President of our division. Viewer numbers during the 3-days totalled almost 400 individuals. The pre-recorded presentations and subsequent Q&A sessions were available for online review up to 1 year after the conference. In association with the meeting we saw a considerable increase in Registrar memberships of our division.

2022

I am delighted that our Division is hosting the 2022 IAP International Congress this year in Sydney. Planning a meeting of this size in the context of an international pandemic has been challenging to say the least. However the local organising committee, under the guidance of Congress Co-Presidents Professor Jane Dahlstrom and Professor Richard Scolyer, has prepared a stellar program. Given the inherent uncertainty associated with Covid-19, a decision was made to hold the meeting in hybrid format. As such the first two days (11-12 October) was in a virtual format, followed by three days (13-15 October) in-person. A social program was included in the in-person component. The keynote speakers were Anatomical pathologists Professor Tan Puay Hoon (Singapore) and Professor Jason Hornick (USA), Nobel Prize recipient Professor Brian P Schmidt, and Professor Elizabeth Murchison who is a geneticist researching transmissible cancers affecting Tasmanian devils. I thank everyone who attended the Congress and I hope it was fulfilling and rewarding.

In addition to the Co-Presidents, the local organising committee included Professors Gelareh Farshid, Wendy Cooper and Anthony Gill, our local secretariat, as well as myself. I would like to acknowledge the work of the committee members in this endeavour. In particular I would like to thank Wendy Cooper in her role of Abstract Committee chair as well as all the convenors of the specialty groups who put together such a well-rounded program.

I would also like to thank the official organisers of this Congress ICMS Australia. Emma Bowyer and her team have done a tremendous job in organising such a successful congress and I thank them on behalf of our executive team and board members.

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks to our members who are attended this Annual General Meeting.

At this AGM, we are planning to propose minor changes to our constitution which would allow board member terms to be in sync with each other. This is also an opportunity to confirm the appointment of those in interim positions as incumbent in those roles.

2022 DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGIST AWARD

This year the distinguished pathologist award goes to Professor Jane Dahlstrom. Congratulations Jane!

2023

Our 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre from Friday 26th May to Sunday 28th May, 2023 and include keynote speakers Dr Jesse McKenney (Uropathology, Cleveland Clinic, USA) and Associate Professor Xiaoyin “Sara” Jiang (Cytology, Head and Neck pathology, and social media, Duke Pathology, USA). Dr

Christina Arnold is an anatomical pathologist as well as a fully accredited Master Life Coach. She will be presenting the Plenary Lecture and Saturday Master Class, focusing on finding balance in the life of the pathologist. The Sunday Master Class presenter will be Associate Professor Nirmala Pathmanathan (Breast pathology, Westmead Breast Cancer Institute, BreastScreen, and Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology) and the Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecturer is Associate Professor Benjamin Wood (Dermatopathology, PathWest). This meeting will be organised by our secretariat staff Uma and Debbie.

2024 and 2025

We have tentatively booked the Brisbane Convention Centre for the 2024 ASM, and the International Convention Centre Sydney for 2025. A final decision on venue for these meetings will be made by Professor Priyanthi Kumarasinghe (President Elect).

Changes in the Executive and Board of Directors

We have a few changes in our Executive team and the board of Directors. With this AGM, Prof Richard Scolyer completes his term as the Director (IAP Central Executive Council Representative). I take this opportunity to thank him for his enormous contribution to our division over many years including as President of the division and as Co-President of the current World Congress.

Our Treasurer Professor Gelareh Farshid has been nominated by the Executive Committee for this Director (IAP Central Executive Council Representative) role. As such, she will move from her current position as Treasurer. Anticipating this move, the Treasurer role was advertised to our division membership and we have received a nomination for Dr Andrew Dettrick to take on this position. As no other nominations have been received, no elections are required and with the consent of our members he will be formally appointed for the Treasurer role from this AGM, pending Gelareh's appointment to the Director (IAP Central Executive Council Representative)

State Councillor Acknowledgements

Two State Councillors will conclude their 6 year terms this year, with David Moffat (SA) finishing on 20th September and Hemamali Samaratunga (QLD) finishing on 1st August 2022. I would like to thank them for their contribution to the IAP.

Welcome to the 2 new State Councillors

I would like to welcome Dr Duncan Lambie who has commenced the Queensland State Councillor position in an interim role from August this year. As no other nominations were received, he will formally be appointed at this AGM with the consent of our members. Expression of interests were also sought from members for the SA State Councillor role and we have received one nomination for Dr Yanling (Cindy) Yang. Again no election will take place for this position and Dr Yang will be confirmed as the QLD State councillor at this meeting.

Convenors Acknowledgements

Drs Mike Watson of the Paediatric and Perinatal and Oana Crainic of the Dermatopathology companion clubs will conclude their terms as the Convenors after this year's World Congress. I thank them for their enormous efforts in organising our scientific meetings. A Certificate of recognition will be forthcoming.

Board Acknowledgements

I would like to congratulate Professor Alfred Lam for being recognised in the 2022 Australia Day honours, with membership in the General Division (AM). He joins executive committee members Richard Scolyer and Jane Dahlstrom who previously received similar awards.

Secretariat office

Our Secretariat arrangements are unchanged. The email contact is info@iap-aus.org.au.

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