

IAP Australasian Division .. Distinguished Pathologist Award .. June 1st 2024 .. Brisbane
Edited from the original Acceptance Response
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I was fortunate to be the Western Australian member of the first committee of the IAP when it was formed in 1973 by Vince McGovern. I had begun my Pathology career in 1965 and, after jobs in Perth and Singapore, I was working in London at Kings College Hospital. The British Division of the IAP occasionally arranged slide seminars that I attended. At one of these at the Royal Marsden cancer hospital, the presenter was Lauren Ackerman from Barnes Hospital, St Louis – the renowned author of the classic text “Surgical Pathology”, better known later as “Rosai and Ackermans Surgical Pathology”. The way he presented the cases, analysed the slides and assessed the condition was then unique and so impressive that it was labelled the “Ackerman Method”. This method of presentation was being disseminated and followed worldwide through the IAP which was obviously becoming *the* forum for Anatomical Pathologists.

In 1973, when I left London to take up my new job in Perth, there was not yet an IAP Division in Australia although there were a few individual unaffiliated Australian pathologists listed by the International IAP, and Vince McGovern was an independent IAP International Vice-President.

Back in Western Australia in April 1973, I contacted Vince to raise the possibility of forming a Division here. I really should have known better. Vince said it had been on his mind and that he had only very recently written about it to Josh Edwards, the Secretary-General of the International IAP in Indiana. Dr Edwards had replied outlining what needed to be done, so Vince organized a first Meeting which was held in June 1973 in the old Schlink lecture theatre at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The 100 or so pathologists in attendance formally agreed to establish a Division. A committee was being formed with representatives from the various States - and Vince asked me if I would be the Western Australian member. The subsequent committee meetings were held that year and for many years thereafter in a tiny room off the foyer of the main entrance of the RPA's administration block on Missenden Road, Camperdown. Vince was a hugely effective President. Theo Constance and Harry Kramer were the first two New South Wales committee members, Victoria was represented by Denys Fortune, Peter Nicoll from Queensland, South Australia by Phil Allen and the Tasmanian was David Evans; then me from W.A. With Professor John Blennerhasset of Otago University as the New Zealand member, the Division was confirmed as Australasian. Peter Cropley as Secretary-Treasurer sent a summary of that first June Meeting to Josh Edwards and also to Kash Mostofi, the President of the International IAP, together with a copy of his very first Australasian Division Newsletter, Number 1 of August 1973. In December, Peter remitted \$4 for each of the 135 paid-up members, a grand total of US\$540.

I was involved in IAP affairs from then on. At the Annual Meetings, Vince McGovern and Theo Constance after him, always made sure there was a warm social side to the

Meetings. And so it became the tradition. In my active time with the Division, it increased its membership from that initial 135 to around 4 – 500. In the late 1980s, the attendances at the Annual Meetings had more or less doubled, with standing room only in the Schlink Theatre. While I was still President in 1989, we planned to move the meetings from the Schlink to Darling Harbour for the following year. At the same time we decided to start the Poster session and also to extend the 2-day meeting by the addition of the Companion meetings. The Division was clearly maturing nicely. Under the guidance of Theo Constance, our Division hosted its first International IAP Congress in Sydney in 1982. Later, while I was the Australasian Region's International Vice-President we pitched at 3 successive International IAP biennial Executive meetings for a second International Congress: we tried in 1994 in Hong Kong, in 1996 in Budapest and then in 1998 in Nice we won for Brisbane 2004. By the time the Division hosted its third International Congress in Sydney in 2022, I had well and truly retired.

I am sure that the original group of 1973 that I was part of, could hardly have imagined that what we established then would survive, grow and be as successful as it is today.

Finally, I would like to thank you Priyanthi, our President, and Division members for indulging me with these reminiscences and for the Distinguished Pathologist honour which I truly cherish.