

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

President Report, May 2023

Fiona Maclean

On behalf of the executive, our organisers and convenors, and our secretariat staff I am honoured to extend a warm welcome to you to the 47th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) being held in Brisbane 26th-28th May 2023.

ASM 2023

This is our first full face-to-face conference since the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic and as such it also brings opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues once again. I encourage you to make the most of this conference by engaging with your fellow attendees, and sharing your own experiences, both professional and personal, to support each other as we move out of the pandemic. After the 2022 World Congress, which was in hybrid format, in which an external company (ICMS Australia) functioned as our professional conference organiser (PCO), we now move back to the usual arrangement with the ASM completely organised by our Secretariat staff. We are informed by our Honorary Treasurer Andrew Dettrick that although our division has undergone a deficit in the last few years secondary to decreased income due to the disrupted meetings over that period, our division stands financially stable. Please see his report for more details.

This year I am pleased to invite three stellar international keynote speakers, Xiaoyin “Sara” Jiang (Duke University, USA, speaking on **Cytology, head and neck and social media**), Jesse McKenney (Cleveland Clinic, **Uropathology**), and Christina Arnold (**Master Certified Professional Coach and former GI pathologist**). Christina 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 Nirmala Pathmanathan (Westmead Breast Cancer Institute, BreastScreen, and Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, **Breast pathology**) and the Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecturer is Benjamin Wood (PathWest, **Dermatopathology**).

I thank the Convenors of the Companion Clubs who have coordinated and arranged many superb speakers to participate in their sessions. The Friday of the meeting is always a well put together program incorporating local and international experts in their fields, as well as offering a forum for more junior pathologists and trainees to present. This year is no exception. I would like to thank each and every one of the speakers for taking time out of busy schedules to prepare and present during the course of this meeting.

I thank Ian Brown for coming forward to take the role of Abstract Convenor after Wendy Cooper retired from the post earlier this year. We have 45 Abstract submissions and posters this year, including 13 which have been selected as oral presentations during the companion sessions. I thank the Abstract review committee, comprised of Amanda Charlton, Julie Lokan

and Chris Toon for their support of Ian Brown and to our division. All Abstracts will be published in a forthcoming online volume of the journal Histopathology.

I am grateful to all our industry sponsors this year, particularly our Gold Sponsors Leica Biosystems and Sonic Healthcare (who are also the Sponsors of our Sunday Keynote Speaker and Master Class Session), our Friday Lunch Symposium Sponsor AstraZeneca, our two Silver Sponsors MSD Australia and Agilent Technologies, our 11 Bronze Sponsors - RCPAQAP, Fujifilm Australia, Recordati Rare Disease – Recordati Group, Merck, Civil Aviation Academy Australasia, Abacus dx, MDA National, AstraZeneca, Philips, Sectra, Veto Medical Technology and finally our two Trestle Table sponsors Australian Society of Cytology and Innovative Science Press whose financial support is critical for the success of this meeting. Thank you all! I look forward to expressing my thanks face to face during the course of the meeting.

In addition, I also thank Robin Cooke who has come forward to assist in taking photos at this event.

2023 DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGIST AWARD

Jane Dahlstrom was the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Pathologist Award.

This year the Distinguished Pathologist Award will go to Richard Scolyer for his enormous contribution to our division and the international Pathology community. Richard has been a member of our division's board for many years. He served as the President of our division from 2015-2017 and was also recognised in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Congratulations Richard!

As Richard will not be present physically at this meeting to accept his award on Sunday it will be presented to him virtually on that day.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Our division continues to provide financial assistance in the form of sponsorships for pathologists/registrars from developing countries to attend our Annual Scientific Meetings. For the upcoming meeting, five sponsorships have been offered.

The successful applicants are:

Keruma Lamese – Papua New Guinea

Seventeen Toumoua – Samoa

Dang Anh Thu Phan – Vietnam

Trung Nguyen Cong – Vietnam

Vilomena Ranadi – Fiji

I welcome these pathologists to Australia and hope they find our meeting rewarding with many useful takeaways that they can share when they return home.

NEW INITIATIVES TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

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. We are offering regular (monthly) zoom-based forums covering areas of interest to our members. This includes zoom sessions around financial well-being (held in 2022 and planning for a repeat session later this year), with sessions dealing with physical well-being (presented by a physiotherapist) and psychological well-being coming up. There have been sessions providing guidance in engaging in social media. In June we will be holding a session

titled “Mistakes and what to do when you make one” lead by Heather Hibberd who is the National Manager of Risk Services at MGA. In addition to these sessions, we have been holding Master class teaching session pitched towards trainees (with more senior pathologists welcome to attend!) with pearls and tips from subspecialist pathologists in various fields (Edwina Duhig – Ancillary testing in lung pathology (April ’23), Fiona Bonar – Approach to macroscopic management of orthopaedic/bone specimens (March ’23), Andrew Dettrick – The skin cancer epidemic (February ’23), Gelareh Farshid – Update on triple negative breast cancer (December ’22), and M. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe – Reporting of gastrointestinal cancer resections – what matters (September ’22). These presentations have been recorded and are available on our website to financial members of our division.

An inaugural “Women in Pathology” dinner has been initiated this year. In this first event held in Sydney prior to the ASM, one of our keynote speakers Xiaoyin “Sara” Jiang will be in attendance. Through this dinner (and those that come afterwards) we are hoping to encourage collegiality and support within our profession. Please note attendance at this dinner is not limited to women and is also not limited to pathologists – anyone who has an association with pathology and is interested in the topic is encouraged to attend.

We continue to offer an IAP Grant in support of pathology for medical schools in Australasia to broaden the engagement of medical students with anatomical pathology in our region. Grants open in March each year. We encourage medical students with interesting proposals to apply.

Our website has undergone major improvement to facilitate members to access not only educational materials from past Annual Scientific Meetings but also access to view past monthly Master Class Presentations. There is now facility to pay membership subscriptions online.

Please pass on the word about our division to all pathologists and registrars and encourage them to become members of our division.

2022 WORLD CONGRESS

The 2022 IAP International World Congress was a very successful meeting, with a majority of positive feedback from delegates. The recordings of the event are still available on-line. I thank the keynote speakers Professor Tan Puay Hoon (Singapore) and Professor Jason Hornick (USA), Nobel Prize recipient Professor Brian P Schmidt, and Professor Elizabeth Murchison for their enormous educational contribution to make the event so successful and enjoyable. The meeting was supported with input from IAP Central and our PCO ICMS Australia, as well as the local organising committee (Gelareh Farshid, Wendy Cooper and Anthony Gill, and myself together with our local secretariat, under the guidance of Congress Co-Presidents Jane Dahlstrom and Richard Scolyer). I would also like to acknowledge the work of Wendy Cooper in her role of abstract Committee chair and her review team as well as all the convenors of the specialty groups who put together such a well-rounded program.

The Congress website is open for post event registration for those who are interested in registering and accessing the virtual presentations. For more information please visit <https://iap2022.com/>.

2023 BOARD MEETINGS

We are now holding biannual board meetings. Last year our main Annual Board Meeting (ABM) for 2022 took place in May via zoom and we held an additional board meeting in October in conjunction with our IAP World Congress. This year our ABM occurs just prior to our ASM and our second board meeting is planned to be held in October.

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday the 28th of May 2023 from 12.00 to 12.30 PM at the Plaza Auditorium in conjunction with the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane. I would like to encourage members to attend this meeting.

At the AGM, we will propose some constitutional changes. Although most of the changes are just an update to the document to improve consistency, two major changes are being proposed.

1. We are adding a Regional Councillor to our team of 10 board members to improve representation of pathologists based in the regional areas. This proposal was agreed to by the Board at the last board meeting in October. The Regional Councillor vacancy will be advertised to our membership after the AGM once it is approved by our members.
2. For consistency all board members terms will be aligned to the same terms of appointment - to a maximum of 6 years in each role (including the Honorary Secretary and the Treasurer).

The membership will be able to vote for or against these changes at the upcoming AGM.

2024 and 2025 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The 2024 ASM will be held again at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 31/05/2024 - 2/06/2024. The 2025 ASM will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney from 30/05/2025 - 1/06/2025. M. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe will become President at the conclusion of the AGM and will have the opportunity of organising speakers for those meetings.

CONVENORS' ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Juan Oritz is stepping down as convenor of the Ophthalmic Pathology Club after the 2023 ASM at his request. We would like to thank him for his service to the division. The position of convenor will be advertised after the meeting.

Due to a change in our convenors' terms of reference in 2022 (to take into consideration years in which an ASM is not held, such as 2020 due to the Covid pandemic), none of our incumbents are completing their terms this year.

Wendy Cooper has however stepped down as Abstract Convenor and I would like to offer my thanks for the years she has spent in that role utilizing her expertise to ensure an efficient and streamlined process. Much of the success of the 2022 World Congress was due to her contribution through this role. Ian Brown has taken this role on prior to the 2023 ASM.

I would additionally like to thank Zaid Househ who has been our inaugural social media officer (shared role with Tristan Rutland) who has stepped down just prior to the 2023 ASM. He set up the Twitter account for the Australasian Division of the IAP, which he has curated over the last few years, with a high level of external engagement. Tristan will continue in this role.

I would also like to express my profuse thanks to Caroline Cooper who has stepped in at the last moment to convene the Cytology Club this year due to the sudden unexpected unavailability of Elisabeth Salisbury.

IAP SECRETARIAT

The IAP Secretariat office remains unchanged with our two office staff Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann working offsite from their virtual offices.

UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I will complete my term as President at the conclusion of the AGM and I welcome my successor, M. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe as the President for the period 2023-2025. I shall remain in the Executive as Immediate Past President for the next 2 years. The President-Elect vacancy was advertised to our membership recently and we received one nomination from Catriona McKenzie. The Executive Committee was pleased to receive interest from such a high calibre candidate, and we are certain that Catriona will be a real asset to our division. With no other nominations received, with the approval of our members, Catriona will be nominated as the President-Elect. Given the single nomination, an election is not held. She will be the President-Elect for 2023-2025 and President for 2025-2027. With this AGM, Jane Dahlstrom completes her term as Immediate Past President and retires from the board. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board Members, I thank Jane for her enormous input to our division. Her leadership as President during the immense challenges posed by the Covid pandemic was invaluable. She has also made an enormous contribution to our division and to the IAP globally in organising the 2022 World Congress along with co-Conference President Prof Richard Scolyer.

I am very thankful for the support I received from the Members of the IAP, the Executive (comprised of M. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe, Jane Dahlstrom, Alfred Lam, Andrew Dettrick and Gelareh Farshid) and Secretariat staff (Uma and Debbie) during my term as President over the last 2 years. Finally, I would like to express 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. With this I conclude my Presidency report.

Fiona Maclean

President (2021-2023)

Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology