

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

**President's Report, May 2024
Priyanthi Kumarasinghe**

On behalf of the executive team, our organizers, convenors, and secretariat staff, it is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you for the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP), being held in Brisbane from May 31st to June 2nd, 2024.

ASM 2024

This year, I am pleased to introduce our three international keynote speakers:

Professor Bruce M. Wenig (Chair and Senior Member, Dept of Pathology, Moffitt Cancer Center, USA) will be speaking on Endocrine and Head & Neck Surgical Pathology.

Professor Iris D. Nagtegaal (Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands) will be discussing Gastrointestinal (colorectal) Pathology.

Professor Fausto J. Rodriguez (Chief of Neuropathology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA) will cover Neuropathology.

Based on feedback from our members and convenors, we have made several changes to the traditional format of the program, in consultation with the executive team. Notably:

Companion Clubs: These popular sessions are now spread throughout the conference rather than concentrated on Friday.

Meet the Expert Sessions: These new sessions will allow close interactions with the keynote speakers and other experts.

Infectious Diseases Special Session: A dedicated session on this important topic has been added.

Pacific Island Forum: In response to enthusiastic requests, a special companion club for Pacific Island Pathologists will be held on Saturday.

To enhance convenience, the program is designed to conclude by lunchtime on Sunday.

Special Lectures and Master Classes

- **Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecture:** On Saturday, Dr. Amanda Charlton (LabPLUS, Department of Histopathology, Auckland City Hospital, Te Toka Tumai, Auckland, Aotearoa, New Zealand) will present Pattern Recognition, Diagnostic Reasoning, and Cognitive Bias.
- **Saturday Master Class:** Professor Fausto J. Rodriguez will lead a session on the Diagnostic Pathology of Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors.
- **Sunday Master Class:** Dr. S. Ming Chai (PathWest Laboratory Medicine, Fiona Stanley Hospital, QEII Medical Centre, and Royal Perth Hospital) will present Oh, the Places You'll Go with Cytology!

I hope these changes will add both value and convenience to the participants.

I sincerely thank all the convenors who have organized fantastic presentations. Special thanks to Abstract Convenor Dr. Ian Brown and the Abstract Review Committee: Amanda Charlton, John Nicholls, Julie Lokan, and King Tan.

We have 51 abstract submissions and posters this year, including 13 selected as oral presentations during the companion sessions. 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 Sponsor Leica Biosystems. Thanks to our Silver Sponsors Abacus DX, Agilent Technologies and AstraZeneca, our Bronze Sponsors Fujifilm, MSD, RCPAQAP, Sectra, Philips, Labflow, Sysmex and Australian Instrument Services and our Table Top Sponsors the Australian Society of Cytology and Innovative Science Press. Special thanks to our Poster Zone Sponsor Sonic Healthcare, and Evident Technologies for kindly supplying the microscope for our Meet the Expert sessions.

I extend my gratitude to all the above Sponsors and Exhibitors, whose financial support is critical for the success of this meeting.

Thank you once again for your support and participation.

2024 Distinguished Pathologist Award

The criteria for the Distinguished Pathologist Award were formalized, and board members were invited to make nominations accordingly. I am pleased to announce that Professor Wendy Cooper and Emeritus Professor Keith Shilkin

are this year's recipients. They have provided outstanding service to our division and the field of Anatomical Pathology.

2024 Bursaries

Our division continues to provide bursaries for pathologists and registrars from developing countries to attend our Annual Scientific Meetings. For the upcoming meeting, three sponsorships have been awarded. The successful applicants are:

- Anthony Amof from Papua New Guinea
- Hans Kelly Nogua from Papua New Guinea
- Sumida Tiwari from Nepal

I welcome these pathologists to Australia and hope they find our meeting rewarding.

2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2025 ASM will be held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney from Friday, May 30th, to Sunday, June 1st, 2025. An exciting program is already in the works, featuring world-renowned experts who will share their insights and expertise.

2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

Catriona McKenzie, who will assume the Presidency at the conclusion of the AGM in 2025, has decided to hold the 2026 ASM at the Brisbane Convention Centre from Friday, May 29th, to Sunday, May 31st, 2026. She will be organising the speakers for that meeting.

2024 Board Meetings

We continue to hold biannual board meetings. Our next board meeting will take place in October this year via Zoom, and the date will be notified to board members shortly.

2024 Annual General Meeting

Our 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2nd, from 11:25 to 11:55 AM at the Plaza Auditorium, in conjunction with the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane. I encourage all members to attend this meeting.

At this AGM, we will propose the following constitutional change:

- The term **Director (Regional Australia)** will be changed to **Director (Regional Australia and New Zealand)** to include representation of pathologists based in the regional areas of New Zealand.

The membership will be able to vote for or against this change at the upcoming AGM.

Monthly Master Classes

Our regular Zoom-based Monthly Master Classes have been very successful among our members, with wide attendance. These forums are complimentary to our division's financial members and are recorded and available on our website for access anytime.

Since our last Annual Board Meeting in 2023, we have held nine such forums:

- June 2023 – Heather Hibberd: “Mistakes and What to Do When You Make One.”
- July 2023 – A/Prof Kais Kasem: “Creating Engaging Online Content for Your Students and Registrars.”
- August 2023 – A/Prof Kenneth Lee: “An Approach to Diagnosing Common Lymphomas.
- September 2023 – Prof Beena Kumar: “Molecular Techniques Have Revolutionized Our Approach to Brain Tumors – Case Studies and Lessons Learnt.”
- October 2023 - Christina Arnold, MD, Expert Certified Coach & Physician Mom: "Happy in Medicine"
- November 2023 - A/Prof Catriona McKenzie: "A Pattern-Based Approach to Medical Liver Biopsies"
- February 2024 - A/Prof Elizabeth Salisbury: "A Modern Approach to Assessing, Diagnosing, and Reporting Serous Effusion Cytology"
- March 2024 - Prof Deborah Saltman: "Seven Skills of Effective Leaders"
- April 2024 - Dr. Daniel Wong: "Common Soft Tissue Problems for Non-Soft Tissue Pathologists"

We have more forums lined up for the coming months and encourage convenors and speakers to contact our Honorary Secretary, Prof. Alfred Lam, if interested in presenting. Please spread the word about these classes to all registrars in your workplace and encourage them to become members of our division.

IAP Grant

We continue to offer an IAP Grant to support pathology education for medical schools in Australasia, aiming to engage medical students with anatomical pathology in our region.

2023 IAP Grant was awarded to a student from Sydney Medical School for his project "Pathoquest," a mobile application/game to help medical students learn and review anatomical pathology in a fun and engaging way. He received AUD \$1000 to complete the project by July 2, 2024.

Applications for the 2024 Grants opened in March and will remain open until May 24, 2024. All applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and the successful recipient will be notified.

Upcoming Changes in the Executive and Board of Directors

We have been notified by IAP Central that Prof. Gelareh Farshid's two-year term as Director (IAP Central Executive Council Representative) is ending this year. With the Executive Committee's approval, we have requested IAP Central to renominate her for a further two years, as she has shown interest in continuing. We thank her for her services. It is planned to align the duration of this position to a maximum of six years to align with other board position terms. This will be discussed at the upcoming board meeting, and if agreed, a constitutional change will be proposed at the AGM in 2025.

Dr. Michael Hitchcock has recently resigned from his role as NZ Councillor. On behalf of the Executive Committee and Board Members, I thank Michael for his enormous contribution to our division. The position was advertised to our membership and we have received one nomination which has been tabled at this Board meeting. The applicant if successful will act as an Interim Director until AGM 2025, during which she will be formally nominated by the members.

Dr Ingrid Fewings has also resigned from her role as Trainee Representative as she is not a registrar anymore and has become a qualified Pathologist. . The position will be advertised to our membership and will be filled soon. Again on behalf of the Board, I thank Ingrid for her valuable contribution to our division.

AGM 2025 Updates

The AGM 2025 brings about significant changes within our division:

- My two-year tenure as President will conclude after the AGM 2025, and Catriona McKenzie will assume this position.
- Fiona Maclean will leave the Board, creating a vacancy for the President-Elect role, which will be advertised to our membership before the AGM 2025.
- Alfred Lam will conclude his six-year term as Honorary Secretary at the AGM 2025, and this role will also be advertised to our membership before the AGM.

Convenors' Acknowledgements

There will be several changes in the convenors' positions following ASM 2024:

- Louise Jackett will step down as convenor of the Dermatopathology Pathology Club, while Jennifer Kim will continue in her role.
- Wendy Raymond will step down as convenor of the Breast Club, with Ben Dessauvagie taking over the role.
- Elizabeth Salisbury will step down as convenor of the FNA/Orell Cytology Pathology Club, and the convenor position will be advertised after the meeting.
- Both convenors of the Gynaecology club, Marsali Newman and Kerryn Ireland-Jenkin, will step down, and the convenor position will be advertised after the meeting.
- Both convenors of the Gastrointestinal club, Caroline Cooper and Joo-shik Shin, will step down, and the convenor position will be advertised after the meeting.
- Tristan Rutland, our Social Media Volunteer, is stepping down due to personal reasons. We thank him for his contributions and invite members well-versed in social media to apply for this role.

IAP Secretariat

The IAP Secretariat office remains unchanged, with Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann working offsite from their virtual offices. Considering the increasing workload during the ASM, a casual was hired to assist.

I am immensely thankful for the support received from the Members of the IAP, the Executive, and Secretariat staff during my term as President. Finally, I express my gratitude to the membership of the Australasian Division of IAP. Without your support, our division would not be able to meet its mission of advancing Anatomical Pathology through educational exchanges.

I hope to see all of you and many more in Sydney next year to learn, network, and celebrate advances in the field of anatomical pathology.

Warm regards,

M Priyanthi Kumarasinghe.

President (2024-2026)

Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology