

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT – PROFESOR C. SOON LEE

Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting is the 39th for the Australasian Division of the IAP, and for the second time in its history, the meeting is held out of Sydney, at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC). However, for many years the format of the meeting has been a tremendous success and this has essentially remained the same this year.

There have been three invited international speakers who have covered liver, melanocytic and neuropathology. The third invited speaker, Professor Greg Fuller, has been successfully nominated by Dr Pater Robbins on behalf of the Neuropathology Companion Club. Professor Fuller and has delivered the plenary lecture on neuropathology on Friday. The lecture was entitled “Practical approach to intraoperative consultation for brain and spinal cord biopsies“. He has also contributed to the Sunday morning Master Class.

On Saturday 1 June 2014, there has been concurrent sessions on liver pathology and neuropathology. Professor Neil Theise, who has a strong background in liver surgical pathology and basic science research, has presented the lectures that has reflected his diagnostic and research expertise entitled ““Beyond grading and staging: liver biopsy assessment in chronic hepatitis” and “Understanding cancer stem cells”. Greg Fuller, in conjunction with the Australian New Zealand Society for Neuropathology, has run the concurrent Neuropathology Symposium. A/Professor Wendy Cooper and Dr Annabelle Mahar have conducted the Master Class on lung pathology. In addition, the Vince McGovern Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Sunil Lakhani on Saturday.

On Sunday, Professor Klaus Busam presented the session on melanocytic pathology in the usual format with a slide seminar and two lectures entitled “Melanocytic proliferations of chronically sun-damaged skin” and “Blue nevi and blue nevus-like melanomas”.

I thank Prof Richard Scolyer who has once again coordinated the poster sessions. I am also grateful to the RCPA and Professor Brett Delahunt for their support in publishing the poster abstracts in the journal “Pathology”.

The Companion Clubs continue evolve with the robust sharing of expert knowledge amongst pathologists from within Australasia. Some the Clubs have now achieved status as local chapters of international societies. The Executive of the Division has taken a keen interest to assist the Clubs to continue their developments with Professor Jane Dahlstrom chairing the first meeting with the Club Convenors on Friday.

The indefatigable Robin Cook has again prepared the outstanding quality colour handouts for the slide seminars in conjunction with the guest speakers. On behalf of the board and members of the IAP, I thank Robin for his contributions and for his editorship of the Australasian and International IAP newsletters.

The 2014 Robin Cooke Medal for service to the IAP has been awarded to Jan McLean for her sustained efforts as IAP Administrator over 20 years. Jan has recently retired from her position at the beginning of 2014. All the Board Members joined me to congratulate Jan personally during the President's lunch on Saturday.

The 2014 Distinguished Pathologist Award was presented to Prof Dominic Spagnolo for his outstanding local and international contributions over many years to lymphoma pathology and our Division of the IAP.

APIAP

In 2015, the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of our Division will be held as a combined meeting with the **Assembly of Asia Pacific of the IAP (APIAP)**. In addition, the Histotechnology Groups from various states will hold a concurrent meeting in collaboration with our Division of the IAP and negotiations on the financial issues are currently on-going. The ASM will span over 4 days, and again will be held in Brisbane, from Thursday, 4 June to Sunday, 7 June 2015. The programme, which is being finalised, is organised by Dr Linda Shen, Dr Sam Boros and Prof Robin Cooke. The confirmed invited plenary speakers for this meeting are Dr Eduardo Calonje (UK), Dr John Chan (Hong Kong) and Dr Esther Oliva (USA).

ASM Venues

As the Sydney Convention Centre is undergoing renovations and will not be unavailable until 2017, the combined 2015 ASM with the APIAP meeting will again be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The President-Elect, Prof Richard Scolyer and I, are currently exploring other options for the 2016 meeting. We will be considering having the meeting either at the Melbourne Convention Centre or bringing the meeting back to Sydney at another venue such as the Sydney Hilton Hotel.

IAP Secretariat and Accommodation

The last 4 months saw a number of important changes in the Secretariat of the Academy. Following a dedicated service to the Australasian Division of the IAP, and over a period of more than 20 years, Jan McLean has retired as the Administrator at the end of February this year. Along with the many Presidents and Executive Members of the Division in the past, she has in many ways assisted to shape the Australasian Division of the IAP of today. Uma Subramanian has been recently appointed to

replace Jan McLean. On behalf of the Board, I thank Jan McLean for her dedicated services to the IAP and wish her well for her retirement.

For over 20 years, the IAP Secretariat has been physically located in the RCPA buildings, “The Terraces” in Albion Street, Surry Hills. Following the recent renovations, the space that has been offered for our use is now not much more than a desk. However, the cost of having the office at the RCPA is becoming prohibitively high. Following consultation with the Executive, we have decided to move out of the RCPA, at least temporarily with the IAP Secretariat working offsite – ie a virtual office with staff working from home. Future correspondences to the Secretariat will be a PO Box address.

IT support is currently being developed and significant changes will be made to the current **website** of our Division to increase its functionality for the membership in the future to include access to educational materials, electronic copies of the Newsletter, payments of membership subscriptions and annual scientific meeting registrations. More importantly, the IT functionality will include provision of access to the server for the Executive team, probably through a programme known as Sharepoint. This development will ensure that the Executive is always intimately informed of current developments at the Secretariat, corporate knowledge and above all, copies of all important administrative documents. Previously, we were confronted by the disaster of losing a lot of the financial records when an old computer, where all of this information was kept, crashed.

We will also be engaging an accountant on a sessional basis to deal with payroll and annual auditing, which on preliminary enquiries will result in very significant cost savings.

Changes in the Executive and Board of Directors

Our current Treasurer, Dr Jan Kencian, and the State Councillor for Victoria, Dr Catherine Mitchell, are stepping down from their positions at the end of this Annual General Meeting. On behalf of the Board, I take this opportunity to thank both Jan Kencian and Catherine Mitchell for their contributions to the IAP.

I would like to welcome Dr Trishe Leong and Professor Richard Williams who are nominated to be the next Treasurer and next Victorian State Councillor respectively.

Outreach and Engagement with Fiji

Our Division’s support for postgraduate training and education in Surgical Pathology in the **South Pacific region** is continued through the dedicated services of Professor Jane Dahlstrom and A/Professor Raghwa Sharma. In addition, our Division has continued to provide financial assistance

in the form of sponsorships for pathologists/registrars from Fiji to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting. For 2014, five sponsorships have been offered. The successful applicants are:

Dr Lusiana Boseiwaqa

Dr Litia Trudavau

Dr Abha Gupta

Dr Virsila Ciri

Dr James Kalougivaki

Constitutional Matters

The present constitutional arrangements for the Division in the form of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Australasian Division of the IAP refer to the Companies Act 1981. The latter legislation is no longer current, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association no longer reflect the position under the current legislation (i.e. the Corporations Act 2001). Our lawyers have advised that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Australasian Division of the IAP (ADIAP) will need to be amended under the Corporations Act 2001 to form a new Constitution to ensure that they remain consistent with the different member types. The change from the Memorandum and Articles of Association to a new Constitution are put forward as an agenda item for voting by the membership at this Annual General Meeting.. Full details of the proposed Constitution have been emailed to the membership prior to the meeting and I thank all members who have attended to vote.

Office Bearers and Structure of the Australasian Division IAP Board

As foreshadowed by my predecessor, A/Prof David Ellis, the Executive comprising the Secretary, Treasurer, President, Past President and President elect have reviewed and monitored the direction of the Australasian Division. The Executive has decided that the current structure of the Board with a new incumbent taking over as president of the Australasian Division every second year, the two years of presidential incumbency do not provide sufficient time to consider strategic planning and implement change. The Executive is now advising the Board to consider the appointments of a Vice President and a Senior Vice President in its future structure. The intention is to provide stability of leadership and carry-over of corporate knowledge by having the Office of President held by automatic progression through the offices of Vice President, and followed by Senior Vice President. The election process of these positions occurs only at the juncture of the office of Vice President. Hence, the Vice President and Senior Vice President effectively function as the presidents-elect for 2 terms subsequent to the sitting President. The current proposed Constitution has not yet included a Senior Vice President – it has a Vice President who effective functions as a “Senior” Vice President/President-Elect. Our lawyers have advised us that this proposed structure cannot be put into

the proposed Constitution at the moment – we need to have a Constitution first. The proposal can be put to the Membership in the future at the 2015 AGM for voting.

It is my sincere wish that the many changes that the Executive have implemented and further changes that are planned for the future will be supported by the Board and Membership with the primary objective of responding to future challenges with new initiatives while improving the Division's core activities.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, I thank our sponsors and trade exhibitors, in particular DAKO, who has been our Platinum Sponsor for 2014. I am also personally thankful to the Office Bearers and Secretariat Staff of this Division.

C Soon Lee

President

May/June, 2014