

## **President's Report to the Membership 2015.**

### **Annual Scientific Meeting/APIAP Congress**

This year, the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of our Division is held as a combined meeting with the **Assembly of Asia Pacific of the IAP (APIAP)** as the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology Congress. As we draw closer to the conclusion of the Congress, I would like to note and thank the three invited international keynote speakers Dr Eduardo Calonje (UK), Dr John Chan (Hong Kong) and Dr Esther Oliva (USA), and the Vince McGovern lecturer, Prof Paul Waring whose outstanding presentations are much appreciated by the delegates. I thank the Convenors of the Companion Clubs and Specialty Societies, who had coordinated and arranged for many superb local and international speakers to present in their sessions. I am most grateful to the Brisbane organising committee, particularly Dr Linda Shen, who has made this Congress possible. In addition, Prof Robin Cook has assisted to coordinate the slide seminars in conjunction with the guest speakers.

The Distinguished Pathologist Medal for 2015 is awarded to Professor Sunil Lakhani, who is an internationally renowned breast pathologist and researcher. Professor Lakhani was trained in pathology in the United Kingdom and was Professor of Breast Cancer Pathology at Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, ICR & the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK prior to his appointment as Professor and Head of Molecular and Cellular Pathology at the University of Queensland in 2004. Currently, Professor Lakhani is also the State Director of Anatomical Pathology, Pathology Queensland, and the Head of Breast Group and Theme Leader for Cancer, UQ Centre for Clinical Research.

We have a record number of 138 posters this year and much of the success of this part of the Congress is attributed to Prof Richard Scolyer and A/Prof Gelareh Farshid. This will be the last year Professor Scolyer convenes this session. As of next year, A/Prof Farshid will take over the role of Convenor of Poster Scientific Session. I am grateful to the RCPA and Professor Brett Delahunt for their support in publishing the poster abstracts in the journal "Pathology".

Lastly, I am grateful to our industry sponsors particularly DAKO, Leica, Roche and Thermo, as well as Pathology Queensland and the Queensland Government, whose financial support is critical for the success of this meeting.

### **ASM Venues**

As the Sydney Convention Centre is undergoing renovations and will not be unavailable until 2017, the President-Elect, Prof Richard Scolyer and I, have investigated other options for the 2016 meeting. It is decided that the 2016 ASM will again be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. We are still exploring options for the 2017 ASM, and it is likely that it will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

### **Outreach and Engagement**

Our Division continues to support postgraduate training and education in Surgical Pathology in the **South Pacific region** 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 developing countries to attend the APIAP Congress. For 2015, nine sponsorships have been offered. The successful applicants are:

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Felipe	Templo Jr	PHILIPPINES
Upik A	Miskad	INDONESIA
Sushmitha	Malpe Gopal	INDIA
Gerelee	Khatanbaatar	MONGOLIA
Ashish	Lakhey	LALITPUR
Zafar	Ali	PAKISTAN
Thang	Tran	VIETNAM
Navarasi S Raja	Gopal	MALAYSIA
Ponnu	Ramaswamy	FIJI

### **IAP Secretariat**

The last 6-9 months saw major changes in the Secretariat of our Division. The IAP Secretariat has been relocated and is no longer within the RCPA buildings, "The Terraces" in Albion Street, Surry Hills. The IAP Secretariat is currently offsite with a virtual office, until new office accommodation is found.

The new **website** of our Division was launched on 22 September 2014. The functionality of the website has been a major improvement with access for the membership to educational materials, electronic copies of the Newsletter, payments of membership subscriptions and possible future annual scientific meeting registrations.

Staff changes over the last 12 months include resignation of Rayleen Jovanovic who has recently been replaced by Debbie Suann.

### **Changes in the Executive and Board of Directors**

Due to the confusion with the position of Vice President of our Division and the position of Vice President of the Australasia Region representing the International Council of the IAP, we have been advised to make a minor adjustment to the Constitution of our Division. The membership has been requested to vote for the change of the title of Vice President of our Division to President-Elect at the upcoming AGM.

Dr Peter Bethwaite has been nominated as Vice President with no other nominations received, and hence no elections are required. He will therefore be President-Elect for 2015-2017 and President for 2017-2019. A/Prof David Ellis completes his term as Immediate Past President but will remain in the Executive as Vice President for the Australasia Region representing the International Council of the IAP.

I will complete my term as President at the next AGM and I welcome my successor, Professor Richard Scolyer as the President for the period 2015-2017. I shall remain in the Executive as Immediate Past President.

I confess that I have not anticipated some of the challenges I faced during my presidency, particularly with the constitutional issues, the uncertainty of attendance with holding the meeting in Brisbane, working with a completely new Secretariat, moving out of the RCPA building and terminating the RCPA administration of our financial records. The latter is essential if we are to remain an independent company entity and to comply with ASIC regulations.

I am thankful for the support I received from the Members of the IAP, the Executive and Secretariat especially Uma Subramanian, whose superior organising skills and patience with me over the last 1-2 years have made my presidency possible. I hope the tasks I have undertaken during my term as President over the last 2 years have met the expectations of the Membership.

C Soon Lee

President

June, 2015