

## **President's Report to the Board of Directors 2016.**

### **Annual Scientific Meeting**

In 2015, the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of our Division was 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 and the Australian Histotechnology Society and attracted over 1200 delegates. This year, our 40<sup>th</sup> ASM reverted to its usual tried and tested format and will be held in Brisbane for the third straight year. In addition, this year marks the first year in which we have organised the entire ASM from within our IAP office without the assistance of an external conference organiser. This has created new challenges and opportunities and I am particularly grateful to our secretariat Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann for their tireless work to make this happen. At the time of writing this report, there are more than 450 registrants. I like to note and thank the three invited international keynote speakers Prof John Goldblum (USA), Dr Ricardo Lloyd (USA) and Prof Adrienne Flanagan (UK), the Vince McGovern lecturer, Prof Fiona Bonar and the Master's Class presenters Prof Adrienne Flanagan and Dr Graeme Taylor.

I also sincerely thank the Convenors of the Companion Clubs and Specialty Societies for all their hard work to coordinate their respective sessions and for arranging for many superb speakers to present. I also thank those members who have volunteered to speak at this year's meeting. As a reminder, if any members would like to present at any of our companion club meetings in 2017, please feel free to reach out to the relevant companion club convener to volunteer.

The Distinguished Pathologist Medal for 2016 is awarded to Professor Michael Bilous who has made extraordinary contributions to the fields of breast pathology, breast screening and HER2 assessment over the past 30 years.

This year we have had 59 posters and I am most grateful to A/Prof Gelareh Farshid who this year has taken over the role of Convenor of Poster Scientific Session. I also would like to extend my appreciation to the RCPA and Professor Brett Delahunt for their support in publishing the poster abstracts in the journal "Pathology". I would also like to thank A/Prof Farshid and other members of the abstract judging committee A/Prof Trishe Leong, Dr Annabelle Mahar and A/Prof Wendy Cooper for their work in reviewing and judging the abstracts.

Lastly, I am grateful to the support we have received from Pathology Queensland (through the Study, Education and Research Committee) /Queensland Health and our industry sponsors particularly our platinum sponsor Bristol-Myer-Squibb, gold sponsor Leica Biosystems and silver sponsors Abacus ALS, RCPA/RCPA QAP, and Dako, and indeed all of our sponsors, whose financial support is critical for the success of this meeting. This year, we have introduced Lunch and Breakfast symposia for the first time and I would like to thank Bristol-Myer-Squibb and Merck, Sharpe and Dohme for sponsoring these sessions.

### **Future Annual Scientific Meetings**

The Sydney International Convention Centre is due to reopen in late 2016 and our 2017 ASM will be held there. The international key note speakers in 2017 will be Dr Jason Hornick (USA- surgical and soft tissue pathology), Dr Marisa Nucci (USA- gynaecological pathology) and Dr Alex Lazar (USA- molecular pathology). At this stage, it is envisaged that future ASMs beyond 2017 will be held back in Sydney but I will work with President-Elect, Dr Peter Bethwaite, and other members of the Executive to make a considered analysis when additional details regarding costs and logistics of holding the meeting in this new venue are clearer.

### **Outreach Programs and Regional Engagement**

Our Division continues to support postgraduate training and education in Surgical Pathology in the South Pacific region. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Pathology Symposium was held in Fiji in May 2016. I would particularly like to thank our honorary secretary Professor Jane Dahlstrom and Asia-Pacific IAP VP A/Prof David Ellis as well as A/Professor Raghwa Sharma for their significant contributions. As well as providing financial support to the meeting, our Division has also provided bursaries as support for members of the Australasian Division to participate in the teaching program.

In addition, our Division has continued to provide financial assistance in the form of sponsorships for pathologists/registrars from developing countries to attend our ASM. For 2016, four pathologists from Pakistan, Fiji, and the Philippines are attending our meeting as the successful applicants of our bursary program.

Our division has also made significant contributions to the Asia-Pacific IAP division, the Indonesian division of the IAP (for assistance in conducting the Asia-Pacific IAP meeting in Bali in April 2017), for the provision of 5 bursaries for pathologists from developing countries to attend to the World Congress of the IAP in Cologne in September 2016 and will sponsor a pathologist from a developing

country/underserved region to attend the Bali Asia-Pacific IAP meeting. Many members of our Division are also contributing to the organisation and conduct of the Bali Asia-Pacific IAP meeting and I encourage all members to support this.

### **International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting**

In 2015, the Board supported the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting to assist in the development and implementation of internationally standardised and evidenced based data sets for pathology reporting of cancer, particularly because the datasets are made available to under resourced countries and they represent a useful educational resource. Honorary Treasurer A/Prof Trishe Leong has been representing the Division on the ICCR Data Steering Committee and as President, I have been representing the Division on the ICCR Board.

### **Bid to host the World Congress of the IAP in Sydney in 2022**

Following a transparent process, Sydney was selected to be put forward to represent our division in the bid to host the World Congress of the IAP in 2022. 2022 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Australasian division and the executive considers that hosting the World Congress would be a fitting way to cap off the celebrations marking this milestone. Prof Jane Dahlstrom is nominated as the Chair of the Scientific Organising Committee and I have been nominated as proposed Congress President and we will present our bid in Cologne in September 2016 at the World Congress. Our bid is being supported by the New South Wales Government through Business Events Sydney.

### **IAP Secretariat**

The IAP Secretariat remains housed in a virtual office with a PO Box for receiving mail. The current arrangement began in 2014 when the secretariat moved out of the RCPA premises in Surry Hills and has provided the secretariat with more independence and appears to be working well.

The website of our Division, relaunched on a new platform in late 2014, has improved functionality providing our membership with access to educational materials, electronic copies of the Newsletter, payments of membership subscriptions and annual scientific meeting materials. In 2016, all ASM educational materials are available online to registered delegates.

Following the 2015 ASM, the executive made the decision to organise the 2016 ASM entirely internally (without the assistance of an external conference organiser). This has been a challenging task

particularly for our secretariat Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann. I would particularly like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work that they have done to ensure the success of our meeting.

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

IAP Asia-Pacific Regional Vice President Associate Prof David Ellis signalled his intention to resign from this position at the World Congress of the IAP in Cologne in September 2016 when his term expires.

Honorary Secretary Prof Jane Dahlstrom has signalled her intention to resign from her current position following the World Congress in Cologne in September 2016.

On behalf of all current and former members of the Executive, Past Presidents, Secretariat and indeed all members of the Australasian division of the IAP, I would personally like to thank both Jane and David for their major contributions to the continued success and stability of our division over many years. Jane is also making major contributions to the IAP, through the executive of International Council of IAP Central and she will become chair of the Education Committee following the Cologne World Congress. She will also remain as chair of the scientific organising committee of our bid to host the World Congress of the IAP in Sydney in 2022.

Members of our division are welcome to nominate for the position of honorary Secretary.

A/Prof Trishe Leong remains as honorary Treasurer and I'm grateful to her for the support she provides to our division and for providing the financial statements which underpin our activities.

Dr Peter Bethwaite continues as President-Elect and will become President for 2017-2019.

Prof Soon Lee remains on the executive as Immediate Past President.

I thank all members of the executive and the board for their commitment and support.

Dr Peter Jessup has been nominated to become the Tasmanian Councillor on the IAP board.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, I thank our sponsors and trade exhibitors, particularly Pathology Queensland (through the Study, Education and Research Committee) /Queensland Health and our platinum sponsor Bristol-Myer-Squibb for 2016 for their support. I would also personally like to thank the executive, office bearers, and Secretariat staff of our division for their hard work, commitment and support.

Richard A Scolyer

President

June, 2016