

President's Report to the Divisional IAP Annual General Meeting Meeting 2019

1) Annual Scientific Meetings

2018

Our 42st ASM, again at the ICC Sydney, was very successful meeting both in terms of the programme and the financial viability of the meeting. The meeting attracted 549 total attendees [including sponsors and complimentary registrations] and generated a net profit of \$112,601 for the Division. We welcomed Lester Thomson [USA, Head and Neck Pathology], David Grignon [USA, Urologic Pathology] and Rhonda Yantiss [USA, GI Pathology] as our headline acts for 2018 and additionally Elizabeth Salisbury as our Vincent McGovern orator and Anthony Gill as masterclass presenter. The new ICC spaces again brought its challenges and we are hoping that using a different gallery space will bring improvements for this year's meeting.

2019

Our 43rd meeting is again in the ICC Sydney and is once more very ably supported by our in-house staff Uma and Debbie. We welcomed Ian Ellis (UK, Breast Pathology), Glen McCluggage (UK, Gynaecological Pathology) and Rajiv Patel (USA, Dermatopathology / soft tissue pathology) as our headline acts and additionally are delighted to have Wendy Cooper as our Vincent McGovern orator and Priyanthi Kumarasinghe as masterclass presenter. Registration numbers as I write this are healthy at 474 total attendees to date. Considerable thanks again must go to the Convenors of the Companion Clubs and Specialty Societies for producing a full, diverse and comprehensive Friday programme and to all those speakers, international and local, who contribute to these sessions. I am again grateful to Alfred Lam for overseeing of the Abstract/Poster Scientific Session, to the RCPA and Professor Brett Delahunt for their support in publishing the poster abstracts in the journal "Pathology", and the members of the abstract/poster judging committee of Alfred Lam, Bastiaan De Boer, Annabelle Mahar, Gordon Wright, John Nicholls, Kais Kasem, Amanda Charlton and David Moffat for contributing to this aspect of our ASM.

Future Meetings

Our 2020 meeting will take place at the Brisbane Convention Centre in June next year under the direction of incoming divisional President Jane Dahlstrom. Speakers will include Daniela Massi (Italy-melanocytic pathology), Laurence De Leval (Belgium – haematopathology) and Pieter Wesseling (Netherlands – neuropathology). We are hopeful that the 2021 meeting, which will take place in Sydney, will be a conjoint meeting with the histotechnologists. Our previous combined meeting with this group in Brisbane at the APIAP meeting was successful and we are hopeful that a further combined meeting will be a win / win for both organisations. 2022 will see our Division host the XXXIV International Congress of the IAP in Sydney in October and this meeting will replace our normal June ASM that year.

2) Work Programme

The work programme for the Division for the next year will continue to be a full one and is likely to concentrate on further planning for the 2022 Congress as well as the 2020 meeting in Brisbane and working with the histotechnologists to agree a potential strategy for a conjoint meeting in 2021.

While our annual meetings continue to be well supported in an increasingly crowded market, the low attendance by pathology trainees, presumably due to the temporal proximity of our meetings to the College exam cycle, continues to be an ongoing concern and we need to consider strategies to improve this situation.

3) Awards

It is with pleasure that Professor Robert “Bob” Eckstein will receive the Distinguished Pathologist Medal for 2019 at this year’s meeting. Bob is out of Australia at present and Anthony Gill will receive the medal on his behalf at the meeting. Bob’s service to pathology, pathology education and the IAP has been exceptional having been a convenor and active participant in virtually all Australasian meetings over the last 38 years with highlights including his term as a chair of the scientific programme and Vice President of Congress for the 25th International Meeting held in Brisbane in 2004 and his terms as President of the Australasian Division from 2001-2003 and Vice President of the IAP representing the Australasian Division internationally from 2005-2012.

4) XXXIV International Congress of the IAP, Sydney 2022

Planning is well advanced for this 9 – 14 October 2022 meeting which represents a major highlight in the life of our Division. The organisation for the meeting is in the hands a small group led by Richard Scolyer with the scientific programme being overseen by Jane Dahlstrom – already a wide array of international speakers have committed to present at the meeting. We have chosen an excellent Sydney-based company to act as the professional conference organisers for the meeting and we will be working towards a major promotion of our meeting at the 2020 IAP Congress in Glasgow next year.

5) Outreach Programs and Regional Engagement

Our Division has continued to provide financial assistance in the form of bursaries for pathologists/registrars from developing countries to attend our ASM. For 2019, we have hosted 3 pathologists from Philippines, Malaysia and Solomon Islands this weekend.

6) Executive, Board of Directors and IAP Secretariat

With this report I conclude my two year tenure as President of the Division; it has been a great privilege to serve the IAP in this role and I am hugely grateful to the support given me during this time by the Board and especially the executive members and also by Uma and Debbie who have made the job much less onerous. The Division is in excellent hands with the incoming President Jane Dahlstrom and it is more than overdue for us to model the real world of pathology and be more gender balanced in our leadership. Jane is a great internationalist and ambassador for this Division and her involvement with World IAP and on the scientific organising committee for the Sydney 2022 International Congress marries well with her new local role

Gelareh Farshid has quickly made herself indispensable in the role of Honorary Treasurer and has been an excellent addition to the executive. Richard Scolyer has been a wise head on the executive and a great voice of reason and, while his term as Past-President has now expired, we are delighted that he will continue ex-officio on the executive as chair of the 2022 World Congress organising committee and as this divisions International Vice-President .

I was saddened when Fiona Maclean had to relinquish her role as Honorary Secretary late last year due to other commitments given the excellent counsel, great energy and enthusiasm she brought to the position however it is most pleasing to see she has put her name forward for the role of President Elect. We were very fortunate that Esther Myint agreed to step into the interim Secretary position. It is not easy to hit the ground running in such a key role in the Division but Esther took up the challenge and has been very successful. I had hoped Esther would have considered standing formally for the role, however she is heavily committed in her position with the College and couldn't be persuaded.

The executive also farewelled Trishe Leong this year as she took on the new role as Honorary Secretary for the RCPA and her place as International Vice President Australasia has been taken up by Richard Scolyer.

Thanks are due to our regional Directors who serve on the Board and who promote the activities of the Division in their own regions and help us to continually grow our membership and support base. All such Directors are eligible for re-nomination to their positions for a further two-year term.

The beating heart of the Division remains our permanent secretariat staff Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann. Yet again they have worked hard to secure ongoing sponsorship for our ASM and their prudent financial management of our activities ensures we live well within our means and oftentimes produce a profit from our ASM. Their skilful planning and organisation for our annual meetings has obviated the need for us to employ a costly outside conference management organisation.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to all who offer service to the Division; such voluntary roles are becoming harder as employers are less willing to allow staff time for these unpaid pursuits and finding space in our increasingly work-crowded days for voluntary service can be problematic.

Peter Bethwaite

Wellington May 2019