

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2017

Members,

As President of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology, I shall table my report as follows:

Annual Scientific Meetings

In 2016, our 40th ASM was held in Brisbane for the third consecutive year. 2016 was the first year in which the entire ASM was organised from within our IAP office without the assistance of an external conference organiser. The strategic decision of the Executive to do this was not without risk but with the change in the IAP Administration staff we considered 2016 to be the ideal opportunity to trial organising the meeting "in-house". Whilst this created new challenges, it also provided new opportunities and together with the Executive, I am particularly proud of its success. I am especially grateful to our administrative and secretariat staff Uma Subramanian and Debbie Suann for their tireless work to make this happen and the outstanding success of the meeting both scientifically and financially is in no small way directly attributable to their efforts. The 2016 scientific program was superb, headlined by our three 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. We had 543 attendees and sponsorship income was \$162,630 and generated a record net profit of \$191,592 (after sponsorship income of \$51,000 and incurring a small net loss in 2014, the last previous regular ASM). Following the success of the new organisational arrangements for conducting the ASM in 2016, the Executive had no hesitation in recommending that these arrangements continue in 2017 and beyond.

Following a three year hiatus with the redevelopment of the Sydney Convention Centre, our 41st Annual Scientific Meeting is returning to Sydney in 2017. At the time of writing this report, there are more than 530 delegates registered (almost 100 more than at the same time last year) and current indications are we will generate a significant profit again this year. I would like to thank the three invited international keynote speakers Dr Jason Hornick (USA), Dr Marisa Nucci (USA) and Dr Alexander Lazar (USA), the Vince McGovern lecturer, Prof Anthony Gill and the Master's Class presenters Dr Alexander Lazar and Dr Fiona Maclean. I also acknowledge the important contributions to our ASM of our esteemed guests from the IAP Central Executive, President Prof George Kontogeorgos (Greece) and Honorary Secretary Prof Ray McMahon (UK), who are guests of our Division as they conduct a site visit regarding the bid of the Australasian Division to host the IAP World Congress in

Sydney in 2022. Prof Kontogeorgos and Prof McMahon generously offered to present lectures at our Endocrine and Gastrointestinal Companion Club meetings, respectively, on Friday.

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 2018, please feel free to reach out to the relevant companion club convener to volunteer.

The Distinguished Pathologist Medal for 2017 is awarded to A/Professor David Ellis who has made extraordinary contributions to the fields of haemopoietic pathology, cancer structured reporting internationally and teaching over the past 30 years.

I am most grateful to Prof Gelareh Farshid for continuing in the role of Convenor of Abstract/Poster Scientific Session. This year we have 74 posters. Prof Farshid has initiated new processes for the review of abstracts and oral presentations of selected abstracts at the relevant Companion Club Sessions. I would also like to thank Prof Farshid and other members of the abstract judging committee A/Prof Priyanthi Kumarasinghe, Prof Andrew Gill and Dr Annabelle Mahar for their work in reviewing and judging the abstracts. 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".

Lastly, I am grateful to the support we have received from industry sponsors particularly our platinum sponsor Sonic Healthcare and Gold Sponsor Leica Biosystems. We have 14 other sponsors with 2 silver sponsors Merck Sharpe and Dohme, and the RCPA QAP, and 10 bronze sponsors Protect 365, VoiceBrook Inc, Agilent Technologies Australia (Dako), Bristol-Myer-Squibb, Cirdan, Novartis, Abacas ALS, Roche, Sysmex and Sectra . Additionally we have a Lunch Symposium sponsored by Merck Sharpe and Dohme and are also supported by Howden Medical.

Future Annual Scientific Meetings

The 2018 ASM will be held at the Sydney International Convention Centre under President –Elect Dr Peter Bethwaite's stewardship. The executive is investigating the possibility of utilising teleconference facilities in 2018 to allow participation in our meeting by colleagues from under resourced areas in the Asia-Pacific region. The international key note speakers in 2018 will be Dr Lester Thompson (USA, Head and Neck Pathology), Dr David Grignon (USA, Urological Pathology), and Prof Simon Herrington (UK,

Cancer Molecular Pathology). In 2019, the meeting will likely be held again in Sydney and the key note speakers will be Prof Ian Ellis (UK, Breast Pathology) and Prof Glen McGluggage (UK, Gynaecological Pathology). A final decision regarding the location of the 2019 will be made in 2017 by the Executive following a review of the 2017 ASM.

Outreach Programs and Regional Engagement

Our Division has continued to provide financial assistance in the form of 4 sponsorships for pathologists/registrars from developing countries to attend our ASM. For 2017, we are hosting two from the Philippines, one from Myanmar (Burma) and one from Malaysia.

Our division has also made significant contributions to the Asia-Pacific IAP division by providing 5.5% of the final profit of the Brisbane combined AP-IAP meeting in 2015.

Our Division provided the Indonesian division of the IAP with a donation of \$5000 to assist with the conduct of the very successful Asia-Pacific IAP meeting held in Bali in April 2017. This well attended meeting was also well supported by members of our dish division both the speakers and attendees. In addition, we also supported 2 pathologists from underdeveloped countries in the AP region to attend the AP-IAP meeting in Bali (a trainee from Samoa and a pathologist from Sri Lanka).

The Australasian division provided 5 bursaries (each US\$1500, total sponsorship US\$7,500) for pathologists from developing countries to attend to the World Congress of the IAP in Cologne in September 2016

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

Prof Jane Dahlstrom (nominated Chair of the Scientific Organising Committee) and I were pleased to represent our Division and lead the bid for Sydney to host the World Congress of the IAP in 2022. Votes were cast by the International Council delegates following presentations from each of the four nominating divisions at the World Congress in Cologne in September 2016. Our bid received great support from the NSW State Government through Business Events Sydney as well as multiple members from our division who were at the Cologne meeting and came to the bid presentation.

Despite having to deal with some technical difficulties that threatened to derail our bid presentation, we were delighted to win the vote!

Our division is currently hosting a delegation from the IAP Central Executive: Prof Georgio (George) Kontogeorgos (International President), Prof Ray McMahon (International Honorary Secretary), Mr James Crimmins (Congress Advisor) and Mr Charles Ramey (Assistant Secretary). They are conducting a site visit of the proposed venue and conference organisers and we hope to receive official word soon that our successful nomination has been ratified. 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Australasian division and the executive considers that hosting the World Congress will be a fitting way to cap off the celebrations marking this major milestone.

2017 USCAP Ramzi S Cotram Young Investigator Award

Reflecting his outstanding contributions and international standing in the field, I would also like to highlight that Prof Anthony Gill was recently awarded the very prestigious Ramzi S Cotram Young Investigator Award from the USCAP IAP Division at their annual meeting in San Antonio in 2017. This is a great honour for Anthony and reflects well on pathology in our region and in particular the Australasian division. On behalf of all members of our Division, I would like to congratulate Anthony on receiving this award.

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. From 2016, all ASM educational materials are available online to registered delegates.

Following the 2015 ASM, the executive made the strategic decision to organise the 2016 ASM entirely internally (without the assistance of an external conference organiser). This was an outstanding success and it is planned that this arrangement will continue in the future. I would particularly like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work that our administrative and secretariat staff Uma

Subramanian and Debbie Suann have done to ensure the success of our meeting particularly with this new arrangement.

Changes in the Executive and Board of Directors

Honorary Secretary Prof Jane Dahlstrom resigned from position as Honorary Secretary following the World Congress in Cologne in September 2016 and which time she was appointed IAP Australasia Regional Vice President following the resignation of Prof David Ellis. 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 continues to make major contributions to the IAP, through the executive of International Council of IAP Central where she is Chair of the Education Committee and by representing our Division IAP Australasia Regional Vice President. 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.

I was delighted that Dr Fiona Maclean accepted the nomination to become Honorary Secretary of our Division and has very capably filled this role since September 2017. Fiona is a great asset to our Division and I am most grateful to her for the enormous amount of work that she has done and the support that she has given me in my term as resident and also to the Executive, Board and Administration staff.

Following our Annual General Meeting, Dr Peter Bethwaite becomes President of our Division until 2019 and I will become Immediate Past President.

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.

I will replace Prof Soon Lee on the executive as Immediate Past President following the Annual General Meeting.

The first time, our Division is holding an election for the position of President–Elect. There were two nominees Prof Jane Dahlstrom and Prof Sunil Lakhani. Voting for this position will be conducted at our Annual General Meeting. I think our honorary secretary Dr Fiona Maclean for overseeing the conduct of the election process according to our Constitution.

Dr Ian Brown resigned as the Queensland State Councillor and Dr Sophie Otto resigned as South Australian State Councillor after the 2016 AGM. They were replaced by Prof Hemamali Samaratunga (Queensland) and Dr David Moffat (South Australia).

Having served their full six-year terms, New South Wales Councillors Dr Jessamine Reddy and Dr Kasim Ismail are leaving the board. They will be replaced by Prof Wendy Cooper and Dr Parastoo Irandoost at our AGM.

I thank all retiring office bearers for their hard work and service to our division and I personally thanked them for their support during my term as president.

Constitution changes:

The following amendments to the Constitution have been proposed for consideration of members at our AGM :

1. It is proposed that the maximum term for a non-executive office bearer to serve on the board be capped at six years.
2. The number of classes of members be changed from 3 to 2 (regular and honorary).

Final Remarks

This is my last Board Meeting and AGM as President of the Australasian division. It has been my great honour to serve our membership as President during the past two years which has been a period of unprecedented change and renewal for our Division. In recent years our division has continued to thrive. The transition to a new Secretariat and the subsequent organisation and conduct of our ASM in-house has been a great success that has put our division on a more secure financial footing. We continue to expand upon our outreach program to support the development of pathology in the Asia-Pacific region. I was delighted to lead the success for Australasian bid to host the world Congress of the IAP in Sydney in 2022 and I look forward to contributing to the organisation and conduct of this important meeting which will cap off the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of our division in 2022. Finally, I would also like to personally thank all members of the executive, office bearers, and Secretariat staff of our division for their hard work, commitment and support.

Richard A Scolyer

President

June, 2017