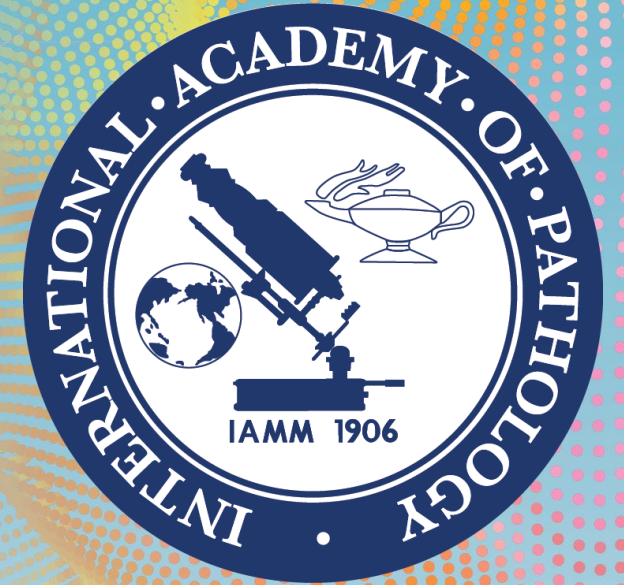


# Pathology Training in Papua New Guinea, a Trainee's Perspective.

Dr. Hans Nogua

Pathology Training Registrar,  
University of Papua New Guinea



The 48th Annual Scientific Meeting *of the*

Australasian Division of the  
International Academy of Pathology

# Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

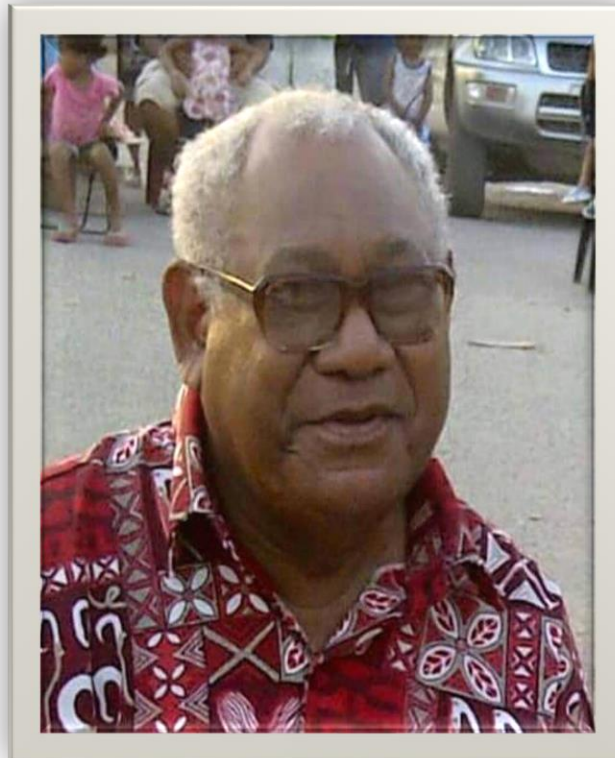
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- No relevant financial relationships to disclose.
- I declare that all information provided are from my personal view and does not represent the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) or the PNG College of Pathologists.

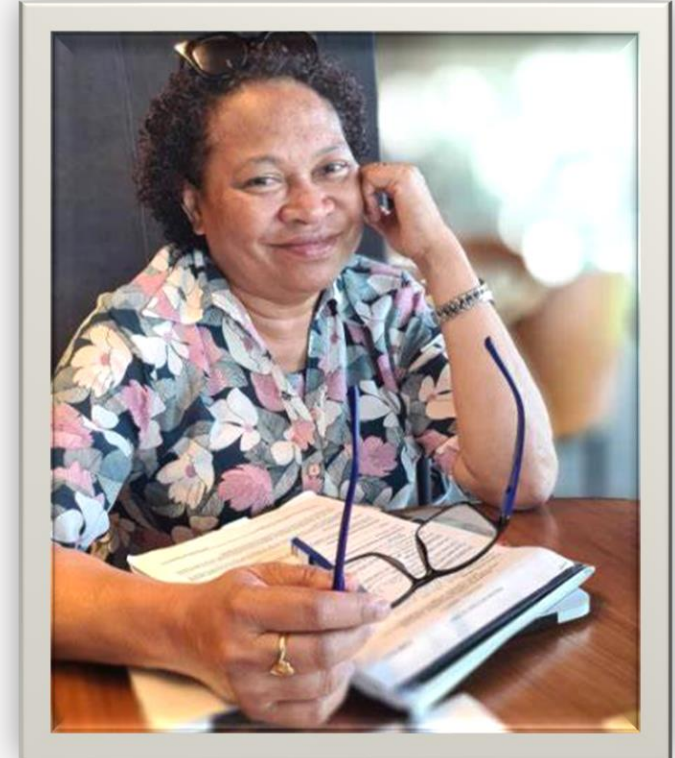
# Acknowledgement



**Prof Robin Cooke & Lady Roma Cooke**



***Late Prof Joseph Igo***



***Late Prof Evelyn Lavu***

# Background



Over 10 million population ( 2023 estimates)  
- *UN population estimates.*

500 Medical Doctors (1 Dr: 20,000 persons)  
14 Pathologists (1: 500,000)

Per Capita income (\$AUD3326/\$NZD4008 = K9545)  
— IMF 2023

Health budget \$AUD81/\$NZD98 (K230.00) p.c.  
— WHO 2022

Source: [World Economic Outlook database: October 2023 - IMF](#)



Around 26 million population- 2024  
– UN population estimates  
104,000 Medical Doctors (80 Drs: 20,000 persons)  
Over 1000 Pathologists (1:26,000)  
Per Capita income (\$AUD 90024) – 2022  
Health budget \$AUD 9614 p.c.

Source: [World Economic Outlook database: October 2023 - IMF](#)

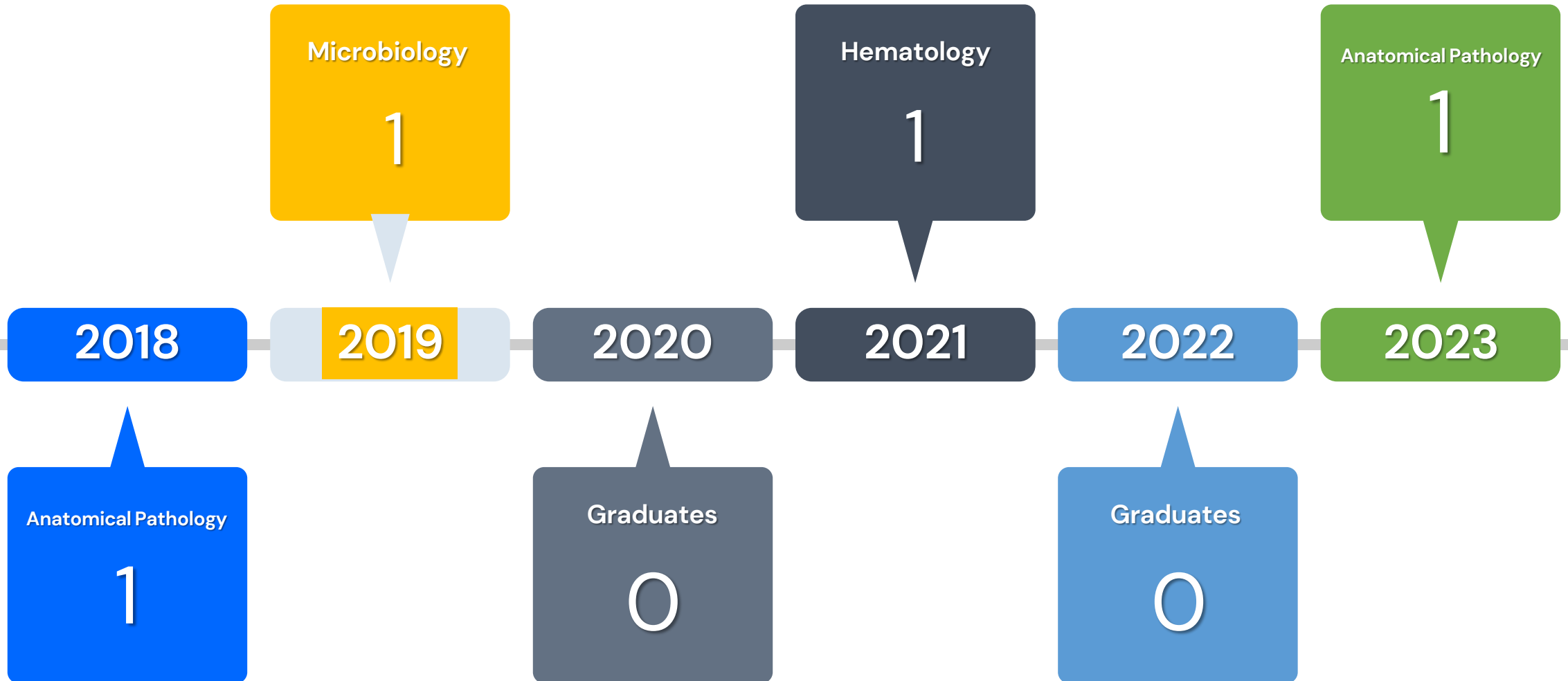
# Current Work Force

Total General Pathologists Produced	Total Active Pathologists	Supporting Pathologist/Hematologist	Training Registrars
20	14	2	6



# Pathology Training Program

University of Papua New Guinea



# Current Anatomical Pathology Testing Modalities.

## Histopathology

1. Gross Morphology
2. Histochemistry with light microscopy

## Cytology:

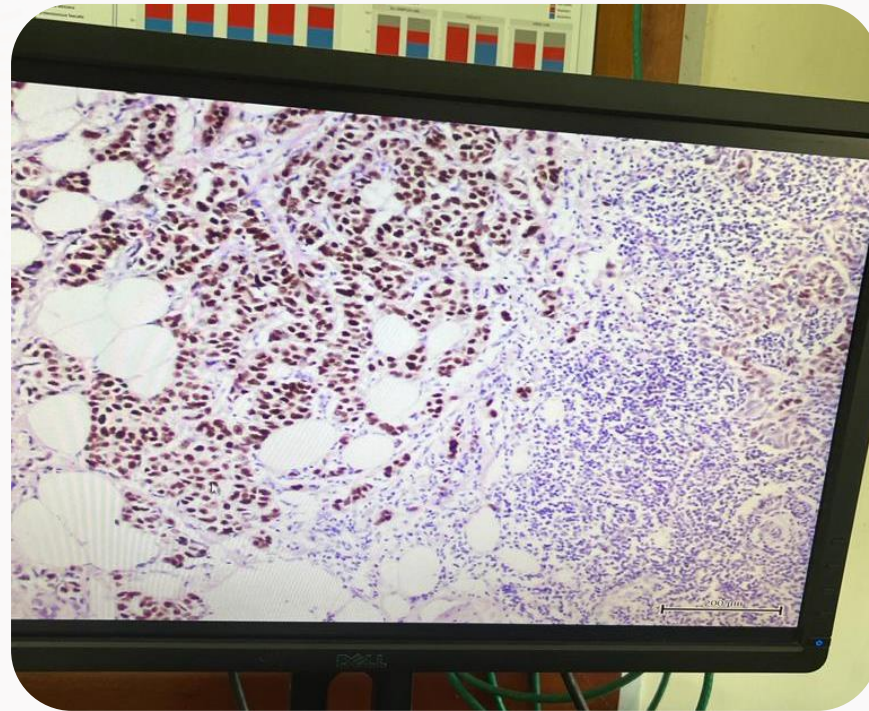
Standard Cytochemistry stains.

# How has Australia helped in Pathology Training?

Names	Specialist support Areas	Organization
Prof Robin Cooke	Director of Pathology in PNG	Royal Brisbane Hospital
Prof John Ferguson	Clinical Microbiology, Research, Teaching LQMS	Hunter Hospital/RCPA/PRIDA
Dr Sen Gupta	External Examiner/Invigilator	Sydpath
Dr Mrudula Krishanaswamy	Histopathology sessions	Concord Hospital/ NSW Health Pathology
Dr Richard Tustin	Histopathology sessions. Training Pathway	Coff's Harbor, NSW Health Pathology
Dr Tristan Rutland	Pathology Tutorials	Liverpool Hospital/ NSW Health Pathology
Candice Clarke	Immunohistochemistry	Concord Hospital/ NSW Health Pathology
Dr Chris Arthur	Hematology slide Sessions	Nonga Base Hospital , PNG
Dr Peter Earls	Histopathology sessions	Sydpath

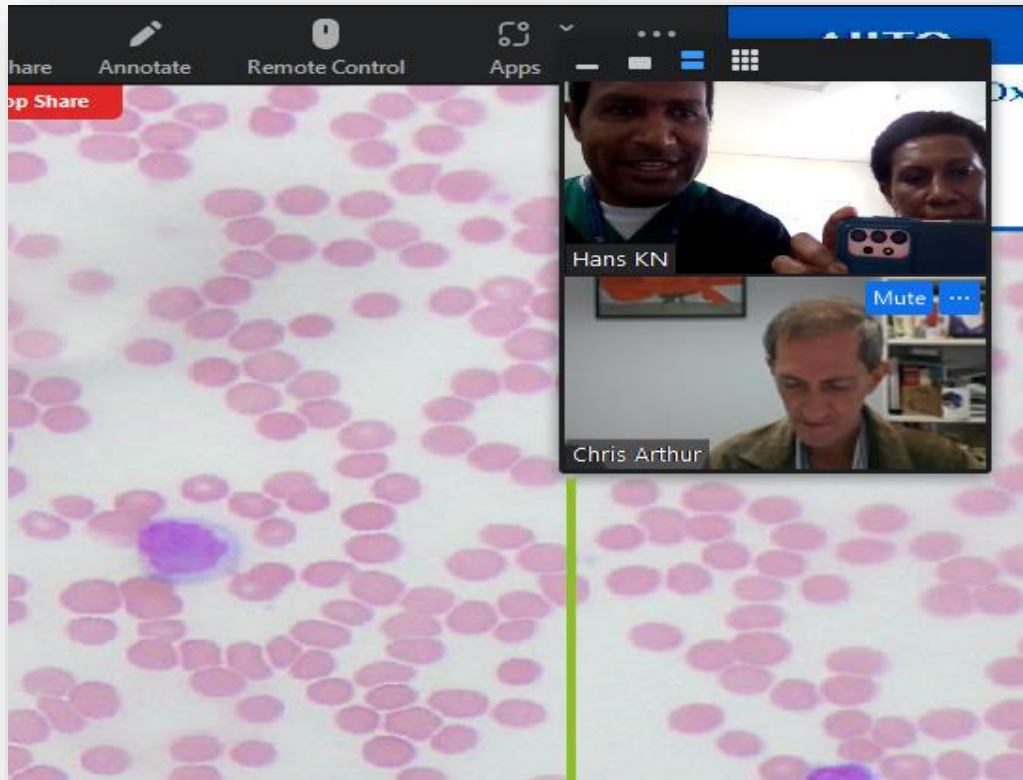
\*Recent Affiliation to RCPA

# First IHC stain in Papua New Guinea



Done by Ms Candice Clarke and interpreted  
by Dr Mrudula Krishanaswamy  
(30<sup>th</sup> March 2023)

# Telepathology Use in Hematology Sessions with Dr. C. Arthur



Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (First Session)

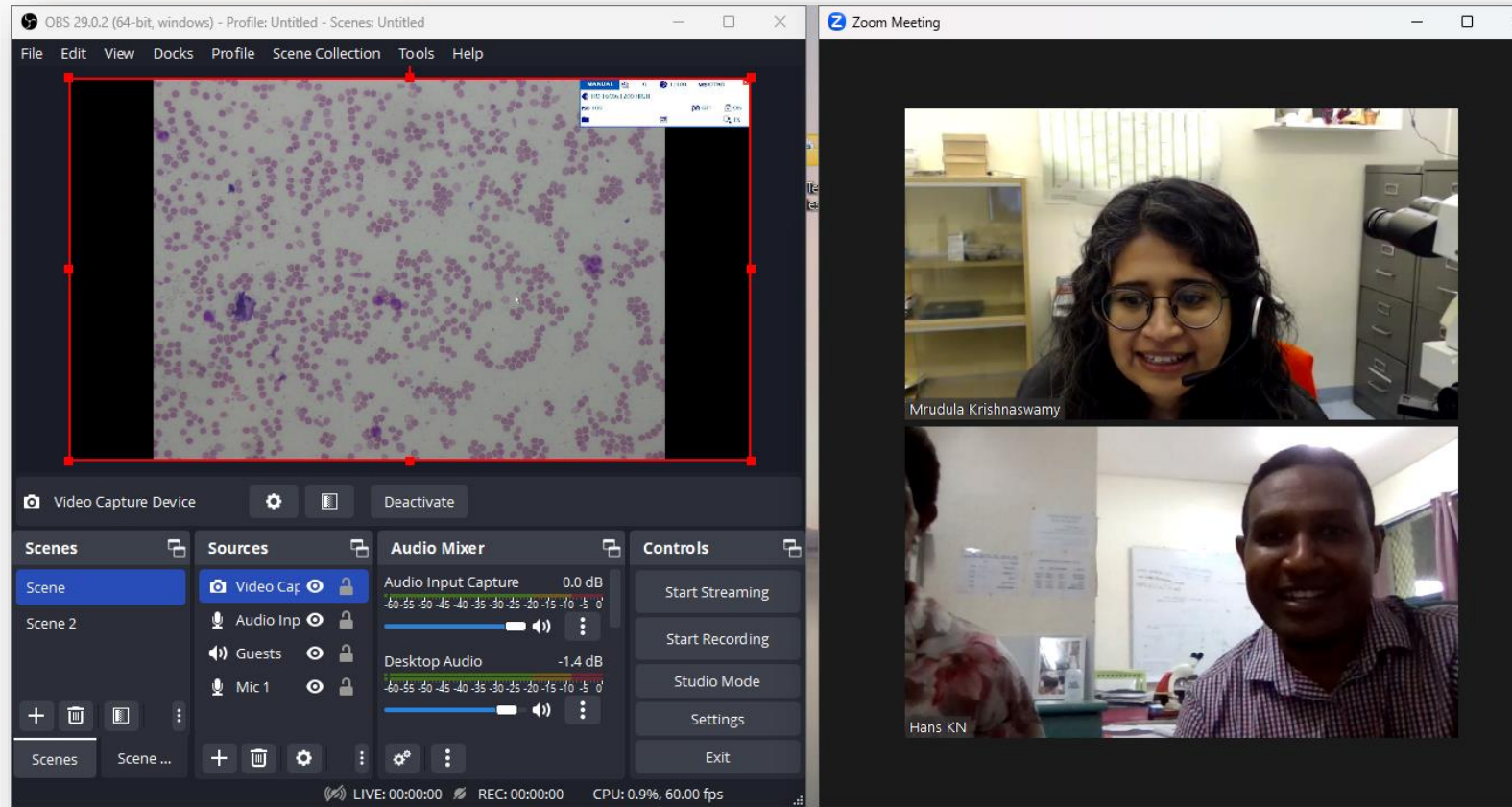
Location: Vunapope and Port Moresby (PNG)



Date: 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

Location: Australia and PNG

# Histopathology Sessions with Dr Mrudula



Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023

Location: Australia and PNG

# Challenges in Training

- Absence of on-site teaching Professor.
- Lack of teaching staff for Pathology training at School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- Lack of basic supportive diagnostic modalities ( IHC, FISH & Molecular genetics.)
  - Leukemia/Lymphoma Cases
  - Malignant Tumors
- Very few number of microscopes for Training
- Pathologists multi-tasking (Admin, Clinical and Training)
- Attrition rate in pathologist population
- Cessation of attachments in Australia due to lack of funding. (Since 2012)

# Conclusion

- Acknowledge RCPA's involvement in Post Graduate training for Pathologists
- There is need for teaching staff at SMHS for pathology training.
- How can we revive the attachments for trainees for experience and upskilling.
- Pathway for training in higher diagnostic modalities.
- Encourage more Telepathology/Zoom session.
- Locum Teaching on site is needed for effective learning.

# Any Questions !

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