

President's Report, May 2026

Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology

Clinical Professor Catriona McKenzie

On behalf of the Executive, convenors and secretariat, I am pleased to welcome you to the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology, held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. This milestone reflects the strength and continuity of our Division.

2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

The programme has been designed to reflect increasing subspecialisation in pathology while maintaining relevance across all career stages. A number of changes have been made from 2024 to reflect the growing subspecialisation of pathologists and the expectations of modern learners for practical, interactive and targeted education. It is extremely pleasing to see we have record attendance this year with over 600 attendees registered as well as growth of our membership base.

We are pleased to welcome our **invited speakers**:

- Professor Jerad Gardner
- Professor Dina Tiniakos
- Professor Puay Hoon Tan

The **Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecture** will be delivered by Professor John Nicholls, followed by presentation of the Vincent McGovern Award.

Our **Masterclasses** remain a key feature:

- Professor Dina Tiniakos – liver pathology
- Dr Kimberley Oliver – medical renal pathology

We continue to expand **Meet-the-Expert sessions**, providing interactive, case-based discussion. This year's sessions include:

- Gastrointestinal pathology (with GIPS)
- Breast pathology (Professor Puay Hoon Tan)
- Dermatopathology (Professor Jerad Gardner)
- Liver pathology (Professor Dina Tiniakos)

An expanded programme of **short courses** provides focused, practical updates across multiple subspecialties, including renal, liver, dermatopathology, colorectal, lung, placental and head and neck pathology showcasing local and international expertise.

Trainee boot camps in cytology (Dr Elizabeth Salisbury, Dr Esther Myint) and small biopsy examination (Dr Cindy Yan Yanling) continue to provide practical, exam-relevant training.

The programme also includes pancreatobiliary and educational **workshops** and a Friday morning breakfast session focussing on leadership **professional development** session.

We have set up new **social media profiles** on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook and re-started X to promote the activities of the division. These are showing a steady increase in engagement and will be important for division to maintain to stay relevant and widely connected.

This year also marks our **inaugural Richard Scolyer Charity Fun Walk/ Run** to raise funds for Brainstorm Charity for pathology focussed research.

Abstract submissions this year total:

63 Abstract submissions were received. Of these 54 were chosen for poster presentations, and 12 of these will also be presented as mini-oral presentations during the companion club sessions.

I thank the Abstract Review Committee: Ian Brown, Jennifer Borowsky Sarah Saxon, Andrew Ruszkiewicz, Ben Allanson, John Liu, Andrew Colebatch for their contribution.

Sponsorship

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors and exhibitors for their support.

Package	Company
Bronze 1	Sectra
Bronze 1A	Abacus Dx
Bronze 2	Sysmex
Bronze 4	Fujifilm
Bronze 5	AstraZeneca
Bronze 6	RCPAQAP
Silver 9 &10	Agilent Technologies
Bronze 12	Australian Instrument Services
Bronze 13	Healius Pathology
Gold Sponsor 15 & 16	Leica Biosystems
Poster Zone	Sonic HealthCare
Trestle table Exh.	Aust Society of Cytology
Trestle Table Exh.	Innovative Science Press
Fun Run Sponsor	Leica Biosystems
Complementary Microscope	Australian Instrument Services

Leica Biosystems Gold Sponsor and Fun Run Sponsor, Agilent Technologies Silver Exhibitor
Sonic HealthCare Poster Zone Sponsor, AIS Australian Instruments Services Exhibitor and kindly
supplied the Microscope for the Meet the Expert Friday Sessions.
Abacus dx, AstraZeneca, Fujifilm Australia, Sectra, Sysmex Australia, Healius Pathology
Australian Society of Cytology & Innovate Science Press.

Distinguished Pathologist Awards 2026:

Professor Andrew Clouston

Professor Andrew Clouston is Professor of Molecular and Cellular Pathology at the University of Queensland and has held senior academic, hospital and private pathology appointments across Queensland and New South Wales, including founding Envoi Pathology. His diagnostic and research contributions have been particularly significant in gastrointestinal and liver pathology, including hepatitis, hepatic fibrosis, liver allograft pathology and metabolic liver disease.

Professor Clouston has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and contributed to major gastrointestinal and liver pathology texts and to numerous national and international guidelines. He has also made substantial contributions to teaching, examining, professional service and the IAP, including long-standing involvement in registrar education, RCPA activities and Australasian Division IAP meetings.

Dr Belinda Edith Hunter OAM (Lindy Clarke)

Dr Belinda Edith Hunter OAM, known as Lindy Clarke, graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1974, completed a PhD in experimental glomerulonephritis, trained in anatomical pathology at the Austin Hospital, and became a Fellow of the RCPA in 1982. Her career included important contributions in renal, thoracic and transplantation pathology, particularly through her work at the University of Queensland, the Royal Brisbane Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital, where she became Director of Anatomical Pathology in 1997.

Dr Clarke published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and made substantial contributions to pathology teaching, research and professional service over several decades. She was widely recognised as an outstanding teacher and mentor to medical students, trainees and colleagues, and in 2024 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly pathology.

Bursary Recipients

Our three successful Sponsored Pathologists are

- Dr. Lave Makatibau (Medical Officer Pathology, Pathology Department, Labasa Hospital, Fiji)
- Dr Archana Pratap ((Medical Officer Pathology, Pathology Department, Labasa Hospital, Fiji)
- Dr. Shaneel Nand(Medical Officer Pathology, Pathology Department, CWM Hospital, Suva, Fiji)

Board and Governance

The Division's governance structure remains stable, with the Board meeting biannually and the Executive meeting monthly.

Convenors

I thank our departing convenors for their substantial contribution to the programme.

- Daniel Wong (Bone and Soft tissue) – Alison Cheah will continue as the Convenor
- Touraj Taheri (Head & Neck) – Rebecca Morrow & Stephen Peyton as the ASM 2027
- Jing Jing Li and Mitali Fadia (Renal) – position will be advertised after ASM 2026
- Magreet Strauss (Paediatric) – Ali Moghimi will continue as the Convenor

Masterclasses

Monthly IAP Masterclasses continue to be well attended and remain an important component of our educational offering. Recordings are available to view for IAP-AUS financial members. We thank all speakers for their excellent contributions.

27 th January 2026	Drs Hui Tay and Melissa Holmes	"Glass VS. Digital" The future: Merger and Acquisition
24 th February 2026	Dr Jennifer Borowsky	"Molecular aspects of GIT tumours"
31 st March 2026	Dr Rebecca Morrow	"Keeping your head above water: the art and science of grossing complex Head and Neck specimens"
28 th April 2026	Dr Veronica Chung	"The A, B, CAB of thymic epithelial tumours"

29 th May – 31 st May 2026	No Educational Series due to the 50 th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING	
25 th June 2026 – 4pm	Bruno Blaya and Margit Polcz	Skin pathology from dermatologists' viewpoint
Date to be advised	Kamran Mirza TBC	Myeloid dysplasia/MDS
Date to be advised	Alison Cheah TBC	Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology
Date to be advised	Robert Rawson TBC	Regression assessment in skin cancers
27 th October 2026 - 5pm	Nicole Kramer	GIT Pathology Cases to help you adjust your wing mirrors - do you know your blindspots?
November 2026	No Educational Series	
1 st December 2026	Spinder Samra	Endocrine pathology

Staffing and Operations

The Division has been supported by a small and dedicated team. **Loretta York, Debbie Suann, and Dayan McLeod**. I thank them for their hard work to ensure conference delivery and support for our members. I would also like to acknowledge and thank **Uma Subramanian** for her significant contribution to the Division over many years.

Financial Position

The Division remains financially stable. Following a modest surplus from the 2024 meeting, we generated a surplus in the 2025-6 reporting year.

The 2026 meeting was planned conservatively based on attendance of ~420 last Brisbane meeting. Based on current projections, with 600+ registered for the meeting, we anticipate a surplus in the 2026-7 year ensuring the viability of the division and reflecting the hard work and careful financial stewardship of the organisation. We continue to monitor costs closely, particularly venue-related expenses. Please refer to the separate treasurer's report for more details.

Future Meetings

- 2027 ASM – Adelaide Convention Centre
- 2028 ASM – Cairns
- 2029 Asia-Pacific IAP Congress (APIAP) – Sydney

We are pleased to have secured the bid to host the Asia-Pacific Congress in Sydney in 2029.

For the 2027 Adelaide ASM, we have begun work on the programme and invited keynote speakers Raul S. Gonzalez, Joseph Khoury and Anne Mills. Initial planning is also underway for the 2028 Cairns ASM. In parallel, preliminary work has commenced for the 2029 Asia-Pacific IAP Congress in Sydney.

Closing

I thank the Executive, Board, convenors, speakers and administrative team for their ongoing work and commitment, and our members for their continued support.

I look forward to marking this 50th ASM with colleagues.