

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY

CHARING CROSS AND WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL, LONDON  
29 NOVEMBER 1996

Those present included: in the chair the President, Professor Kristin Henry, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Dr Alec Howat, Honorary Meetings Secretary, Dr Nick Rooney, Editor of Histopathology, Professor James Underwood and approximately (150) members.

The meeting was opened by Professor Henry who thanked everyone for attending what was to be her last session as President. She said that the Academy had achieved much in the last year. Funds were going well; the British Division had participated in meetings of the Arab and the Polish Divisions which were generally of a very high standard. She said that the Rumanian Division had also approached the British Division asking if it could come under their wing.

223 The Minutes of the previous meeting held at the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School on 24 November 1995 were approved and accepted as a correct record.

## 224 Meeting Secretary's Report

In November 1995 we met at Charing Cross Hospital for a Symposium on Non-Neoplastic Skin Disease, a programme devised by Nigel Kirkham and attended by 150 members. By careful choice of blocks, enough slides were produced for the accompanying slide seminar. On the Saturday morning slide seminars were as usual well attended with courses on Testicular Pathology (Drs Ansell and MacIver), Mediastinal Pathology (Professor Henry) and Trophoblastic Disease (Drs Elston and Paradinas).

In May we joined with the French Division for a meeting on Placental and Endometrial Pathology in Strasbourg. Although the scientific content was high the attendance from the British Division was low, being less than 10% of the participants. A number of factors contributed to this lack of attendance which will be taken into account in future collaborations.

Approximately 115 members of the British Division attended the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress in Budapest. Four Councillors, Professor Henry, Drs Furness, Howat, Rooney and our Vice President for Europe, Professor MacSween represented the British Division at the Council Meeting. At this meeting it was announced that Professor R Cotton has been awarded the Gold Medal of the IAP for distinguished service over many years. Professor Van Den Tweel was successful in his proposal on behalf of the British Division of the IAP and the Dutch Pathological Society to hold the Congress of 2002 in Amsterdam.

Several meetings are well advanced in their preparation. Including in 1997 - Soft Tissue Lesions in Dublin on 25-26 April and Head and Neck Pathology in Bath on 11-13 September. A provisional programme booking form is now available for these meetings. The annual General Meeting for next year will be on Endocrine Disease and will be held in London on 28-29 November. Professor Ruiters from Nijmegen has invited the British Division for a Symposium on Skin Tumours in May 1998. Looking to the future, the International Congress in 1998 will be held on 18-23 October in Nice. The first announcement for this meeting will be circulated shortly. The meeting in 2000 will be held in Japan.

This year the British Division has again been active in promoting educational activities with emerging Divisions. Professor Freemont and Dr Reid will be running a workshop on Bone and Joint Pathology in Warsaw. Professor Henry and Dr Rooney ran a session on 'Update in Lymphoreticular Disease' at the Arab Division meeting in Amman. Drs P McKee and M Cook ran a comprehensive workshop on Skin Disease at the same meeting. The British Division also arranged for two African Pathologists to add short study visits in the UK to their visit to Budapest.

The administrative arrangements, in particular that associated with CME, have increased as was painfully obvious at last years AGM. Following the Treasurer's successful negotiation with Blackwells on the contract for Histopathology some

of the increased profits have been directed towards employing our Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris who works part-time from home in Bristol. As a result all communications to the IAP can be sent to our Post Office Box number in Bristol. The priorities for the year have been in establishing the office for the Division. We hope this will improve the communication between the Division and its members.

## 225 **The Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report**

The Treasurer's report was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

The Members Handbook will be reprinted during the year and it was requested that all changes should be forwarded for inclusion.

It was reported that there had been an increase in surplus profits due to the re-negotiated deal with Blackwells. The cost of Histopathology for members will remain the same during the coming year ie £65.00. Subscription plus Laboratory Investigation or Modern Pathology would now cost £125.00 and to subscribe to all three journals would cost £185.00 per annum.

It was announced that in future all overseas members would have the opportunity to pay by credit card.

## 226 **Editor of Histopathology's Report**

**Professor J C E Underwood**

### *Editorial Office Transfer*

The Editorial Office transferred from Glasgow to Sheffield on 1 July 1996.

Roddy MacSween continued to deal with manuscripts submitted before the transfer. All manuscripts submitted after 1 July are processed by the Sheffield office.

I thank Blackwell Science and the British Division of the IAP for their support in establishing and equipping the Editorial Office in Sheffield.

### *Personnel*

Julia McCable has been appointed Editorial Assistant. Dennis Cotton has been appointed Assistant Editor with responsibility for book reviews, and will cover for me during periods of leave and other absences. To replace Harold Fox's expertise, Michael Wells has been recruited to the Editorial Board with immediate effect.

Prof V Desmet (Leuven) and Prof F Potet (Paris) retired from the International Advisory Board. New members are being invited from the USA, Scandinavia, Asia and the Pacific rim.

### *Processing of manuscripts*

We are using RMTS (Rapid Manuscript Tracking System) to assist with the processing of manuscripts. I intend to build up an extensive database of British and international referees linked to keywords (disease, system, techniques); a questionnaire inviting referees has been widely distributed.

The forms used by referees have been redesigned. We have abandoned the chemical duplicating paper after many complaints that it is disliked by laser printers. Referees are also provided with Business Reply Service envelopes for the return of manuscripts.

The "Notice of Contributors" (printed on the inside back cover) has been rewritten and redesigned with clearer instructions. This appears in the October issue.

### *Proposals for HISTOPATHOLOGY*

All members of the Editorial Board and of the International Advisory Board have been asked for their views on the current status of the journal and on proposals for its future development. These were discussed in depth at the Editorial Board meeting on 8 October at which the Board also witnessed a demonstration of electronic publishing. In making these proposals the Editorial Board is conscious of the need to ensure that HISTOPATHOLOGY continues to serve the interests of the members of the British Division of the IAP. The following proposals were agreed:

1. The cover of HISTOPATHOLOGY will be improved with effect from the January 1997 issue. The attached example shows the main changes. It will, of course, be in colour and will be some extend preserve the orange and grey historically associated with the journal.
2. HISTOPATHOLOGY will be accessible via the World Wide Web through Journals On-Line from 1997. All users will have free access to titles, authors and abstracts. Users with an on-line subscription will be able to download a file of the full article. Non-subscribers will have to pay either on account or by credit card: the charge will include a £5.00 copyright fee payable to the holder.
3. To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HISTOPATHOLOGY, the Editorial Board recommends that all subscribers receive during 1997 a CD-ROM of the 1996 volumes. The CD-ROM will be Mac/PC compatible and searchable on headers, abstracts and (at a cost of £2,304) full text. The Page images will be in full colour with magnifiable illustrations. The estimated cost will be £15,364 (inclusive of full text search option). Thereafter, a CD-ROM will be produced at intervals and at a cost to be decided. (It is only from 1996 that all articles have been stored as Standardised General Mark-up Language. Articles handled prior to this would have to be scanned resulting in an inferior product which may deter future purchasers.)
4. The number of single case reports will be gradually reduced by applying even more stringent selection criteria. In future, no distinction will be made between papers and case reports; they should satisfy the same peer-review standards. The Editor will reserve the right to publish, after peer-review, some case reports as correspondence (correspondence is not counted as a denominator in calculating impact factors!).
5. The number of short informative review articles will be substantially increased, particularly those commissioned from selected international authors. The International Advisory Board has been helpful in making many suggestions.
6. The Editorial Board proposes to meet twice a year (currently three times a year), on one occasion coinciding with the Council of the British Division of the IAP. THE Board is confident that it can conduct its business just as effectively with fewer meetings and it will conserve resources that might otherwise be spent on travel costs.
7. The Editorial Board proposes to enlarge its geographical representation by including 2 or 3 new full members possibly drawn from the Far East, North America and Scandinavia. If approved, the Board would welcome suggestions.
8. Members of the Editorial Board will more actively solicit interest in HISTOPATHOLOGY from potential authors.

## 227 **Officers of the Division**

Dr David Ansell will take over as President in 1997 for 1997-1998. The Council proposed that the President Elect should be Professor Eamon Sweeney. This was agreed by the meeting. Professor Wagenaar retires from Council. The Council proposed Professor Claude Cuvelier as the new Councillor for Holland and Belgium.

It was put forward that it would be beneficial to separate the offices of Meetings Secretary from that of Secretary to the British Division. Dr Nick Francis was nominated as the new Meetings Secretary with Dr Nick Rooney remaining as Secretary. This reinstates the make up of Council as specified in the Constitution. This was agreed by the meeting.

Four Councillors will retire at the next AGM and ballots will be sent out for seeking new Councillors for election in November 1997.

## 228 **Any Other Business**