

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

## Held at Charing Cross Hospital, London

### Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 1999

Approximately one hundred members attended the meeting.

1. The Minutes of the AGM held on 27 November 1998 were agreed.
2. **Secretary's Report**

Dr Peter Furness has continued to develop the Web site which can now be accessed by the more friendly address of <http://www.bdiap.org>. This will route you through to the existing site, which Peter maintains with the support of the University of Leicester.

Nick Francis, our Meetings Secretary has again organised a successful year of meetings for the British Division of the IAP. Over 300 members and guests registered for the Breast Pathology meeting in November last year. The scientific programme was devised by Ian Ellis and stimulated much discussion. The popularity of the meeting however put a strain on the facilities both for the Friday and Saturday. The short courses used to be attended by the stalwarts who could raise themselves in the morning after the Symposium Dinner (or perhaps never get to bed). Now the facilities are over-subscribed since the practical classroom can only accommodate 100 people. Although participants can attend the lectures at 10.30 only the early registrants can book a microscope. Unfortunately we cannot do anything about the situation this year but from November 2000 we will be running an extra lecture theatre based session on the Saturday morning.

In Spring 1999 the Academy met in Swansea, an excellent venue, hosted by Dr Ciaran O'Brien. Professor Bryan Corrin devised the scientific programme on Pulmonary Pathology and our guest speakers from the United States were Professor Thomas Colby and Professor William Travis.

In September 1999 we were guests of Professor Mike Wells in Sheffield. The programme was, of course, Gynaecological Pathology. Again the scientific session was well received. However, both the Swansea and Sheffield meetings had an attendance of less than 120, less than could be accommodated at the venues. These numbers are similar to those achieved at previous peripheral meetings, but much less than those we achieve in London. For this reason we have held preliminary discussion with the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland on the running of a joint meeting in summer 2001 which will replace our Spring and September meetings of that year. The advantages of this arrangement are that it will provide a more varied programme during the meeting and would unite the diagnostic and research sides of pathology. We recognise that while many of our members are also members of Pathsoc, the objectives of the two societies have been different. Nick Francis will be working with Mike Wells (Meetings Secretary of Pathsoc) to ensure that all participants gain the maximum benefit from the joint meeting. The November 2000 AGM of the British Division of the IAP will be held in London as usual. We will review the success of the joint meeting before deciding the format for further meetings.

Still looking to the future, the organisation for Amsterdam 2002 is well underway. This is the bi-annual International Congress which will be hosted by the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology. The Organising Committee met three times in 1999 to plan the Congress, devise the programme outline and select the Scientific Committee. A separate holding company has been registered in the Netherlands to protect the assets of the British Division and also qualify for support from the Dutch Government. Eurocongress has been selected as the professional congress organisers. The first announcements of this meeting will be distributed in November 2000. For those of you with electronic diaries the dates to enter are 5-11 October 2002. We are hoping for a big attendance from members of the BDIAP.

We are honoured that Professor Kristin Henry has been elected as International Vice President (Europe) of the IAP. We wish her success in promoting the work of our members throughout the world. She succeeds Professor Roddy MacSween who leaves Council after many years as Editor of Histopathology, President and International Vice President.

Our work with developing Divisions continues. Bursaries are provided to assist our members to lecture at meetings of other Divisions particularly in those areas where the finance to cover costs is not available. Bursaries are also available to young pathologists from abroad for a short visit at a laboratory in the area of the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology together with attendance at one of our meetings. Application forms can be obtained from the Administrative Secretary or from Dr Peter Furness via the website.

At the AGM last year Professor Eamon Sweeney succeeded Dr David Ansell as President to serve until November 2000. Professor James Underwood was nominated and accepted as President-Elect.

Nick Francis has been Meetings Secretary for three years. The programme for next year is well underway and Nick has indicated to Council his willingness to continue for another three years. Council recommends that he continues in this role. Similarly I have acted as General Secretary for three years. Since Carol Harris runs an efficient office and Nick Francis looks after the meetings, my principal role is in the Organising Committee of the Amsterdam Congress 2002 and have I offered to continue as General Secretary while I remain on the Organising Committee. Approval for Nick Francis and I to continue in our respective roles will be sought at the AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1999 in London

### **3. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report**

The Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £100,491 for 98/99. This reflects the increased share of profits from Histopathology (£90,635) compared with 97/98 (£65,923) when costs were still being incurred from establishment of the new Editorial office at Sheffield. Direct charitable expenditure rose from £105,981 in 98/99 to £124,907 reflecting the increased duties of Council members and Officers. Management and Administration costs were similar to 98/99. The Society's total assets at 30th June 1999 were valued at £634,879 compared with £534,388 at 30th June 1998, and £441,661 at 30th June 1997.

Council recommends the cost of Histopathology and membership of the Society to remain at £70 for 2000 comparing favourably with similar Societies in the UK. The cost of Modern Pathology and Laboratory Investigation to members of the British Division of the IAP will remain at £60 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary before the end of 1999 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2000.

The Treasurer warmly thanks Carol Harris, Administrative Secretary, for all her invaluable help during the year. He also thanks the Auditor, Mr Raj Visana of Visana Chartered Accountants, Borehamwood, Herts for help in preparing the accounts for the membership, and the Charity Commission annual report.

#### Handbook

This will be reprinted in 2000. Please ensure that your correct title, address, phone number, fax number and email address are sent to the Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris, before the end of 1999 for inclusion in the new Handbook.

#### Membership

Total membership is 1147, 19 of which are Senior members and 12 Honorary members. There are 817 members from the UK, 115 from the Netherlands, 114 from Belgium, 50 from Eire with 51 from other countries.

### **4. Editor's Report – Histopathology**

Subscriptions continue to be buoyant, with a significant increase in non-British IAP subscribers taking advantage of the new preferential rates. Approximately 400 submissions have been received in the last 12 months and the acceptance rate for publication, as full paper is stable at c.35%. In 1998 the impact factor improved to 1.712 (1.544 in 1997). At the request of the Editorial Board, I analysed the origins of papers published in 1988 and 1998; this revealed:

- 25% reduction in those from the UK & Ireland
- c.100% increase from rest of Europe and from N. America
- substantial increase from Japan

The new 'Expert opinion' articles introduced in March 1999 have been well received.

The Editor thanked all those who referee for the journal and is always pleased to receive comments and suggestions about the further development of *Histopathology*.

### **5. Any Other Business**

Professor Henry said that she had been presented with a plaque from the Arab Division as a token of thanks for the help and support received from the British Division over the years. The plaque was passed to the President for safekeeping.

Dr Nick Francis and Dr Nick Rooney were formally elected for a further three years in office.