

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Hammersmith Hospital, London

Friday, 25th November 2000

1. The Minutes of the AGM held on 26 November 1999 were agreed.

2. **Secretary's Report**

In November 1999 we met at the Charing Cross Hospital for a Symposium on Urological Pathology. The annual meeting is always very well attended and this one was no exception, as 280 participants enjoyed a programme devised by David Ansell. Our speakers were Dr K Grigor, Dr J Webb and Dr S Fleming (Edinburgh), Dr P Harden and Mr P Whelan (Leeds), Dr Th H van der Kwast (Rotterdam), Dr M C Parkinson and Dr C Corbishley (London). The Saturday morning Slide Seminars were again well attended with sessions on Cardiovascular and Gastric Pathology and Lymphoreticular Disease. We were able to accommodate more people by reversing the slide viewing and review session for the Lymphoreticular Disease. This was an interesting experience though not an ideal way of conducting a slide discussion session.

In April our venue was Antwerp for a meeting on Infectious Diseases organised by Professor Eric Van Marck and Professor Claude Cuvelier. Although the programme was good, attendance was disappointing as it clashed with a couple of meetings organised after our dates had been fixed. The attendance at meetings held outside capital cities has always been variable. The same effort is put into the organisation whether 50 or 500 attend. We hope the joint meeting with the Pathological Society in Liverpool next year will be well attended. We have no autumn meeting this year, as there is the International Congress in Nagoya in October.

Our work with developing countries continues. The take up of bursaries to bring junior pathologists from developing countries to our meetings has been slow. We will continue to offer them and advertise amongst the other Divisions. Professor Kristin Henry and Dr Helen Porter from Bristol represented us in Tunisia at the Arab Division meeting in November 1999 and gave symposiums on Lymphoreticular Disease and Placental Pathology respectively. This year Dr Roddy Simpson and Professor P J Slotweg will be in Bahrain with a workshop on Salivary Gland Pathology.

There will be a number of changes to Council this year. Professor James Underwood takes over as President, Professor Eamon Sweeney becomes Past President and Dr David Ansell finishes his term as Past President and leaves the Council. The Council recommends the next President Elect should be Professor Jan Van den Tweel. Jan will take over the chair in 2002, a much less onerous role than that of President of the Organising Committee for the International Congress in 2002.

Dr David Ansell deserves special mention, having been Secretary for many years as well as European Vice President and President from 1997-1998.

Professor Eric Van Marck was elected last year as Continental Member of Council and took over from Professor Claude Cuvelier after the Antwerp meeting. Finally, I also leave Council this year having been Councillor for three years then Meetings Secretary and General Secretary for the last seven years. Under Article xii of the Constitution nominations for the role of General Secretary can come from any member of the Division, however Council recommends the appointment of Professor Neil Shepherd as General Secretary to serve until 2003. Since Professor Neil Shepherd is already a Councillor, this means there will be a vacancy for another Councillor and it will be filled at the AGM in November. Please return the attached Nomination Form to me by October 28th.

I leave Council having had many enjoyable years working with some excellent colleagues. The organisation is well organised by Carol Harris to whom I am eternally grateful and it is financially sound thanks to the financial acumen of Dr Alec Howat and the wise investments of his predecessor Professor Henry. I leave you in the capable hands of Professor James Underwood, Dr Nick Francis, Professor Neil Shepherd and rest of the Council. The next two years will be particularly exciting

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

The Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £212,281 for 1999/2000. This reflects the continuing success of Histopathology (£109,222) compared with 98/99 (£90,635). The increased assets also

reflect the excellent performance of the ABN AMRO and COIF investments. Direct charitable expenditure rose slightly from £124,907 in 98/99 to £137,638 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 2000 were valued at £847,160 compared with £634,879 at 30th June 1999.

Council has recommended initiating Junior membership for an annual fee of just £10. This will be available to Trainees in UK, Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland for a maximum of 4 years. Evidence of Trainee status should be made clear when applying for membership to the BDIAP.

Council recommends the cost of Histopathology and membership of the Society to remain at £70 for 2001 comparing most 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 2000 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2001.

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 for help in preparing the accounts for the membership, and the Charity Commission annual report.

Handbook

This was reprinted in 2000. Any further changes in title, address, phone number, fax number and email address should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris.

Membership

Total membership is 1143 of which are 23 Senior members and 14 Honorary members. There are 820 members from the UK, 88 from The Netherlands, 88 from Belgium, 47 from Eire with 63 from other countries.

4. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor reported that the journal continues to receive c.400 submissions per annum. The overall acceptance rate for publication as a full paper is stable at c.35%. Among pathology journals ranked by impact factor (IF) in the 1999 SCI listing, *Histopathology* has moved up from 18 (IF 1.712) in 1998 to 15 (IF 1.9) in 1999. The 1999 SCI is a measure of the citations in 1999 of papers published in 1997 and 1998; in the UK and in some other countries, the impact factor often determines authors' decisions about the journal in which they seek to publish. Even though determination of the IF has flaws, it is one important measure of a journal's relationship to its competitors. Publishing surgical and diagnostic pathology papers is not incompatible with a high IF; the *Am J Surg Path* is ranked fourth in the SCI listing of pathology journals.

Cover illustration: In addition to approving new proposals for absorbing the costs of colour reproduction, the Council of the British Division of the IAP has indicated also, that a further small reduction in profit would be tolerated in order to enable a new cover illustration on each issue (rather than on each volume). The quality of illustrations published in *Histopathology* is now so high (even if as a result of image manipulation) that there should be no difficulty in selecting suitable cover pictures. The cover format allows up to three images, always from the same paper, to be published. This will be implemented with effect from January 2001. It will be seen as further evidence of the growing status of the journal. Furthermore, endeavour will be made to select illustrations that affirm the journal's orientation to the needs and interests of its primary readership — diagnostic histopathologists.

Desk Editor: The production of *Histopathology* is crucially dependent on the Desk Editor based in the Blackwell's London office, and for several years we have benefited greatly from the skills, commitment and dedication of Veronica Pock. Veronica resigned at the end of July 2000 and I wish to acknowledge here all that she has done to ease my task as Editor, particularly in implementing various changes in the content and layout of the journal. Helen-Jean Ball has succeeded her.

5. Any Other Business

Professor Jan van den Tweel was nominated as President Elect and will take over the Presidency from 2002-2004. Professor Henry will remain as European Vice President for two years. Dr Nick Rooney has retired as Secretary and Professor Neil Shepherd will take on this role. Three councillors will be retiring and after a ballot of members the following have been nominated to join the Council: - Dr Bryan Warren, Professor Alistair Burt, Dr Nassif Ibrahim and Dr John Coyne. Professor James Underwood takes over the Presidency for two years.