

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

## Held at RAI Conference Centre, Amsterdam

### Friday, 8 October 2002

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at the Park Conference Centre, London on 23 November 2001 were agreed.
2. **Secretary's Report**

Another year has passed and it is a pleasure to report the continuing success of the BDIAP in terms of its educational meetings, its finances and Council's plans for the future to support pathology education in the UK and internationally. The highlight for the Division this year is undoubtedly the successful planning and organisation of the XXIV International Congress of the IAP, to be hosted by the Division, in Amsterdam. The Division gains enormously from its associations with, and its members from, the Low Countries and the Republic of Ireland and it is a delight to Council that the International Congress has been so very well planned and organised by our colleagues in the Organising Committee. Especial thanks are due to Professor Jan van den Tweel, the Organising Committee Chairman, who is due to take over as President of our Division, at the time of the Congress. Grateful thanks are also due to his colleagues in the Organising Committee, Professor Sibrand Poppema, Dr Hans van der Linden, Dr Nick Francis and Dr Alec Howat, and to Eurocongres, for all their endeavours. The Congress has also benefited from a 6-person Scientific Advisory Committee and no less than 42 Scientific Programme Co-ordinators. This is a huge organisational task and we look forward to the Congress with anticipation, some pride and not a little trepidation.

Our Autumn meeting last year was held in central London and Professor Alastair Burt (Newcastle), a Council member, and Dr Rob Goldin (St Mary's Hospital, London) organised an excellent programme on Liver pathology. Although some aspects of the Conference Centre left a little to be desired, the scientific content of the meeting was exceptional. Contributions were universally excellent, largely from internationally recognised UK pathologists but with further contributions from clinical workers and from Professor Ian Wanless, a guest lecturer from Toronto, Canada. Because of some adverse features concerning the Conference Centre and some problems with other centres in London used in the past, Council is exploring other potential venues for our meetings in London. The Saturday morning session was a slide seminar organised and chaired by Dr Goldin. This, like the main meeting, was well attended and well received by all. The slide seminar had been previously circulated, in the form of a CD, and this format was well received by delegates.

The Spring Meeting this year was held in Belfast, not a familiar location for BDIAP Scientific Meetings, and featured Gynaecological Pathology. Dr Glenn McCluggage organised an excellent Scientific Meeting. There were contributions from internationally eminent British Gynaecological pathologists with further superb presentations by Professor Jamie Prat from Barcelona and Dr Robert Young from Boston, USA. There were 80 delegates and feedback was almost universally excellent. Grateful thanks are due to our hosts in Belfast, Dr Hoshang Bharucha and Dr Glenn McCluggage, for organising such an excellent meeting.

Over the past year, Council has continued its co-operation with developing countries. The advancement of the Arab School of Pathology has continued, largely through the exhaustive work of Professor Kristin Henry and we look forward to future meetings, at the Arab Division's annual conferences, with enthusiasm. Council has continued to strengthen our links with other Divisions of the IAP, especially the African Division. Council has agreed to support two traineeships in Pathology for training pathologists from disadvantaged Anglophone African countries. The African Division, essentially based in South Africa, has been of enormous support. Indeed it has been agreed that these trainees should train mainly in South Africa: this has the advantages that such trainees are likely to return to their country of origin to support pathology there and it is also enormously financially efficient, given the current strength of sterling against the rand.

Given our financial strength, and some pressures from the Charity Commission because of our financial holdings, Council has been looking at ways of using some reserves to support pathology education. It has agreed to establish travelling fellowships for undergraduates, to support BSc's and electives in Pathology for undergraduates and to offer fellowships for senior members to support undergraduate pathology education. Furthermore Council has agreed to support 30 bursaries for pathologists from disadvantaged countries to attend the XXIV International Congress of the IAP, hosted by the Division, in Amsterdam.

Planning for the Second Joint Meeting with the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, to be held in Bristol in July 2003, is well advanced. It will be called *Bristol Pathology 2003* and four sessions will be in the form of BDIAP-type educational sessions, on Gastrointestinal Pathology, Gynaecological pathology, Skin pathology and Specialist pathology for generalists, respectively. The meeting will be held over four days, 1 to 4

July. Council warmly endorses these joint meetings and has agreed that Newcastle, July 2005, will be the third such meeting.

There have been no changes in the membership of Council although Professor James Underwood will have finished his term as President by the time of the International Congress. Council wishes to add its congratulations to him on his appointment as President of the Royal College of Pathologists, a post he assumes in November. Pathology is in excellent hands if this appointment and the continued success of the BDIAP are anything to go by!

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

Financial details are on the attached Audited Accounts.

Despite a difficult year for financial markets, the Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £33,446 for 01/02. This reflects the continuing financial success of Histopathology (£145,619) compared with 00/01 (£113,260). Unsurprisingly, ABN AMRO and COIF investments made a paper loss of £88,746. Direct charitable expenditure was £124,100 compared with £117,729 for 00/01 reflecting the continued duties of Council members and Officers. Management and Administration costs were almost identical to 00/01.

The Society's total assets at 30 June 2002 were valued at £941,814 compared with £908,368 at 30 June 2001.

A number of applicants have taken up Junior membership for the annual fee of just £10. Evidence of Trainee status is required when applying for Junior membership of the BDIAP.

Council recommends the cost of Histopathology and membership of the Society remain at £70 for 2002, 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 2002 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2003.

The Treasurer once again 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.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

##### **Handbook**

This was last printed in 2000 and will be reprinted in 2004. 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 1162 of which are 23 Senior members and 14 Honorary members. There are 855 members from the UK, 88 from the Netherlands, 84 from Belgium, 51 from Eire with 47 from other countries.

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

The Editor reported that the journal was thriving. This year marked the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> year of publication of the journal. He thanked Professor Chris Elston and Professor Kristin Henry for their contribution to its success as they retired from the Editorial Board and said how much it had been appreciated. The Editor, Professor Underwood, then said that he was relinquishing the editorship of the journal due to his new appointment as President of the Royal College of Pathologists. He said that Professor Mike Wells would be taking over as Editor of Histopathology. He also thanked all those who had reviewed articles for the publication in the past.

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

The outgoing President welcomed Professor Jan van den Tweel as the new President of the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology and also thanked him for organising the very successful and popular XXIV International Congress in Amsterdam. There was no further business and the meeting was concluded.