

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London

Friday, 26 November 2004

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at the Commonwealth Institute, London on 28 November 2003 were agreed.
2. **Secretary's Report**

The BDIAP has had yet another successful year of Pathology Education in the UK and abroad. The last year has been a "gap year" for international and joint conferences, the next International Congress being this month in Brisbane, Australia. Whilst we have had two successful joint meetings with the Pathological Society, the next is due in Newcastle in 2005; this doesn't mean that the BDIAP, and its Council, have not been busy. We have had two excellent symposia, the first organised by Dr Nick Rooney on Lymphoreticular Disease in November 2003. This was a highly successful meeting with more than 200 delegates. There were excellent speakers and the social aspects of the meeting were also much applauded. Nick is, of course, a former Secretary of the Division and knows how to organise a good meeting! Also a former member of Council, Professor Eric von Marck, with his Belgian colleagues, organised an excellent Dermatopathology Meeting in Brussels in May 2004. Apart from the Eurostar train, in which the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Meetings Secretary were travelling, hitting a cow at top speed in the Belgian countryside, the meeting was a great success. The Council of the BDIAP strongly supports its meetings in the Low Countries and the Republic of Ireland and this meeting, like many others, was a great success.

There have been considerable changes in Membership of Council. Dr Nick Francis has resigned as Meetings Secretary after six years and is replaced by Dr Bryan Warren. Council wishes to warmly thank Nick for his endeavours and boundless enthusiasm over the last six years. Bryan Warren brings with him great experience, with other Societies, of this sort of role and we look forward to further developments of our meetings, with him at the helm. Council is also grateful to Professor Alastair Burt, Dr John Coyne, Dr Nassif Ibrahim and Professor Eric von Marck for their bonhomie and wise counsel over the past three years. They have been replaced on Council by Professor Mary Leader, Dr Sanjiv Manek, Dr Glenn McCluggage, Dr Ray McMahon and Professor Geraint Williams.

Particularly with our current strong financial holdings, Council has continued to look at ways at supporting pathology education in the UK and abroad. This year is the first year that we have awarded our BSc Grants, our Elective Scholarships and our Educational Fellowships. These were first proposed by Professor James Underwood, when he was our President and this development has become known as the Underwood Initiative in Council circles! We have attempted to reach all interested parties but, even so, the number of applications was somewhat disappointing. Nevertheless, in July of this year, these Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships were duly awarded and we look forward to supporting further initiatives in pathology education in the UK.

We are also shortly to appoint our first training posts to support African Pathology, in the Republic of South Africa. Council wishes to sincerely thank Professor Martin Hale, from Johannesburg, who has been such a strong supporter of this initiative. It seems that we have very good candidates and the successful applicants will be appointed during interviews at the next APECSA meeting in Kampala, Uganda in October of this year. In that regard, Professor Peter Furness is once again our "goodwill ambassador" at that meeting (and has kindly agreed to be our Council representative at those interviews) and Professor Eric von Marck was our "goodwill ambassador" at the SADIAP meeting in Durban in July 2004. Council strongly believes that we should continue to support African pathology in this way. By the same token, Council continues to support the Arab British School of Pathology. Professor Mary Leader and Dr Robin Reid were the invited lecturers in a very successful meeting on Soft Tissue Tumours in December 2003 in Damascus, Syria. The next meeting, in Cairo in November 2004, is on Gastro-intestinal Pathology. The Honorary Secretary and the Meetings Secretary have agreed to provide a series of lectures and

slide seminars at this meeting. Hopefully they will maintain the high standard, unless they suffer further transport calamities!!

Finally, I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the BDIAP. Above all, Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary works tirelessly for the BDIAP and is central to its continuing success. Dr Alec Howat makes a marvellous Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary, in particular, is grateful that he has agreed to continue in this role for another three years. Another critical part of our success is the role played by Professor Peter Furness. He has recently been instrumental in the redevelopment of our website, which is such an important interface with our members. Last, but not least, Professor Jan Van den Tweel is now well into his second year as Chairman and President. He has achieved many things in his inimitable style and Council is extremely grateful to him. By this time next year, he will have been replaced by Professor Christopher Elston but he will be a hard act to follow.

Council and I hope that many of you will be present at the Pulmonary Pathology Meeting in London at the end of November, not least to attend our AGM.

3. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report

Financial details are on the attached Audited Accounts.

The Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £217,517 for 03/04. This reflects the continuing financial success of Histopathology (£131,102) and the improving stock market. Artemis (previously ABN AMRO) and COIF investments reflected the increase in stock market value. Direct charitable expenditure was £145,738 compared with £154,864 for 02/03 reflecting the continued activities of the Division. Management and Administration costs were almost identical to 02/03.

The Society's total assets at 30th June 2004 were valued at £1,174,599 compared with £957,082 at 30th June 2003.

Many 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 to remain at £75 for 2005 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 £65 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary before the end of 2004 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2005.

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. Any changes in title, address, phone number, fax number and email address should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris. We are keen to obtain email addresses, as this is a convenient mode for communicating BDIAP business; please send your email addresses to Carol Harris before the end of 2004.

Membership

Total membership is 1286 of which there are 25 Senior members and 13 Honorary members. There are 942 members from the UK, 96 from the Netherlands, 97 from Belgium, 42 from Eire with 71 from other countries.

4. Editor's Report - Histopathology

The editor said that the journal continued to flourish financially and scientifically with an impact factor of 2.952. The Editor said they had had an Away Day in July to discuss

the journal and had decided on an Annual Review issue for January 2006. Professor Chris Fletcher would be the Guest Editor on the subject of Soft Tissue Tumours.

Two new Associate Editors are to be appointed – one with responsibility for Breast Pathology and one for GI Pathology. Two high volume areas.

Due to the amount of copy that we have it has been agreed to increase the pagination from 103 to 120 per issue as from January 2005.

The Histopathology Prize was awarded with prize money of Euros 10,000.

The Editorial office is now fully electronic with submissions on-line. It seems to be going well. Jenny Powell has been appointed as the new Assistant.

A decision has been made to discontinue the CD Rom as on-line access has made this redundant.

The Editor thanked his Editorial Board, Advisory Board and referees for their support.

5. Any Other Business

- i The current President thanked everyone for their help during his time in office with particular thanks going to Professor Neil Shepherd and Dr Alec Howat and to Carol Harris. He then handed over the chain of office to Professor Chris Elston the incoming President. It was announced that the new President Elect would be Professor Claude Cuvelier from Ghent.
- ii Thanks were also given to Professor Peter Furness who as recently updated the BDIAP website.
- iii Professor Elston concluded the meeting by thanking Professor van den Tweel for his time in office and the contribution he has made to the BDIAP.
- iv It was announced that the new Councillor elected to the Council by member's votes was Dr Stephen Wells.

There was no further business and the meeting was concluded.