

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Hilton Paddington Hotel, London

Friday, 25 November 2005

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London on 26 November 2004 were agreed with one change. Editor's Report – Histopathology should read "The Histopathology Prize was awarded with prize money of Euros 10,000".

2. **Election of Officers and Councillors**

There was nothing to report.

3. **General Secretary's Report**

It is a pleasure to report that the BDIAP has had another successful year of pathology education in the UK, in its sister countries, Ireland, Holland and Belgium, and further afield. One of the highlights of this educational year was the IAP World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, last October. This was an excellent meeting, both educationally and socially, and we know that many members of our Division thoroughly enjoy these excellent meetings. The next is in Montreal in September 2006. At the end of November 2004, Dr Nassif Ibrahim orchestrated an excellent BDIAP symposium on Pulmonary Pathology in London. This was held in the Royal College of Surgeons and the feedback was excellent. The symposium featured lectures by well-known pathologists from the UK and from abroad. July 2005 saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting with the Pathological Society in Newcastle. This was an outstanding joint meeting and most agreed that it felt "truly joint". There was excellent attendance and a varied and stimulating programme. Grateful thanks are to the local organiser Professor Alastair Burt, himself a former councillor of the BDIAP, and to the local organising committee, particularly the respective Meetings Secretaries of the Pathological Society and the BDIAP, Professor Massimo Pignatelli and Dr Bryan Warren. We value our strong links with the Pathological Society and this 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting can only serve to enhance these.

As far as Membership of Council is concerned, we offer our grateful thanks to Professor Jan van den Tweel, who has now finished his period as President and Chairman. We are most grateful to him for his excellent stewardship of the BDIAP. He has been replaced by Professor Christopher Elston. Chris is a very long term ardent supporter of the BDIAP and, already, he has introduced developments and initiatives which will long benefit the Society. We are also delighted that Professor Claude Cuvelier, from Ghent in Belgium, has agreed to become President-Elect. Claude, too, is a long term supporter of the BDIAP and is a former Councillor. This year, Dr Stephen Wells has been elected as a Councillor and has already started his term.

Particularly with our strong financial holdings, Council has continued to seek ways of supporting pathology education in its member countries and further afield. This is the second year that we have awarded grants for BSc students and Scholarships for medical student electives in pathology. This year we awarded four of the former, with a nice spread of successful universities, and one Scholarship for an elective. We had no applications for Fellowships.

With regard to our support for African Pathology, we have successfully appointed two Registrarships and these are to start in January 2006. Council wishes to sincerely thank Professor Martin Hale, from Johannesburg, South Africa, who is the lead for this initiative and has done sterling work to ensure appropriate registration and that the finances secure. These posts are for junior pathologists from disadvantaged African countries. The successful candidates were from Kenya and Zambia and they are due to start their posts in January 2006. Furthermore we continue to support the Arab British School of Pathology, through the offices of Professor Kristin Henry, our European Vice President, both financially and educationally. Dr Bryan Warren and myself were the invited lecturers in a successful and hugely enjoyable symposium, attended by 250 delegates, on gastro-intestinal pathology in November 2004. This, the third meeting of the Arab British School of Pathology, was held in Cairo, Egypt. Professor Ali El Hindawi was the local

organiser and he and his colleagues are to be congratulated for the excellent meeting. The next meeting, the 4<sup>th</sup>, is due to be held in Bahrain in November 2005. This year we are intending to expand our initiatives with a proposed Sri Lankan British School of Pathology (and through this we are hoping to support other South Asian countries) and joint support, with the RCPATH, of educational initiatives in India and elsewhere.

Council would like to congratulate a former President, Professor James Underwood, on his Knighthood in the 2005 New Years Honour's List. Council was also delighted that Sir James has been awarded and has accepted the Cunningham Medal of the BDIAP this year. Council would also like to congratulate our current Divisional Editor, Professor Peter Furness, on being appointed Vice President of the Royal College of Pathologists. A new development, initiated by our current President, is the President's Medal. This Medal is awarded to a Senior BDIAP member who has made a considerable contribution to pathological education. Professor Elston constituted a small committee and there was unanimous agreement that the inaugural President's Medal should be awarded to Dr Basil Morson for his services to gastro-intestinal pathological education. The Medals to Professor Sir James Underwood and to Dr Basil Morson will be presented at the Annual BDIAP Dinner as part of the Intestinal Pathology symposium on Friday, 25 November 2005.

As part of our responsibilities for the Charity Commission, this report requires to demonstrate the following information:

***List of Trustees –***

Professor C W Elston, Chairman and President of the BDIAP  
Professor C Cuvelier, President Elect  
Professor J van den Tweel, Past President  
Professor K Henry, European Vice President  
Professor N A Shepherd, General Secretary  
Dr A J Howat, Treasurer & Membership Secretary  
Dr B Warren, Meetings Secretary  
Professor P N Furness, Divisional Editor  
Professor M Wells, Editor, Histopathology  
Professor M Leader, Continental Councillor  
Professor P A Hall, Councillor  
Dr S Manek, Councillor  
Dr W G McCluggage, Councillor  
Dr R F T McMahan, Councillor  
Dr S Wells, Councillor  
Professor G T Williams, Councillor

***Policy on Risk Management:*** The Charity Trustees have given due consideration to the risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems designed to mitigate those risks. The major risk is the issue of Open Access related to articles in the Charity's journal 'Histopathology'. Should Open Access be implemented in its entirety, the Charity would potentially lose its entire income from the Journal that amounts to over 50% of the annual income. The Trustees are monitoring the situation closely. In the interim, the amount spent on charitable deeds has inevitably to be titrated against realistic sustainable income from members' dues and meetings' profits.

***Policy on Reserves:*** The reserves have continued to increase year-on-year, being £1,329,044 on 30.6.05. This is despite significant increases in charitable expenditure, especially on the development of Pathology in the developing world. The reserves are needed to counteract the potential of Open Access (see under Policy on Risk Management) that could have a significant impact on the Charity.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank all of my colleagues on Council of the BDIAP. Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary remains central to the continuing success of the BDIAP and puts in an enormous amount of work. Dr Alec Howat has been, and

continues to be, a marvellous Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. He will have completed 12 years as the Treasurer by the end of next year and I know he feels that that may be long enough! He will be a very hard act to follow! Another critical part of our success is the role played by Professor Peter Furness. He has completely redeveloped our website and this now includes on-line booking of our meetings. This is a crucial development for us and the website remains an important interface with our members. Dr Bryan Warren is now well established as our Meetings Secretary. He and I have a long and fruitful relationship, given our mutual interests in gastrointestinal pathology, and our meetings already bear his inimitable trade marks! He works tirelessly for the BDIAP and we are all very grateful. Last, but certainly not least, Professor Chris Elston is already demonstrating his skill, experience and bonhomie as Chairman and President of the Society. It is a great pleasure to work with all these colleagues.

#### **4. Meeting Secretary's Report**

One and a half day single topic meetings continue to be successful.

Newcastle Pathology 2005 appeared to be popular apart from the slide seminar, which few people attempted. Glasgow 2007 will be run along similar lines.

Future one-day meetings include Soft Tissue Pathology in Utrecht, Breast Pathology in London and Gynaecological Pathology in Dublin.

I have reintroduced a drinks reception the night before the meeting for those travelling from afar.

London venues are becoming more difficult to find at a reasonable cost. We are lucky to have the use of the Royal College of Surgeons for the meeting next year in London and for the dinner this year.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Financial details are on the attached Audited Accounts.

The Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £154,445 for 04/05. This reflects the continuing financial success of Histopathology (£153,625) and the improving stock market. Artemis (previously ABN AMRO) and COIF investments reflected the increase in stock market value. Direct charitable expenditure was £201,413 compared with £145,738 for 03/04 reflecting the increasing activities of the Division. Management and Administration costs were almost identical to 03/04.

The Society's total assets at 30th June 2005 were valued at £1,329,044 compared with £1,174,599 at 30th June 2004.

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 2006 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 2005 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2006.

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.

**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 2005 if you have not already done so.

**Membership**

Total membership is 1323 of which 29 are Senior members and 11 Honorary members. There are 959 members from the UK, 110 from the Netherlands, 95 from Belgium, 48 from Eire with 111 from other countries.

**6. Editor's Report – Histopathology**

The Editor of Histopathology reported that the Editorial Board had held its annual meeting the day before and that he had just completed three years as Editor of the journal and had agreed to continue for a further three years. He reported that the Journal had been on-line for just over a year and the number of papers submitted had risen to 659 – a third more than before on-line was available. He reported that two new Associate Editors had been appointed, Dr Sarah Pinder and Professor Neil Shepherd. He said that there had been an increase in the numbers of pages in 2006 and there had been eighteen original articles in a single issue. It was the aim to reduce the time between acceptance and publication online of articles.

An Annual Review Issue would be published with the following subjects  
2006 – Soft Tissue Pathology - Professor C Fletcher; 2007 – GI Pathology and 2008 – Breast Pathology.

The Editor announced that the 2004 Roger Cotton Histopathology Prize of Euros 10,000 had been awarded to Dr Michael Slater in Sydney.

**7. Awards and Prizes**

It was announced that this year the Cunningham Medal has been awarded to Professor Sir James Underwood.

It was also announced that the BDIAP had a new medal – the President's Medal and this year it has been awarded to Dr Basil Morson for his contribution to pathology education.

**8. Any Other Business**

It was announced that the Council would hold an Awayday in the Spring, where it would consider all aspects of the Society. Professor Shepherd asked that any views or suggestions should be sent to the Administrative Secretary beforehand so they could be considered.

There was no further business and the meeting was concluded.