

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London

Friday, 23 November 2007

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London on 26 November 2006 were agreed.

2. **Election of Officers and Councillors**

It was announced that Professor Geraint Williams would be the new President Elect. Dr Stephen Wells would be taking over from Professor Furness as the Divisional Editor and Professor Furness was thanked for the work that he had done on behalf of the BDIAP during the his term of office.

3. **General Secretary's Report**

The BDIAP has had another highly successful year of pathological education and advancement. Our continuing financial strength has enabled us to advance our initiatives for pathology education in our member countries and in other affiliated Divisions and countries, notably the Arab Division, Eastern and Southern Africa, Bosnia and Sri Lanka. At the end of 2006, Dr Alec Howat retired as the Treasurer. He made an enormous contribution to the success of the Division and this has been acknowledged this year by the award of a Cunningham medal. Dr Ray McMahon has replaced him and demonstrates superb skills in this challenging post. Further, Professor Chris Elston finished his term as the Division's President. He, too, has made a huge contribution to the Division, over many years, and his Presidency was enormously successful, particularly with new developments that emanating out of the very successful AwayDay that he organised. Professor Claude Cuvelier has replaced him and has already shown what a capable President he is. After 10 years service, Professor Peter Furness has retired as Divisional Editor. He has established the website and the Newsletter and has been a pivotal member of Council. He will be sorely missed and the Division has also acknowledged his huge contribution by the award of a Cunningham medal. He has been replaced by Dr Stephen Wells, who has already demonstrated how enthusiastic and able he is in this role. Council has also awarded a President's Medal this year to Professor Sir Roddy MacSween. These presentations will be made at the November 2007 meeting.

This year, there have been changes to Council. Professor Jan van de Tweel has left Council after his Presidency. The Division is most grateful to him for all his endeavours. Dr Sanjiv Manek and Professor Glenn McCluggage have also finished their term as Councillors. Professor Geraint Williams should have stepped down but he has become President-Elect. New Councillors are Professor Chris Meijer, our Dutch representative, Professor Andrew Nicholson, Professor Sarah Pinder and Dr Mark Smith. In the last year, Council has agreed to support the new educational development at the Royal Collage of Pathologists to the tune of £50,000. This is one development that has been allowed by our excellent financial standings. As Rays' Financial Report indicates, our reserves were £1,812,821 on 30.06.07.

The Division was very well represented at the Montreal World Congress in September 2006. Indeed, as it was the 100 year anniversary of the IAP, there were twelve Gold Medal Awards, two of which were to the BDIAP. Its journal, Histopathology, and the Arab British School of Pathology were the recipients. Furthermore, there were awards of five Certificates of Merit. These were to the Division itself, Professor Kristin Henry and to the three living former Editors of Histopathology, Professors MacSween, Underwood & Wells. The meeting was highly successful, both educationally and socially, and the standing of the Division can have only increased by its wide-ranging involvement in IAP matters.

In November 2006, our annual meeting was on Breast Pathology. Professor Sarah Pinder organised an excellent meeting and the meeting was a tribute to Professor Chris Elston, who was retiring as both President of the BDIAP and from his NHS practice. This was an excellent educational event and more than 400 delegates attended. At the Dinner, Professor Sir James Underwood gave a marvellous tribute to Professor Elston and his unmatched contribution to the BDIAP. July 2007 saw the fourth Joint Meeting with the Pathological Society in Glasgow. As with previous joint meetings, this was an excellent meeting, very well attended and a credit to all of those involved in its organisation.

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

List of Trustees: Professor C Cuvelier, Chairman & President; Professor G T Williams, President-Elect; Professor C W Elston, Past President; Professor K Henry, European Vice President; Professor N A Shepherd, General Secretary; Dr R F T McMahon, Treasurer; Dr B F Warren, Meetings Secretary; Dr S Wells, Divisional Editor; Professor M Wells, Editor, Histopathology; Professor P A Hall, Councillor; Professor M Leader, Councillor; Professor C Meijer, Councillor; Professor A G Nicholson, Councillor; Professor S Pinder, Councillor; Dr M E F Smith, Councillor; Dr L Browning, Junior Councillor; Dr K Robertson, Junior 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. A major risk is the issue of Open Access related to articles in the Charity's journal 'Histopathology'. If Open Access was implemented in its entirety, the Charity would potentially lose much 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 £1,812,821 on 30.06.07. 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 acknowledge all my colleagues on Council of the BDIAP. Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary, is pivotal to the continuing success of the BDIAP and works tirelessly. Dr Ray McMahon has already demonstrated himself to be an excellent Treasurer. Dr Bryan Warren has been much aided in his role as Meetings Secretary by Dr Ian Roberts and by the Junior Councillor Dr Lisa Browning. They have introduced many new initiatives, as his report indicates. We are delighted that Dr Stephen Wells has become Divisional Editor. He has already put in many hours learning about the website and the various bursaries and educational initiatives of the BDIAP. Finally, I have to acknowledge the work of the President, the Past President and the President-Elect. All three are centrally involved in the organisation of the BDIAP and are very important to the successful workings of new BDIAP sub-committees. It is a great pleasure for me to be associated with these friends and colleagues.

4. Meeting Secretary's Report

The last year has seen some excellent meetings. The November 2006 meeting on Breast pathology was well attended and highly successful, thanks to the efforts of those involved, in particular Sarah Pinder, Chris Elston and Bryan Warren. The demand for places resulted in an attendance that exceeded the capacity of the main lecture theatre (296 seats) at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and necessitated a video link to a second lecture theatre. This was not quite good enough for histological images and for the upcoming meeting on Urological pathology it was decided to fix attendance at 296 places. This meeting became rapidly over subscribed, despite limited advertising,

confirming the popularity and educational value of the current format of the BDIAP meetings.

Glasgow Pathology 2007, the joint meeting with the Pathological Society, was also a very successful and well-attended meeting. Particular thanks should be given to the local organising committee. Symposia and lectures covered a broad range of specialties and the delegate feedback was very positive for all.

Future Meetings

The theme of the Spring 2008 meeting will be Gynaecological pathology, held jointly with the British Association of Gynaecological Pathologists. The meeting will take place in Manchester on 18-19 April, with Ray McMahon and Godfrey Wilson as the local organisers. The lecture theatre we are using has a capacity of 200, which we could fill twice over, so those wishing to attend should book early!

The November 2008 meeting will be on Hepatic and Pancreatico-biliary pathology. Professor Alistair Burt has put together an excellent programme for this. It will take place on 28-29 November in London.

The next International Congress will be in Athens in September 2008. Beyond that, Cardiff Pathology 2009 will be the next joint meeting with the Pathological Society.

Trainees Meetings

This is a new initiative led by Lisa Browning. Following the success of the 'meet the experts' session at the Glasgow Pathology meeting in July, a programme of one-day trainees meetings is planned. The first is on 8 April 2008 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, entitled "Approach to Cut-Up; Macroscopic Examination as the Precursor to Accurate Microscopic Interpretation". In acknowledgement of the recent cut in study leave budgets, this will be heavily subsidised by the BDIAP, allowing a registration fee of £25.

International activities

The Bosnian British School of Pathology: The first meeting was a success and our thanks go to Semir Vranic, Neil Shepherd, Geraint Williams and also to Mike Franey from Acorn aid. The attendance was good as was the enthusiasm and hospitality. This included a day's bird watching, which I understand was particularly appreciated! Semir Vranic has been invited to spend time with Dr Jorge Reis-Filho and attend the November BDIAP meeting. It has been agreed by Council to fund 14 Balkan pathologists to attend the IAP meeting in Athens in 2008. Funds have also been put aside to provide books for several departments in Bosnia, an initiative led by Katie Robertson.

The Sri Lankan British School of Pathology: The first meeting, a one week educational programme on Gastrointestinal pathology, was very successful, thanks to the efforts of Ray McMahon, Neil Shepherd and Geraint Williams

Mike Wells was this year's Goodwill Ambassador to South Africa, giving an impressive list of lectures during a week in July.

This brief report gives an indication of the health of BDIAP meetings in this country and the work that goes into supporting pathology education outside the UK. If you have any suggestions for future educational initiatives, we would be very glad to hear from you.

5. Treasurer's Report

The BDIAP continues to do well financially. Our main sources of income are membership subscriptions, educational meetings, our investment portfolio and the profits from the Histopathology journal. Our main areas of expenditure relate to organisation of our educational meetings, our sponsorship of educational activities within the BDIAP countries and abroad, and our governance costs. An exceptional item

this year was a donation of £50,000 to the Royal College of Pathologists Education Centre, which the BDIAP is very pleased to support. In the past year, the profit from Histopathology increased to £212,646 while our overall income was in excess of £400,000. Our expenditure increased to £318,590 resulting in a net gain of over £82,000, along with an unrealised gain on our investments of over £127,000. Thus our net balance as of the end of our financial year in June 2007 was £1,812,821, an increase on the year of nearly £210,000. This rate of increase is somewhat less than the previous year (£273,000), mainly related to variations in the valuation of our investments, which are held with COIF and Artemis. These reserves are sufficient to support the activities of the BDIAP and to plan for increased educational activity through our various schemes, scholarships and bursaries, in keeping with our stated aims as a charitable organisation.

Council recommends that the cost of membership to include subscription to Histopathology should remain at £85 for 2008, with a reduced Junior Membership rate of £10. Additional subscriptions to Modern Pathology and Laboratory Investigation also remain at £65 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2008 (or to change your existing arrangements).

This has been my first year as Treasurer and my task has been helped immensely by the invaluable support of Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary, and I am also very grateful to Mr Raj Visana of Visana Chartered Accountants for help in preparing the accounts and the annual report to the Charity Commission. I am particularly indebted to my predecessor as Treasurer, Alec Howat, for handing over the finances of the BDIAP in such good shape and for his ready availability to deal with my many queries over the past year. His deep knowledge and affection for the BDIAP shone through in all my dealings with him. I would also like to thank my fellow officers and trustees of the BDIAP for their patience during my first year and especially to Mark Smith, for his help and advice as a co-member of the Finance Sub-committee.

Membership

Total membership is 1363 of 28 are Senior members and 9 Honorary members. There are 1018 from the UK, 104 from The Netherlands, 90 from Belgium, 48 from Ireland with 103 from other countries.

6. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor reported that it had been a successful year with 700 submissions for the year with a 35% acceptance rate. The number of pages was now up by a third with a period of 5 months between acceptance and publication. The impact factor in 2006 was 3.216, the highest in the 30 years of the journal's publication. The BDIAP/Histopathology reception held at USCAP earlier in the year had been very successful. Professor Mike Wells will be resigning as Editor in December 2008.

7. Awards and Prizes

The Roger Cotton Prize was awarded to Professor Jeremy Jass. The Cunningham Medal was awarded to Professor Peter Furness for his important contribution to the BDIAP during his time in office. The President's Medal was awarded to Professor Roddy MacSween for his particular contribution to pathology over the years.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.