

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Paddington Hilton Hotel, London
Friday 28 November 2008

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London on 23 November 2007 were agreed.
2. **Election of Officers and Councillors**

It was announced that Professor Geraint Williams would take over the Presidency at the end of the meeting and the new President Elect would Professor Neil Shepherd. Professor Andrew Nicholson would become the new Honorary Secretary and that Professor Tim Stephenson was the newly elected Councillor.

3. **General Secretary's Report**

The BDIAP has had another very successful year in pathological education and advancement. We have continued our initiatives in pathology education in both our four member countries and also in other Divisions. Professor Claude Cuvelier has made an excellent President. Furthermore, Dr Ray McMahon, as Treasurer, has continued to show wise husbandry with our finances. Despite downturns in the economy, our reserves are still strong, as these documents attest. Dr Stephen Wells has become the new Divisional Editor. He has taken to this role with aplomb. He has trained in IT and is already developing the website highly successfully. The Newsletter continues to flourish under his guidance and he and his IT and Education Sub-committee has taken on numerous other educational initiatives with great success.

Whilst Professor Neil Shepherd and Dr Bryan Warren continue as General Secretary and Meetings Secretary respectively, there have been changes to Council. We have elected a new Belgian Councillor, Professor Isabelle Salmon, and a new Irish Councillor, Professor Elaine Kay. This year, Dr Cathy Corbishley was elected as a Councillor. Professor Peter Hall had demitted from his role as General Secretary of the Pathological Society. His co-opted place on Council has been taken by the new General Secretary, Professor Simon Herrington. Professor Mary Leader has also finished her term of Office as a Councillor. She has effectively been replaced by Professor Kay as the Irish Councillor.

2007 saw the continuance of the Arab British School of Pathology. Furthermore, August 2007 and September 2007 saw the Inaugural Bosnian British School of Pathology and Sri-Lankan British School of Pathology, held in Sarajevo and Colombo respectively. Both of these, conveniently, were on gastro-intestinal pathology and our President Elect, General Secretary and Treasurer were the lecturers and ambassadors for the BDIAP. The second Bosnian British School of Pathology was held in April 2008 on breast pathology. All of these were highly successful meetings and this bodes well for similar future meetings and for relationships with other Pathological Societies and Divisions.

Our own meetings were very successful. July 2007 saw the fourth Joint Meeting with the Pathological Society, in Glasgow. Continuing in the vein of the three previous joint meetings, this one was highly successful with more than 400 delegates despite some patchy Scottish weather, the feedback from this meeting was excellent. November 2007 saw our familiar Annual Meeting in London. This was on urological pathology. There were 296 registrants and the meeting was testament to the organisational skills of our Meetings Secretary, Dr Bryan Warren, our Deputy Meetings Secretary, Dr Ian Roberts and Dr David Griffiths. April 2008 saw the Inaugural One Day Seminar for Trainees in Histopathology in London. This was a superb meeting and it, too, bodes well for similar future meetings. In April 2008, the BDIAP had a joint meeting with the BAGP on gynecological pathology. 200 delegates attended and the meeting was a great success.

We look forward to the biennial IAP World Congress in Athens in October 2008. Further, our annual Autumn Meeting will be on Liver pathology in November 2008.

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; Professor E Kay, Irish Councillor; Professor C J L M Meijer, Dutch Councillor; Professor A G Nicholson, Councillor; Professor S Pinder, Councillor; Professor I Salmon, Belgian 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 £1,837,363 on 30.06.08. This is despite significant increases in charitable expenditure, especially on the development of Pathology in the developing world and in spite of current financial downturns. 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.

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. Dr Stephen Wells has become an excellent Divisional Editor, particularly in his development of the website and the Newsletter. Finally, I would like to gratefully 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 BDIAP meetings of one and a half day on single topics continue to be successful.

The Symposium on Gynaecological Pathology was held in Manchester 18-19 April and was a very successful meeting thanks to both the programme and work of local organisers. The first Trainees Meeting was held in London in March this year, this proved to be a great success and will be repeated next year.

The International Congress of the IAP was held in Athens from 12-17 October this year.

The Symposium on Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Pathology and this will take place in London from 28-29 November 2008 at the London Hilton Paddington.

The next Joint Meeting with the Pathological Society is CARDIFF PATHOLOGY 2009 and this will take place from 30 June –3 July 2009. Both the programme and speakers are excellent.

A number of other meetings are in the planning stage:-

27-28 November 2009 - *London* - The Autopsy

Spring 2010 – *Cork, Ireland* - Symposium on Upper Gastrointestinal Pathology

26-27 November 2010 – *London* - Symposium on Head and Neck Pathology

9-13 May 2011 – *Ghent, Belgium* - GHENT PATHOLOGY 2011 (Joint Meeting with Pathological Society)

25-26 November 2011 – *London* – Symposium on the Pathology of Infection

Bosnian British School of Pathology

2008 Breast Pathology was a very successful meeting thanks to Sara Pinder and Jorge Rheis-Filo and to the excellent local arrangements of Semir Vranic and colleagues. The next meeting will be on Gynaecological and Lymphoreticular Pathology and will be held in 2009. Dr Sanjiv Manek and colleagues will be providing the lectures. Dr Vranic will be away in the USA but will still help to organise this meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

The auditor's report, including the detailed financial statements, is attached. This shows that the finances of the BDIAP remain in generally good shape, although there are some issues that require more detailed consideration. Our funds carried forward at the end of the financial year show a slight increase of just under £25k leaving a total of just over £1.8m. This is a good performance in the current economic climate, in which the underperformance of our investments was counterbalanced by the excellent returns from our association with Wiley-Blackwell in the Histopathology journal and continuing income from our meetings, including our joint meetings with the Pathological Society.

The continuing success of the Histopathology journal is one of our major sources of income. This is due to the excellent work of the editor, Professor Michael Wells, and his associate editors in producing a journal whose impact factor continues to rise along with the magnificent support of Wiley-Blackwell, especially that of Elizabeth Whelan. After a number of years where the subscription costs remained static, there will be an increase in line with inflation in the next year.

Membership income dropped slightly this year. We have positively encouraged subsidised trainee membership but we need to ensure that our core membership is maintained and even increased.

Our educational expenditure appears to have dropped this year but this is partly explained by an exceptional payment of £50k to the Royal College of Pathologists for their education centre in the previous year. We have continued our activities within our home countries with BSc studentships, elective bursaries and fellowships. At the same time we have continued our award-winning association with the Arab-British School, while developing our relations with Eastern and Southern Africa (special commendation for Ahmed Kalebi who continues to excel in South Africa), Bosnia and Sri Lanka.

Meetings income continues to be positive, especially our joint meetings with the Pathological Society. These meetings (our own and those with other organisations including the British Association of Gynaecological Pathology) are primarily educational and our overall aim is to be cost neutral but additional income is always welcome.

Our investment income this year has dropped considerably. Our three unit trusts with two companies (COIF and Artemis) all showed significant drops, in line with the general performance of the stock market. We have maintained our increased income in cash in relatively low interest bearing accounts. This has turned out to be a safe strategy in the short term but there is a need now to look at a medium to long term approach to our investments. It has been agreed that the members of the finance subcommittee should meet with a number of financial companies to discuss future potential strategies.

At present, we have sufficient assets and reserves to support our agreed activities for quite a few years to come. Our aim is to ensure that the BDIAP is able to promote our avowed

charitable aims within a stable financial environment. We may find that the years of exponential growth will no longer continue but our medium to long-term strategy should be to confirm our financial stability with reasonable growth. This should be a four-pronged approach: stable or increasing membership income, continuing development of Histopathology with Wiley-Blackwell, neutral or better meetings income, and a stable or increasing investment income using professional advice.

As always, the continued success of the BDIAP in financial terms is a team effort. I am extremely grateful to our Administrative Secretary, Mrs Carol Harris, for her enormous support through the year keeping me up to date with current expenditure. The members of the finance subcommittee (Mark Smith, Claude Cuvelier and recently Elaine Kay) have been very helpful in providing advice and guidance. In his role as chair of the education subcommittee, Steve Wells has been invaluable in informing me as to who should receive our bursaries and awards. Our relationship with Wiley-Blackwell is hugely important in the generation of income for the BDIAP and I am particularly grateful to Elizabeth Whelan for her continued strong support for our organisation. The relationship of the treasurer with the secretary in any organisation is a very important one and I am very grateful to Neil Shepherd for his support throughout the year. For the recent IAP Congress in Athens, he was invaluable in ensuring our burgeoning relationship with our colleagues in Bosnia and adjacent Balkan countries.

6. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor reported that it had been another successful year with around 700 submissions during the year and the impact factor continued to rise. Professor Wells said that this should have been his last meeting as Editor but as no successor had been found he had agreed to serve a further term and would now leave at the end of 2011. The 2009 Annual Review issue would be on thoracic pathology and in 2010 it would be skin pathology with Eduardo Calonje as Guest Editor. In 2011 it would be on lymphoreticular pathology. A new Editor of North America would be sought next year.

7. Awards and Prizes

The Roger Cotton Prize was awarded to Dr Idowu. The Cunningham Medal was awarded to Professor Chris Elston for his important contribution to the BDIAP during his time in office. The President's Medal was awarded to Professor Harold Fox for his particular contribution to pathology.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.