

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London
Friday 27 November 2009

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at the Paddington Hilton Hotel, London on 26 November 2008 were agreed.

2. **General Secretary's Report**

The General Secretary sought approval of the changes to the Constitution circulated previously. These were duly approved.

For the first time in 9 years, there is a change in the General Secretary of the division, with the retirement of Professor Neil Shepherd from this post. Thanks go to him for his hard work in organising and developing the BDIAP over this period. There is also a new President, Professor Geraint Williams, who has carried on where Professor Cuvelier left off in driving our initiatives in pathology education - in both our four member countries and also in other Divisions. Professor Geraint Williams was also integral in the success of the Joint BDIAP/Pathological Society meeting in Cardiff this year.

Other officers have remained in post. In particular, Dr Ray McMahon has continued as Treasurer. His experience, given the turmoil in financial markets during the last 18 months, has left us better off than many societies over the economic downturn and his report documents the changes in BDIAP investment strategy. Over 2008-9, Dr Stephen Wells, the Divisional Editor has utilised his IT skills such that our website is up and running and is now the portal for BDIAP meeting bookings with Newsletter access amongst other relevant information for members.

Changes to Council members have seen Professor Tim Stephenson elected and two further members are due for election by year-end, with Prof Sarah Pinder, Dr Ian Roberts and Dr Mark Smith coming off council. Dr Ian Roberts has however been appointed to Deputy Meetings Secretary to help with the increasing workload dealt with by Bryan Warren and Dr Mark Smith has been co-opted to the Finance Subcommittee to see through the changes in financial strategy. We have elected a new Dutch Councillor, Professor Paul van der Valk and thanks go to Prof Christopher Meijer for his input whilst on Council.

Charitable work abroad continues with the British Schools of Pathology in Arabic, Balkan countries and Sri Lanka. In addition, we have set up a further British School of Pathology in East Africa, which was well received by regional countries where pathology in the public sector is very poorly resourced. A new and used book initiative organised by Dr Alec Howat, through the BDIAP, has led to some departments in these countries now having at least some library resources and a strategy for our role in developing African pathology has been set.

Our own meetings also flourished, with the November 2008 on Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Pathology being highly successful and well attended as was the Joint meeting in Cardiff with the Pathological Society, showcasing national research and diagnostic advances to all those who attended. The 2009 one-day trainee meeting on ancillary techniques complemented the 2008 meeting on macroscopy and cut-up, and a third meeting will take place in 2010 for trainees. We also look forward to our Spring meeting, now due to be held at Ainley Top in Yorkshire, the topic being Upper Gastrointestinal Pathology, and also the biennial IAP World Congress in Sao Paulo in October 2010.

Congratulations go to Professor Mike Wells, who continues as Editor of *Histopathology*, for overseeing its impact factor rising to 4.131, now above the American Journal of Surgical Pathology, and also to Professor Kristin Henry who is now President-Elect of the IAP itself.

Finally, Council have proposed changes to the BDIAP Constitution, now that trainee membership is a recognised category, and the membership are asked to approve these at the AGM during the November meeting.

4. Meeting Secretary's Report

The BDIAP Meetings Subcommittee continues to function well. I am grateful for the hard work everyone has put in, especially Dr Ian Roberts, newly appointed Deputy Meetings Secretary and Dr Lisa Browning, newly appointed Trainee Meetings Organiser. The one and a half day meetings seem to continue to work well

The Symposium on Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Pathology held in November last year was well attended and was an excellent meeting. The new dinner venue (The Athenaeum) proved to be very successful.

TRAINEE MEETINGS - the next meeting will be on the Cut Up and is, by request, a repeat of a previously successful day. Please urge your trainees to attend.

CARDIFF PATHOLOGY 2009 – this was a superb meeting - thanks to the excellent local organisers and Meeting Voice, a meetings organisation run by Loretta Blackburn. I am particularly grateful to Geraint Williams and Bharat Jasani for producing this conference and also to my fellow Meetings Secretary in the Pathological Society, Professor Ian Ellis.

27-28 November 2009 - THE AUTOPSY - *London* - the quality of this meeting is high thanks to the efforts of Ian Roberts.

Spring 2010 - SYMPOSIUM ON UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL PATHOLOGY - this meeting has been moved from Ireland to the UK venue of *Ainley Top*.

26-27 November 2010 – *London* - SYMPOSIUM ON HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY - Roddy Simpson has produced an excellent programme for this meeting.

9-13 May 2011 – *Ghent, Belgium* - GHENT PATHOLOGY 2011 (Joint Meeting with Pathological Society). Claude Cuvelier is working hard on this meeting that will be held at the excellent conference venue of the Het Pand.

25-26 November 2011 – *London* – SYMPOSIUM ON THE PATHOLOGY OF INFECTION.

Bosnian British School of Pathology -this continues to be a successful venture involving and bringing together pathologists from several Balkan countries. Sanjiv Manek, Colin Clelland and Stefan Docjinov gave a brilliant week of tuition this year and Eduardo Calonje and his colleagues will attend next year.

Sri Lankan British School of Pathology - this year's meeting worked very well thanks to Sanjiv Manek and his colleagues. This school will run every two years.

East African British School of Pathology - this is in evolution at the moment.

5. Treasurer's Report

The financial statement for the year to 30 June 2009 has been circulated. This shows that the BDIAP remains in good financial health with increasing subscription income, slight reduction in investment income, reduction in overall assets and continuing increase in income from Histopathology. The overall effect is a small reduction in total funds from £1.837M to £1.739M (-5.33%), which in the context of the current climate of financial activity is acceptable. There has been an increase in our charitable educational activities in the last year including the support provided to colleagues in the Balkans to attend the Athens congress and the developments in East Africa, building on previous success with Dr Ahmed Kalebi. Our successful ventures with the Arab-British, British-Bosnian and Sri Lankan-British schools continue, as well as continuing support to BSc studentships, electives, travelling fellowships and travel bursaries for the home based members.

At the council meeting in April 2009, following an earlier detailed meeting of the financial subcommittee, there was an agreement that the BDIAP should modify its financial strategy. The initial remit was to decide on the purpose of our assets and it was agreed that the main aim was to support our charitable aims and objectives by maintaining a reasonably steady expenditure versus income position. The criteria for our investments were reviewed and in line with previous council discussions, there was agreement that we should avoid where at all possible involvement with tobacco and armaments (some pooled funds have a proportion of their investments in these groups). There was also discussion on our risk profile and in line with previous council discussions, this was agreed to be low-risk with an aim to maintain modest growth. It was decided to recommend that the BDIAP should use Brown Shipley as our investment advisers. Since instituting these arrangements in July 2009, there has been disposal of the Artemis Capital and COIF funds and the purchase of a mixture of equities, pooled funds and bonds, in an appropriately timed manner. We also propose to transfer our current HSBC low interest bearing funds to low-risk tax-free index linked gilts.

This year there has been increased work for members of the Finance SC (Professors Williams and Kay and Dr Smith) and I am very grateful for their support. I am pleased that Mark Smith has agreed to remain for a further year as a co-opted member to maintain continuity. Our new relationship with Brown Shipley is going well and it is proposed that John Wood from that company should attend our next council meeting in Spring 2010. Our accountant Raj Visana provides an excellent service. As always I am extremely grateful for the very considerable efforts of our Administrator Carol Harris without whom the role of Treasurer would be very difficult.

6. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor said that the journal continued to prosper. Professor Wells would remain as Editor until January 2012 when the new Editor (yet to be appointed) would take over. Applications were requested from members of the British Division.

7. Awards and Prizes

The Cunningham Medal was awarded to Mrs Carol Harris for her contribution to the BDIAP and The President's Medal was awarded to Professor Kristin Henry for her continuing contribution to pathology.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.