

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Royal College of Physicians, London  
Friday 26 November 2010

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London on 27 November 2009 were agreed with the deletion of the statement that the Impact Factor of *Histopathology* was greater than the Journal of Pathology.
2. **General Secretary's Report**

It is safe to say that it has taken a full year in office to really understand how the BDIAP runs, and all the hard work that is done by Council, Officers and our Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Geraint Williams for his leadership as President and look forward to his continued advice as he assumes the role of Past President. Professor Neil Shepherd will succeed Geraint in November and we all look forward to him taking the BDIAP forward over the next two years.

In relation to BDIAP Officers, Dr Ray McMahon and his subcommittee have continued their sterling work in relation to our finances, employing Brown-Shipley to supervise our portfolio, with 2009/10 being a bonus year with the added revenue from Wiley-Blackwell in relation to *Histopathology*. In these current financial times, his management over the past year has been nothing short of excellent. Dr Stephen Wells and his Education/IT subcommittee have continued to develop the website with this now being the portal for BDIAP meeting bookings and slide seminars. The Newsletter is also now wholly electronic, reinforcing our active stance in reducing the BDIAP carbon footprint, not least by holding subcommittee meetings either by teleconference or at our national meetings. With regard to the Meetings subcommittee, their work is detailed below, but I especially thank on behalf of the BDIAP membership Professor Bryan Warren for his unstinting hard work in heading this subcommittee over the past six years. Dr Ian Roberts, who has already shown his pedigree in relation to the highly informative meeting on the Autopsy in November 2009, takes over this role.

Changes to Council members will see Dr Cathy Corbishley coming off Council and thanks go to her for her input over the past three years. Dr Sanjiv Manek and Dr Nafisa Wilkinson have joined Council, with Professor Salmon remaining as Belgian Councillor and Dr Fionnuala O'Connell replacing Professor Elaine Kay as the Irish Representative. Dr Alec Howat remains co-opted to Council to lead development of our charitable work in East Africa. Dr Silke Weischeide has joined Dr Lisa Browning as the second Trainees representative and it was pleasing to see that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trainees meeting was completely sold out. The fourth meeting is intended to run for two days with some places being made available to Biomedical Scientists who undertake cut-ups as a new initiative.

British Schools of Pathology in East African, Arabic and Balkan countries all took place over 2010. The Sri Lankan school is held biannually and due again in 2011. We are also embarking on a new and exciting initiative, in relation to these areas, by offering sponsored attachments within the UK in 2011. Our thanks go to Alec Howat for his drive and enthusiasm in leading the East African work on our behalf. We also continue to sponsor UK trainees and trainees from under-resourced countries to attend IAP and other meetings.

Our own meetings also flourished; in Spring 2010 a meeting on Upper Gastrointestinal Pathology took place at Ainley Top in Yorkshire. Future national meetings will be on Infections and Dermatopathology and with the 2011 joint meeting with the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland being held in Ghent in May, we have a number of meetings to look forward to.

Thanks go to Professor Mike Wells for his superb Editorship of *Histopathology* which has gone from strength to strength under his stewardship. He will be succeeded by Professor Alastair Burt in January 2012 and we look forward to his leadership. However, Professor Wells will remain on Council as he has accepted the role of President-Elect of the BDIAP.

Finally, congratulations go to Prof Kristen Henry who by now is President of the International Academy of Pathology. We also welcome Dr Mary Sheppard as the new Councillor to replace Dr Corbishley.

### 3. Meeting Subcommittee

I would like to thank Prof Bryan Warren for the huge time and effort he has put in to the BDIAP during his time as Meetings Secretary. I hope I can continue his excellent work. I would also like to thank Dr Lisa Browning, Trainee Meetings Organiser. These meetings continue to be popular.

**Trainees Meetings** - the next meeting will be a 2 day meeting at RCPATH on 29-30 March 2011. The topic of the first day will be the Cut Up, the second will be the Autopsy, focusing on the new FRCPath autopsy examination. Please urge your trainees to attend.

**November 2009** - The Symposium on The Autopsy held in November last year was well attended and received excellent feedback from delegates.

**Spring 2010 - Symposium on Upper Gastrointestinal Pathology** - This had an excellent programme that was well received. The Ainley Top venue went down well with those delegates who attended and worked in its usual seamless way. Unfortunately it did not attract sufficient southern interest and so the geographical exploration to Saddleworth Moor was a failed experiment on that basis.

**26-27 November 2010 – London - Symposium on Head and Neck Pathology** - Roddy Simpson has produced an excellent programme.

**9-13 May 2011 – Ghent, Belgium - GHENT PATHOLOGY 2011** (Joint Meeting with Pathological Society) Claude Cuvelier is working hard on this meeting in the excellent Het Pand conference centre. Several satellite meetings have grown with this.

**25-26 November 2011 – London – Symposium on the Pathology of Infection** - Sebastian Lucas is putting together an excellent programme that will be relevant to general and specialist pathologists alike.

**Spring 2012** – this meeting will be a Symposium on Dermatopathology.

**Bosnian British School of Pathology** - this continues to be a successful venture involving and bringing together pathologists from several Balkan countries. Eduardo Calonje and his colleagues produced an excellent programme in 2010. The topic of the 2011 programme is soft tissue pathology.

**Sri Lankan British School of Pathology** - this runs every two years. The August 2011 programme includes dermatopathology and uropathology, the lecturers being Dan Berney, Murali Varma, Eduardo Calonje, Bostjan Luzar and Thomas Brenn.

### 4. Education and IT Subcommittee

The availability of the BDIAP Fellowship (maximum £5000, usually one awarded per year) was advertised in December in the journal, by e mail and on the website. There was only one application, which was considered and awarded after the closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 and before 30<sup>th</sup> June.

We give up to three BSc grants per year of £7,000 for intercalated degrees in Pathology. In previous years these have been underutilised, but this year there were five good applicants and it was a pity to reject two of them. It is possible that the letter to university contacts advertising this opportunity has finally had some effect.

The BDIAP offers four bursaries of £2,000 for pathologists from the underdeveloped countries which the BDIAP currently supports, namely Bosnia, Sri Lanka, East African countries and members of the Arab Division, to attend the IAP Sao Paulo meeting. These were considered in competition after a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> May and four were chosen.

## 5. Finance Subcommittee

The Report and Accounts were circulated by post prior to the meeting. This shows that the BDIAP remains in good financial health with stable subscription income, an increase in investment income, an increase in overall assets and a substantial increase (probably one-off) in income from Histopathology. The overall effect is a satisfactory increase in total funds from £1.739M to £2.110 (+21.3%), which reflects the improvement in general terms in the financial markets. Overall charitable expenditure was down this year in the 'off year' between world IAP congresses. However our activities with the Arab-British, British-Bosnian, Sri Lankan-British and most recently East African schools continue, as well as continuing support to BSc studentships, electives, travelling fellowships and travel bursaries for the home based members. This coming year (2010-11) we have increased commitments to provide bursaries for attendance at the Sao Paulo to British Division members and to overseas colleagues.

Following agreement by Council in April 2009, this has been the first year that the BDIAP has used Brown Shipley as our investment advisers. There has been disposal of the Artemis Capital and COIF funds and the continuing purchase of a mixture of equities, pooled funds and bonds, in an appropriately timed manner. We have also transferred the great majority of our previous low interest bearing HSBC funds to low-risk tax-free index linked gilts, including the additional income from the profits of Histopathology. Our new relationship with Brown Shipley is going well and it is proposed that John Wood from that company should attend our Spring council meetings on a regular basis, as he did in Spring 2010. The movement of funds has been on an agreed basis within our planned distributions and reflects our low risk approach, designed to maintain our charitable status, aims and objectives.

The members of the Finance SC (Professors Williams and Kay and Dr Smith and new member Dr Sanjiv Manek) have been very helpful this year as in previous years. 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 if not impossible.

## 6. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor reported that a new Editor of the Journal had been appointed with effect from 2012 and this would be Professor Alastair Burt. The journal had enjoyed a successful year both scientifically and financially and there had been 153,611 article downloads. At present there was a backlog of 100 articles.

The President thanked Professor Mike Wells for his stewardship of the Journal during his time as Editor. He also announced that Professor Kristin Henry was now President of the IAP.

The Presidency was then formally handed over to Professor Neil Shepherd.

London  
26 November 2010