



# The BDIAP Newsletter

JANUARY 2011

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**4th Trainees Meeting**  
London,  
March 28 - 30th 2011

**Ghent Pathology,**  
Joint Meeting with The Pathological Society  
9th - 13th May 2011

**Pathology of Infection**  
London,  
25th - 26th November 2011

**IAP International Congress,**  
Cape Town  
30th Sept - 5th October 20

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## BDIAP PRESIDENT PROFESSOR NEIL A SHEPHERD GLOUCESTERSHIRE, UK



It is a great pleasure and honour to be writing my first Presidential Address! I became President of your Society just six days ago. Firstly, I would like to congratulate and thank Geraint Williams for his superb stewardship of the Division for the last two years. He is the consummate diplomat, but, equally, he has not been backward in confronting major issues. Geraint and I go back a long way, to when he was a Bart's lecturer and I was a spotty medical student in his tutorial group. He says he taught me all the pathology I know! The BDIAP has become that much stronger for

his Presidency.

There are other important appointments to talk about. This week, Professor Kristin Henry officially became the President of the IAP, the overarching world organisation. She is only the second Brit ever to achieve this exalted position and we look forward to her two years in charge with great anticipation. Further, I am delighted to report that Professor Mike Wells has agreed to become the BDIAP President-Elect. The Division will benefit from his enormous experience, as current President of the European Society of Pathology, Chairman of the RCPATH Histopathology SAC and Editor of Histopathology. In the latter regard, the BDIAP is also delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Alastair Burt as the new Editor of Histopathology from January 2012. Mike Wells has done an extraordinary job in his nine years (in total) as Editor. He is a hard act to follow but Alastair has an international reputation



**Presentation of  
Cunningham and President's  
Medals at  
The Head and Neck  
Meeting London,  
November 2010**



and enormous experience to bring to the role.

As your President, you will wish to know what I will bring to the office. Well, I have had involvement with the BDIAP and its Council for nearly 15 years now and was the Secretary of the Division for nine of those. There is no shortage of experience, therefore, and I think I know the workings of the Society and the IAP pretty well by now. I do intend some development. One already enacted is the establishment of an International Subcommittee to complement our other Subcommittees, Nominations & Membership, Finance, IT & Education and Meetings. It is very important that we continue to develop our international collaborations and cooperations, not least because we are ourselves an International Society with our four constituent countries of the UK, Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium. Coordination of our current initiatives in Africa, the four Schools of Pathology (Sri Lankan, Bosnian, Arab & East African) and our other international activities is required. I also intend an "Away Day" next year. We had our first seven years ago. This was very successful and resulted in numerous changes and initiatives which made the Society that much stronger. It is high time we had another one.

Particularly given some of these proposals, it would be very beneficial to have the view of the membership as to where we are going and what changes they would like to see. Please feel free to contact me, Andrew Nicholson as Secretary or Carol Harris as Administrative Secretary about any aspect of BDIAP life. I look forward to hearing from you.

I can only end this address with the subject of our retiring Meetings Secretary, Professor Bryan Warren, another long term friend and colleague. Bryan has been Meetings Secretary for six years and has been replaced by Ian Roberts, our Deputy Meetings Secretary for the last three years. Bryan has done an astonishing job as Meetings Secretary and this has culminated in the award of the Cunningham Medal to him (presented last Friday, as you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter). Many of you will know of his illness and it was a personal delight and honour that he was able to attend last week's Dinner and receive the medal. No one deserved it more.

I hope you will join me in promoting the BDIAP and its aspirations. Have a good year and, above all, keep smiling!

Professor Neil A Shepherd  
President, BDIAP; 2 December 2010



**Professor Geraint Williams handing over the BDIAP presidency to Professor Neil Shepherd at the AGM, 26th November 2010**

## The Arab School of Pathology and the AD IAP; 1993 –2011 Professor Kristin Henry, President of the IAP

The Arab British School of Pathology is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year since its foundation in 2001 when it was approved by BDIAP Council as a joint School of Pathology with the Arab Division of the IAP.

The Arab Division has 22 member countries stretching from Jordan in the Middle East across North Sahara African countries to Algeria and Morocco in the West. The Arab British School of Pathology was envisaged as an annual event taking place at various suitable and approved venues in these Arab countries. The major teaching input would be from 2-3 BDIAP Teachers and the chosen topic would be covered in depth over several days in the format of Workshops/Seminars attended by 20-30 young trainee pathologists. The BDIAP would cover the travel costs and teaching material of the BDIAP Teachers and the ADIAP would cover the cost of a venue suitable for accommodation of teachers and participants as well as the teaching facilities and undertake the organisational aspects.

The 1<sup>st</sup> School took place in Beirut in 2002 and proved a resounding success, as did the successive Schools held in Damascus, Cairo and Bahrain. So much so that in 2006 the initiative of setting up a successful joint school of Pathology earned the praise of central IAP with the award of the IAP Gold medal at the Centennial IAP Congress in Montreal as an example of excellent collaboration between different Divisions of the IAP (BDIAP Newsletter 2007).

The concept of holding the Schools in different locations has been maintained. The 5<sup>th</sup> AB School on Gynaecological Pathology led by Glen McCluggage and Terry Rollason was at the University of Jordan, Amman in 2007, the 6<sup>th</sup> AB School on Breast pathology led by Sarah Pinder and Sami Shousha was at the American University Beirut (AUB) in 2008 and the 7<sup>th</sup> AB School on Neuropathology led by Paul Ince and Seth Love was at the King Fahd University Hospital, Al-Khobar, SA in 2009.

The most recent 8<sup>th</sup> AB School in June 2010 at the Medical Faculty, Tunis exemplified the continuing popularity of the AB Schools, The topic was Head and Neck Pathology and the comprehensive programme was planned by Roderick Simpson and Ann Sandison with input from Wasim Raslan from Saudi Arabia. The organization of the School was superbly managed by Samir Boubaker, the ADIAP President. Among the social events was the interesting excursion particular to the Roman ruins at Carthage.



The 9<sup>th</sup> AB School will take place in March 2011 at the University Hospital in Khartoum. The chosen topic is Soft Tissue Tumours and the BDIAP speakers are Mary Leader and Robin Reid

At all these AB Schools of Pathology the BDIAP speakers have between them, as with the 1<sup>st</sup> School, delivered most of the lectures. They have always found the experience, though hard work, immensely satisfying, stimulating and enjoyable and have been impressed by the keenness and general high standard of the local speakers, as well as the participants. The standard and quality of the Schools - both academically and socially - have all been high and the teaching facilities and organisation of the courses impressive. A noteworthy aspect has been the excellent communication and interaction between teachers and registrants; the enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge by the young pathologists is remarkable. That the Schools continue to be judged as highly successful is reflected by the fact that they attract more pathologists than can be accommodated.

It is perhaps timely to revisit the 'how' and 'why' the Arab British School of Pathology came about. This goes back to 1993 and the 5<sup>th</sup> ADIAP Meeting in Cairo which I attended as a guest speaker. David Hardwick, then President of International Academy of Pathology (IAP) attended this meeting and I was then the BDIAP President Elect. Because David Hardwick had encouraged the young small and emerging Divisions to seek educational support from the older larger and well established IAP Divisions, I was approached by Dr. Yahia Dajani, Secretary of the Arab Division, as to



**The 8th Arab British School participants (Faculty and Students) outside the Medical Faculty in Tunis. Roddy Simpson is far left and Ann Sandison is standing in the middle (grey suit, hands clasped)**



**Professor Henry giving a speech at the XXth Arab Division IAP Congress in Algiers 2008, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ADIAP.**

**On her left is Samir Amr (then IAP vice-president for Asia and now IAP President Elect) and on her right Ghazi Zaatari (ADIAP Secretary) and Samir Boubaker (ADIAP President)**



**Group picture of the three speakers and members of the organizing committee of the 8th Arab British School in Tunis from left to right : Dr. Wasim Raslan, Dr. Ann Sandison, Dr. Roddy Simpson, Prof. Samir Boubaker, Dr.Nadia Ben Chaabane and Dr. Haifa Tunisi**

whether the British Division would consider an association with the ADIAP in supporting its educational programmes.

This proposal was agreed by BDIAP Council and since 1994 the BDIAP has supported the Arab Division by covering the costs of 2-3 invited BDIAP speakers at the annual ADIAP Scientific Congresses held alternately in Arab countries in the East and West.

To those of us who have participated at these Scientific meetings, it has been an intellectually rewarding experience. So it was that in 1997, following the 1996 IAP International Congress in Budapest when an update on the activities of the European School of Pathology was presented at the Education Session, the idea occurred to me to build on and strengthen the association between the BDIAP with the ADIAP by setting up an Arab British School of Pathology. The proposal was enthusiastically received by Dr.Yahia Dajani but it was not before 2001 that the 'School' came to fruition. The BDIAP now had sufficient funds for educational purposes and so following discussion with the ADIAP, and in

particular Dr. Samir Amr (IAP VP for Asia) and Dr. Ghazi Zaatari (ADIAP Secretary), the proposal of a joint School was approved and the Arab British School of Pathology was founded.

The continuing support both for the Scientific meetings and the AB Schools is enormously appreciated by the ADIAP and was highlighted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the ADIAP in Algiers in 2008.

At the personal level it has given me great satisfaction that the AB School of Pathology has proved such an ongoing success. Also very pleasing is that the AB School provided a model for other joint Schools of Pathology: the Bosnia British School of Pathology, the Sri Lanka British School of Pathology and, most recently, the East Africa British School of Pathology.

All these joint Schools underpin the IAP mission of disseminating knowledge and high standards of pathology practice. They also uphold the important aim of the IAP for successful collaboration between different Divisions of the IAP.

Kristin Henry

President, International Academy of Pathology

Chairman, IAP Education Committee

## PRESENTATION OF THE BDIAP CUNNINGHAM AND PRESIDENT'S MEDALS AT THE DINNER DURING THE MEETING ON "HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY", NOVEMBER 2010

### THE CUNNINGHAM MEDAL

Presented by the President to the retiring BDIAP Meetings Secretary, Professor Bryan Warren in recognition of his service to the BDIAP



And flowers presented to Mrs Warren



### THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

Presented to Professor Chris Meijer for his long and distinguished service to education in Pathology and accepted in his absence by Professor Claude Cuvelier

## Technical Training Workshops in Dar Es Salaam, Sponsored by the BDIAP Dr Alec Howat



I visited several laboratories in East Africa during a lecture tour in March/April 2009. Each centre asked me to have a look at a few cases and help with the diagnosis. I was immediately struck by the massive variation in quality of the H&E sections. This varied from excellent, similar in standard to a competent laboratory in the UK, to abysmal. The latter state made interpretation of the cases impossible which was embarrassing for both me and the local laboratory. It also brought into question the value of any reports issued by the laboratories in question. Quite clearly there was a serious need to improve the technical quality in the region. This was to go hand-in-hand with other BDIAP initiatives to improve medical pathology reporting via Pathology Safaris and the annual School of Pathology.

Olorunda Rotimi and Peter Jackson from Leeds have been running technical training workshops in West Africa for several years. This initiative has been a huge success and greatly appreciated by the laboratory technical staff and Pathologists. They graciously agreed to run similar courses in East Africa, the first being in March/April 2010 and the second October the same year. The local course organiser was Edda Vuhahula, helped by Emmael Moshi for the second course in Dar, who put an enormous amount of effort into the initiative – huge thanks go to them and their team. This meeting was sponsored to the sum of £4,000 by the BDIAP and was run under the auspices of the East African Division of the IAP (EAIAP). Participants came from Seychelles (2), Rwanda (2), Kenya (3), Uganda (5), Malawi (1) and Tanzania (30).

Alec Howat, BDIAP Councillor

### Slide Seminar for Gastrointestinal Pathologists



**Hands on Practical Sessions**

**Closing**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Junior Academy  
August 2010 in  
Geisenheim - Johannisberg, Germany  
Dr Silke Weischede, BDIAP Junior  
Councillor**

*Introduction*

The "International Junior Academy" is an annual event organised by the German Division of the IAP, organised by its Vice - President Professor Martin -Leo Hansmann (*Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*). It is a four day meeting for a small group held in English. Lectures are not only given by German pathologists but also by lecturers from the Netherlands and the UK. It is aimed at pathology trainees of any level, bringing together juniors of different backgrounds and ways of training. The BDIAP sponsors trainees to have the unique experience of learning pathology in an international group in a beautiful setting, and this time the lucky trainees were Dr Adam Levene, Histopathology SpR/Academic Clinical Fellow at St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College London, and me.

The venue was located conveniently close to Frankfurt airport in a remote and picturesque village on the right bank of the Rhine called Geisenheim, just in the heart of the Rhine's famous vineyards . It is well known for the Johannisberg wineries, especially their famous Riesling Spätlese and the Icewine. On top of the Johannisberg resides the beautiful Castle Schonbrunn, once owned by the Austrian Prince von Metternich. At present it belongs to the German Oetker family (you might be familiar with their pizzas and baking paraphernalia...). The hotel and meeting venue is located in the



Hotel Restaurant Cloister Johannisberg, a converted monastery situated in beautiful vineyards.

*The Meeting*

The meeting itself started midday on a Sunday with a theme of Haematopathology - the opening lecture delivered by Professor Hansmann on "Lymphadenitis and Hodgkin Lymphoma", followed by "Difficult Differential Diagnosis in Haematopathology" by Professor Kristin Henry (*President of the IAP, Imperial College London, UK*) - a well structured and interactive lecture telling us about the most common pitfalls and how to deal with them sensibly.

We then had time to get to know each other over dinner in the monastery. It transpired that our group comprised 16 participants from Germany, Ukraine, Spain, Finland, France and the UK. Dinner topics naturally predominantly consisted of "where – are – you – from and how – is training – in - your – country? ", but quickly conversation moved on to other areas and time passed quickly.

The second day started of with "Molecular findings in soft tissue tumours" by Professor Reinhard Büttner (*University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany*), followed by "Molecular and Diagnostic Pathology of Germ Cell Tumours", in which Drs Leendert Looijenga and Katharina Biermann from the Netherlands (*Erasmus MC-University Medical Center, Rotterdam*) gave an insight into the behaviour and background of the confusing classifications of Germ Cell Tumours.

After lunch it was time for a slide based breast pathology session, in which Professor H – H Kreipe (*Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany*) talked us through diagnostic difficulties.

The planned walk through the vineyards had to be cancelled due to the atrocious downpours and was replaced with an informative wine tasting and an ad hoc tour through the Monastery – a great thank you to the good fairies Martina Schmidt and Marion Poetes from the German Division, who made sure



**Group photograph**



**At work**



**Relaxing at a wine tasting**

that everything ran smoothly!

The wine tasting acquainted us with the wonderful wines and history of the area - our guide explained how the whole wine making process worked, from the right soil to the right grape to the right time to pick them and of course a lot about the ins and outs of what makes a good wine.

Day three proved to be very busy with lectures extending into the late evening hours, but the engaging style of the lecturers and the content kept us alert despite the thorough sampling of local specialities the night before. Professor Dietmar Schmidt (*Institute of Pathology, Mannheim, Germany*) delivered two lectures on the mysteries of the female genital system, making myometrial and ovarian neoplasms sound easy. Professor Hansmann gave us more insight into lymph node pathology, after which the day was rounded off by a longer seminar about "Actual concepts in the diagnosis of haematopoietic neoplasm in the bone marrow" by Professor Annette Schmitt-Gräff (*University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany*), who is also the current president of the German Division. Professor Schmitt-Gräff's lecture was followed by an actual slide workshop with hands-on approach to bone marrow the next morning, which was a great start into our last day.

Day four ended around midday with Professor Stephan Störkel (*Institute of Pathology Helios Hospital, Wuppertal, Germany*) guiding us through renal pathology, with emphasis on the molecular background of renal cell carcinomas and polycystic kidney disease.

*The famous bottom line...*

In summary, Adam and I had a fantastic educational experience, combined with beautiful surroundings and topped off by a very nice group of people we would not have met otherwise. It might sound like a tightly operated schedule (which it was – I often heard the words "German precision"..), but there was plenty of time to explore the surrounding vineyards, the castle and parts of the village together. We often would venture out as a group before or after meals, time permitting, chatting away. All lecturers were very approachable and happy to discuss any questions.

Hard copies of the lectures were provided at the start of each session which made it easy to actually pay attention to the lectures instead of frantically taking notes. The participant number is deliberately kept small, not only to make sure that attention is given to everyone, but also to allow the participants to engage with and learn from each other.

*A date for the diary: July 3 -6, 2011*

The next International Junior Academy takes place on the 3 - 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2011, this time focused on soft tissue and bone pathology.

Applications for sponsorship can be made via the BDIAP website.

*Useful links*

German Division of the IAP  
Venue

[http://www.iap-bonn.de/open/language\\_id/2/M/ISLC4Q](http://www.iap-bonn.de/open/language_id/2/M/ISLC4Q)  
<http://www.kloster-johannisberg.de/1-1-Startseite.html>



## The XXVIII International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology Dr Kay Lawson, recipient of a BDIAP Travel Bursary to attend the congress

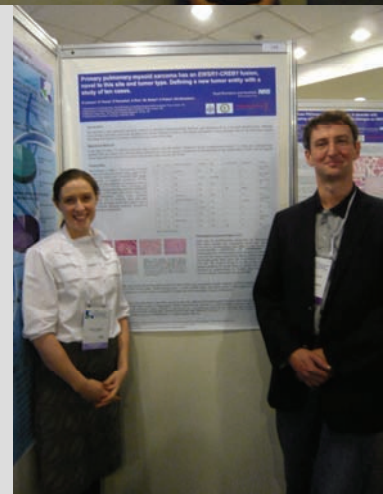
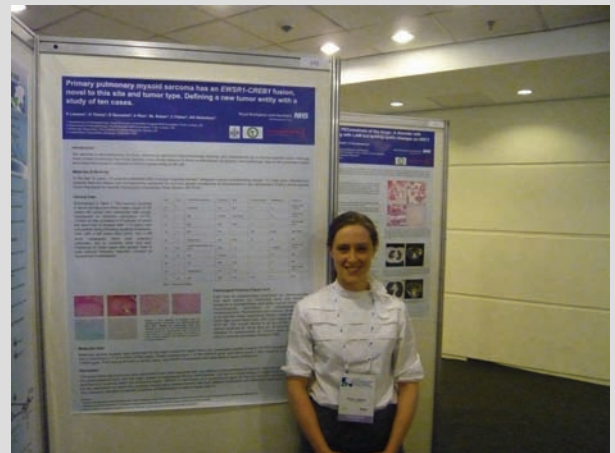
The XXVIII International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Transamerica Hotel Conference Centre. Over 1500 Pathologists from around 90 countries participated in this week long event. I was fortunate enough to have two abstracts accepted for poster presentation, and with the generous support of the BDIAP and the Pathological Society, attended my first international conference.

The conference comprised a packed programme of spoken seminars, symposia, workshops, short courses and slide seminars. Every subspecialty was represented and included computational and telepathology, molecular biology and pathology, laboratory techniques and history of pathology (Professor Peter Issacson's presentation 'The history of the MALT lymphoma' being a particular highlight). There really was something for everyone and at every hour of the day, the conference running from 8am to 8pm most days.



**The Conference Hotel**

Both of my posters were for presentation on the first day, which got me there early in the morning for the very start. With my posters up and conference backpack and programme collected, I attended the short course on pulmonary and pleural pathology. In particular, the presentation on paediatric interstitial lung disease was excellent. Coffee and lunch break was spent with my posters and discussing the work with interested passing Pathologists. In the afternoon, the nephropathology symposium was very popular, dealing predominantly with transplant pathology. The quality of presentations throughout the week was very



**Kay with two posters and with Professor Andrew Nicholson**

high, with enthusiastic discussion between many of the speakers and their audiences.

The social events were also very enjoyable and these, along with the conference, gave many of us our first experience of Brazilian hospitality, which truly is second to none. The evening opening ceremony was a lively event held in a beautiful restored railroad station, now converted into a concert venue. Other social events included the course dinner and various tours of Sao Paulo for delegates and partners.

Sao Paulo was an incredible city to visit, very cosmopolitan, and on a scale that has to be seen to be believed. Whilst in Brazil, I also took the opportunity to travel and visited the Iguassu waterfalls (where I saw many conference backpacks!), the Amazon River and rainforests and Rio de Janeiro.

I am most grateful for the generous support given by the BDIAP and the Pathological Society. The opportunity to participate in an international conference and attend so many high quality talks has been invaluable to me as a trainee, and an experience that I will not forget.

## FROM THE DIVISIONAL EDITOR

**Dr Stephen Wells**



2010 proved a reasonably busy year in terms of the BDIAP Education and IT Subcommittee considering applications for the various bursaries which the BDIAP offer to trainee pathologists and pathologists from underprivileged countries. We gave five undergraduate scholarships for elective studies in pathology, three grants (each of £7,000) to support intercalated BScs in pathology, one BDIAP Fellowship (£5,000) to support a consultant gaining specialist experience in a centre of excellence and four travel bursaries to enable BDIAP members to attend IAP related meetings. We received more applications for BSc Scholarships than our limit of three per year and have increased that limit to five per year for the coming year. Disappointingly, we only received one application for a BDIAP bursary, to allow pathologists from underprivileged countries to attend a BDIAP meeting. This enabled Dr Abidemi Olatunji, a trainee histopathologist from Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria, to attend the November London meeting on Head and Neck Pathology and to spend two weeks working with Dr Rotimi Olarunda, consultant Histopathologist in Leeds. You may recall that I reported on three of Dr Olatunji's colleagues from Nigeria attending the November meeting last year and the BDIAP was pleased to welcome Dr Olatunji (pictured below) to the UK this year.

In addition to our "routine" bursaries, we also provided four bursaries for pathologists from the areas of the various BDIAP Schools of Pathology to attend the International IAP meeting in Sao Paulo in October. One of the recipients of these bursaries, Dr Mohammad Arafa from Mansoura University, Egypt, is pictured with the BDIAP treasurer, Ray McMahon in Sao Paulo below.

Following on from initial work by BDIAP councillor Dr Alec Howat, we also set up bursaries to allow trainees or newly appointed consultants from the countries of the BDIAP Schools (Arab countries, East Africa, Sri Lanka and Bosnia) to spend a limited time (up to three months) attached to a Histopathology Department in the UK, Belgium or Holland. This was the first attempt at this venture and I am pleased to say that we have had a good number of eligible applicants, whom we are now in the process of matching up with appropriate departments to match their requirements.

Finally, we are offering two bursaries of up to £1,000 each for trainee BDIAP members to attend the 4th International Summer School in Histopathology in Geisenheim, Johannisberg, Germany from 3rd to 6th July 2011. A report on last year's meeting by Silke Weischede is included in this newsletter and further details are available on the BDIAP website.



**Dr Abidemi Olatunji, bursary recipient from Nigeria, with the Divisional Editor at the London meeting in November 2010**



**Dr Mohammad Arafa with the BDIAP Treasurer, Dr Ray McMahon at the IAP meeting in Sao Paulo**

**HOW TO WRITE A PAPER**  
**Professor Michael Wells,**  
**Editor of the BDIAP Journal *Histopathology***  
**and BDIAP President Elect**



Based on a presentation at the Trainees symposium - Joint meeting of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology, Cardiff, July 2009

### ***Introduction***

It has been my privilege to be Editor-in-Chief of *Histopathology* for eight years; I will demit office at the end of 2011 after nine years. Besides its ongoing financial success which has enriched the British Division of the IAP and enabled it to pursue its many charitable activities, there have been significant developments in the journal: the appointment of eleven associate subspecialty editors, the introduction of the annual Roger Cotton prize, the increase to seven hundred annual submissions with a commensurate increase in the number of published articles, the increased number of quality submissions from the United States, the employment of a technical editor and the increase in the impact factor.

Papers published from British departments of Pathology have diminished, which is clearly a reflection of the well rehearsed changes wrought in British academic pathology and the pressures of working in the modern National Health Service. Nevertheless, there is a growing recognition that histopathological input to multidisciplinary translational research is pivotal and the histopathologist is still likely to be a key member of the research team and in some cases will be the leader of the team.

It is my aim to enthuse pathology trainees with the professional satisfaction that can be gained from participating in research and to give them the benefit of my experience as an Editor engaged in the encouragement of young researchers to optimize the impact of their results.

### ***Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose***

I turned to my very first science exercise book from 1963 (Figure 1) and my very first scientific experiment (Figures 2 & 3): "To find how much of the air is oxygen". The structure of Aims, Method and Conclusion still forms the basis of the abstract of every paper published in *Histopathology*, though naturally

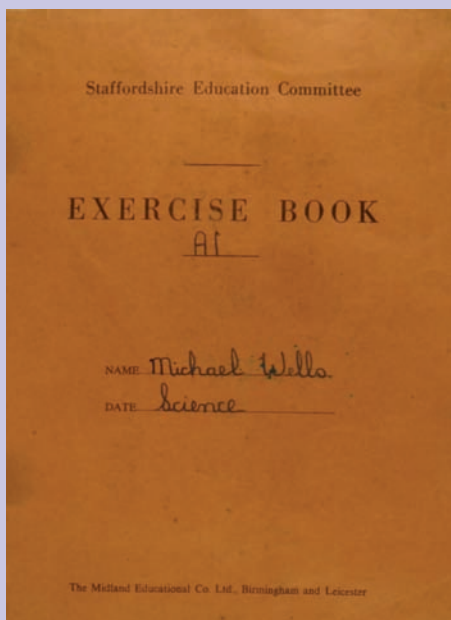


Fig 1

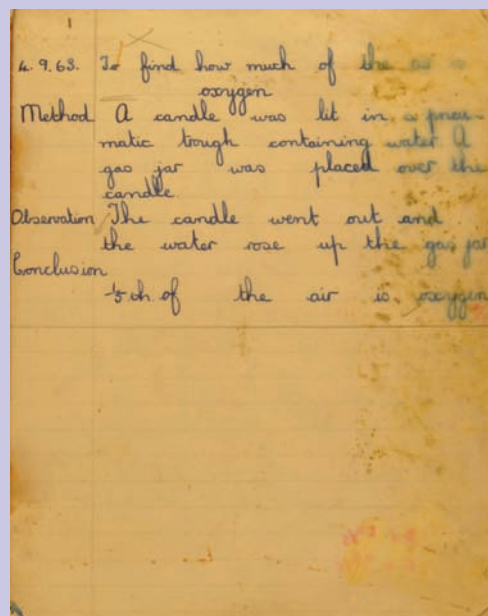


Fig 2

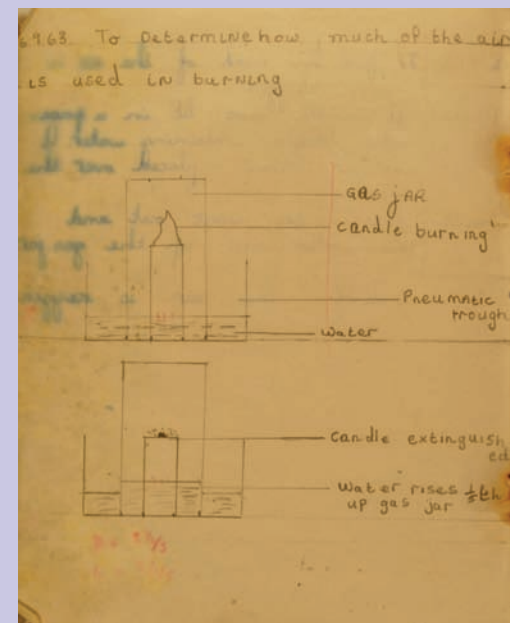


Fig 3

one hopes that the findings of authors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are rather more original than my own in 1963 and the illustrations are suboptimal!

I urge young pathologists to be ambitious, to avoid case reports (which for *Histopathology* at least are unlikely to be published) and small series of cases that scrape the bottom of the morphological barrel. Choose your collaborators and/or supervisors carefully and be hypothesis driven. If you wish to pursue an academic career, spend time in full time research, preferably with an established research group on, for example, a CRUK, MRC or Wellcome Fellowship.

Decide who you wish your target readership to be; for example, if you are developing a subspecialty interest you may want to balance consideration of impact factor (not the be all and end all in my view) with subspecialty exposure. It remains the case that only exceptional medically qualified individuals will choose a career in full time research and it has always been my approach to be able to “cut the mustard” diagnostically. I can identify with the words of Arthur Purdy Stout, Late Professor of Surgery & Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University:

*“I have had the ideal of service. While it is important for those properly qualified to spend time on research for the benefit of future generations, it is of great importance to provide for the generation now in existence. I have therefore devoted much of my time in trying to be of service to those who must recognize and treat tumors and tumor-like lesions.”*

I have only ever spent six months doing full time research and have never held a research fellowship. I have full insight in to where I sit (or rather do not sit) in the scientific hierarchy but it so happens that I love what I do and could never have been a full time researcher.

Professor Peter Isaacson is, in my opinion, the best professional role model of a diagnostic histopathologist who has always been able to cut the mustard whilst at the same time having a most distinguished scientific career. Peter was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2009; a rare distinction.

### ***What makes a good paper?***

Unlike my 1963 experiment, the most important factor in a good paper is, of course, its originality, with the potential to influence practice or the understanding of pathogenesis. Young pathologists should remember when they embark on a research project that it can be 3-5 years before the resulting paper is (hopefully) published. There is no substitute for good data and the publication of abstracts in meeting proceedings count for very little. It should use a combination of techniques to address the hypothesis being tested. Professional statistical advice should be sought when necessary. Data, as far as possible, should be tabulated and there should be good illustrations.

I proffer the paper by the late Professor Jeremy Jass which won the Roger Cotton *Histopathology* prize in 2006 as an exemplar<sup>1</sup>. What are the special qualities inherent in that paper that so impressed the panel of judges? Well here they are. It:

- builds on existing work
- is explicit about the outstanding controversies
- includes a large number of previously well characterized cases
- combines histological, immunohistochemical and mutational analysis
- uses 3 tables
- has excellent illustrations
- has a full statistical analysis
- has a highly intelligent discussion

No matter how junior a member of the research team, the trainee or research fellow must insist on seeing the final version before submission and should not allow themselves to be intimidated by senior colleagues. I know of several cases, too sensitive to discuss here, where failure to do this has had serious

and embarrassing consequences. The interesting topic of fraud and misconduct in biomedical research could easily be the subject of another article.

### ***Editorial irritants***

Believe it or not, I have a tolerant and sanguine approach to submitted papers but there are a few things that irritate me.

The worst thing is to include a covering letter which is addressed to the Editor of another journal! This is careless and, of course, implies that the paper has already been rejected. I am not favourably disposed to such papers because it seems to me there is a risk that the data has been accrued and handled in a similar sloppy way.

The use of abbreviations and acronyms without explanation really upsets me. I have been to meetings in my own medical school with documents tabled whose authors have not known what an abbreviation has stood for **in their own document**. The first thing I introduced as Editor was to insist that authors list abbreviations with explanations at the beginning of their paper.

I also insist that when reference is made to high power field(s), the area of a single high power field must be given.

I am English not American and *Histopathology* is a British journal, so I insist on English spelling not “tumor” or “labeling”. I am sure that I will now get letters about this; I acknowledge therefore that occasional American usage may have crept in to the journal (I have a particular ambivalent attitude to “tumorigenesis”).

I would like to reassure all authors that unless the English is impenetrable, no paper is rejected on the basis of poor English. I have tried to stamp my mark on the journal by ensuring that whatever the provenance of a paper the English is as good as it can possibly be. Reassuringly, it is clear that, nowadays, many overseas authors seek the professional assistance of experts in the use of written English.

Call me pedantic but I have a thing about the use of immunohistochemical “staining”. A PAS is a stain; an immunohistochemical reaction is not. However, this terminology is used so frequently it is impossible to change it on every occasion; I now often turn a blind eye to it. Also, the technical editor picked up on this at one stage but subsequently started changing PAS “staining” to PAS “immunoreactivity”, in the spurious belief that it was a helpful contribution, which almost drove me to distraction.

I delete whole paragraphs that prematurely include results and conclusions in the introduction and of course delete unnecessary repetition.

### ***The Editorial decision***

This is usually one of five categories:

- Accept
- Minor revision
- Major revision
- Reject with an invitation to resubmit
- Reject

With an acceptance rate of 35-45% and substantial copy, it is unlikely that a paper given an outright rejection will be reconsidered, even on appeal. Equally, it is unlikely that a paper will be accepted on its initial submission, particularly when I have such knowledgeable associate editors, though of course

it happens. It is important not to be rattled by the referees' comments. I remember in my first months as Editor, I received a vituperative e-mail from a North American author objecting to the decision of "reject with an invitation to resubmit". In my reply to him I pointed out that when he had calmed down, he would realize that if he did *this, this and this*, it was highly likely that the paper would be accepted. Indeed, it was subsequently published and I received a letter of apology. The authors should argue their case constructively if they feel that the comments or changes recommended are unjustified. The authors should explain in a covering letter how they have responded to the referees' comments point by point.

Finally, please remember spelling matters! (Figure 4)



**ENJOY!**

Jass JR, Baker K, Zlobec I *et al* Advanced colorectal polyps with the molecular and morphological features of serrated polyps and adenomas: concept of a 'fusion' pathway to colorectal cancer. *Histopathology* 2006, **49**, 121-131.

**UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL  
PATHOLOGY  
AINLEY TOP  
MAY 2010**



**HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY,  
NOVEMBER 2010**





**The British Division of the International  
Academy of Pathology**

**Divisional Editor: Stephen Wells**  
Department of Histopathology  
Royal Bolton Hospital  
Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR, UK  
Phone: 01204 390534  
Fax: 01204 390946  
E-mail: [stephen.wells@bdiap.org](mailto:stephen.wells@bdiap.org)

The British Division of the International  
Academy of Pathology covers:

- The United Kingdom
- The Netherlands
- Belgium
- The Republic of Ireland.

Its aim is the advancement of pathology,  
through:

- Improvement of methods of teaching pathology
- Coordination of pathology with allied sciences and techniques
- Promotion of research in pathology and pathologic techniques
- Publication of reviews and the results of work in pathology and related fields
- Convocation of meetings and congresses for exchange of scientific information and ideas.

**Contacts . . .**

**President**

Professor N A Shepherd - [neil.shepherd@glos.nhs.uk](mailto:neil.shepherd@glos.nhs.uk)

**Immediate Past President**

Professor G T Williams - [WilliamsGT@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WilliamsGT@Cardiff.ac.uk)

**European Vice President**

Professor C Cuvelier - [claudivuvelier@ugent.be](mailto:claudivuvelier@ugent.be)

**IAP President**

Professor K Henry - [k.henry@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.henry@imperial.ac.uk)

**President Elect and Editor, Histopathology**

Professor M Wells - [m.wells@shf.ac.uk](mailto:m.wells@shf.ac.uk)

**Honorary General Secretary**

Professor A G Nicholson - [a.nicholson@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:a.nicholson@rbht.nhs.uk)

**Hon. Treasurer**

Dr R F T McMahon - [ray.mcmahon@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ray.mcmahon@manchester.ac.uk)

**Honorary Meetings Secretary**

Dr I S D Roberts - [ian.roberts@orh.nhs.uk](mailto:ian.roberts@orh.nhs.uk)

**Divisional Editor and BDIAP Webmaster**

Dr S Wells - [stephen.wells@bdiap.org](mailto:stephen.wells@bdiap.org)

**Dutch Councillor**

Professor P van der Valk - [p.vandervalk@vumc.nl](mailto:p.vandervalk@vumc.nl)

**Belgian Councillor**

Professor I Salmon - [lsbelle.salmon@erasme.ulb.ac.be](mailto:lsbelle.salmon@erasme.ulb.ac.be)

**Councillor, Co-opted from the Pathological Society  
of Great Britain and Ireland**

Professor C S Herrington - [s.herrington@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:s.herrington@dundee.ac.uk)

**Irish Councillor**

Dr F O'Connell - [Fionnuala.oconnell@hse.ie](mailto:Fionnuala.oconnell@hse.ie)

**Councillor**

Dr A J Howat - [Alec.Howat@elht.nhs.uk](mailto:Alec.Howat@elht.nhs.uk)

**Councillor**

Dr S Manek - [smanek6014@aol.com](mailto:smanek6014@aol.com)

**Councillor**

Professor T J Stephenson - [tim.stephenson@sth.nhs.uk](mailto:tim.stephenson@sth.nhs.uk)

**Councillor**

Dr M Sheppard - [m.sheppard@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:m.sheppard@rbht.nhs.uk)

**Councillor**

Dr N Wilkinson - [Nafisa.Wilkinson@leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:Nafisa.Wilkinson@leedsth.nhs.uk)

**Trainees Meetings Co-ordinator**

Dr Lisa Browning - [lisa.browning@ndcls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.browning@ndcls.ox.ac.uk)

**Junior Councillor**

Dr S Weischede - [sweischede@googlemail.com](mailto:sweischede@googlemail.com)

**The most crucial contact:**

**Administrative Secretary:**

Mrs C E Harris

BDIAP Administrative Secretary

P.O. Box 73

Westbury on Trym

Bristol BS9 1RY

Tel: (+44)(0)117 907 7940

Fax: (+44)(0)117 907 7941

Email - [bdiap@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bdiap@blueyonder.co.uk)

**LEGENDS FOR PAGE 11**

**UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL PATHOLOGY, AINLEY TOP MAY 2010: Prof. Geraint Williams, BDIAP President, Neil Shepherd, Heike Grabsch, Kieran Sheahan, Nick Maynard, Nic Mapstone, John Schofield, Ray McMahon, Newton Wong, Shaun Walsh, The President at the conference dinner.**

**HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY, LONDON, NOVEMBER 2010: Tim Helliwell, Pieter Slootweg, Ann Sandison and Leslie Michaels, Paul Speight, Eddie Odell, Julia Woolgar, The Presidential Hand-over (Professor Geraint Williams hands over to Professor Neil Shepherd), Nina Gales, Alessandro Franchi, Bruce Wenig, Ilmo Leivo, Alena Skálová, Mary Toner, Ivan Robinson, Silvana di Palma, Roderick Simpson (organiser of the meeting programme).**