

International Academy of Pathology**Executive Meeting: Athens 11th October 2008****Vice President for Africa****M J Hale**

October 7, 2008

The 48th annual congress of the South African Division of the International Academy of Pathology was held between the 19th July and 21st July 2008 at the Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town. The meeting was organized by the University of Cape Town and was held under the auspices of the Federation of the South African Societies of Pathology. The programme offered by the South African division of the IAP was by far the greatest component of the congress and the number of delegates registered exceeded those of the other pathology disciplines. Delegates were drawn from both public and private sector practice. The invited international speakers to the meeting included Dr Eduardo Calonje and Dr Ian Roberts. Dr Calonje is director of Pathology at St John's Institute of Dermatology, St Thomas's Hospital, London and Dr Ian Roberts is Head of the Department of Cellular Pathology at John Radcliffe Hospital and is an experienced pathologist in nephropathology and urological pathology. Both speakers gave outstanding presentations including slide seminars and symposia, including topics on cutaneous lymphomas, adnexal tumours, spitzoid melanomas, prostate pathology, renal pathology for general pathologists and recent advances in renal transplant pathology.

Both international speakers also visited all the academic centers in South Africa as part of their educational programme to the country.

The British Division of the IAP is thanked once again for their generous financial support which allowed Dr Ian Roberts to attend the meeting as "goodwill ambassador" of the British Division of the IAP.

A unique feature of the educational programme of the South African division is the annual Travelling seminar which for this year was conducted by Professor Stewart Goetsch on a miscellany of medical and surgical renal pathology, including HIV related renal pathology. The seminar was presented in all the major urban centers and was well attended by members.

Immediately after the IAP meeting in Athens, the bi-annual meeting of the Association of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa will be held in Mombasa from the 22nd to the 25th of October. This meeting is particularly significant as it will be the inaugural meeting of the East African Division of the IAP. A number of international IAP delegates will be attending including Professor Fred Silva, Professor Neil Shepherd, Professor B Riddell, Professor D Roberts and Professor Jaubert. A number of delegates from the South African Division of the IAP will also be attending, and as with the other international delegates, all will be giving presentations. This promises to be an exciting educational meeting for the region and is a significant milestone in the development of pathology in Africa. This congress is also particularly significant as it will underscore and support the international meeting of the Academy to be held in Cape Town in 2012.

Initial meetings of the local organizing committee for the IAP meeting to be held in Cape Town in 2012 have been convened which have resulted in a number of initiatives. These include the formalization of the scientific committee, marketing of the congress, website design, review of the congress venue including allocation of specific activities to specific areas and hotel accommodation.

Dr Ahmed Kalebi's fellowship, sponsored by the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology, is drawing to a close with him being due to write his final fellowship exams in May 2009. Dr Kalebi is currently in the United Kingdom receiving further intensive tuition in renal pathology under Dr Ian

Roberts in Oxford. This fellowship initiative, fully sponsored by the British Division has been an outstanding success and every effort should be made not only to continue it, but to expand the concept. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the British Division for believing in the initiative and providing the total financial assistance to support it.

Martin Hale

7th October 2008