



**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY
HELLENIC DIVISION**

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY G. GENNIMATAS ATHENS GENERAL HOSPITAL
154 MESSOGION AVENUE, GR-115 27 ATHENS-HELLAS

**Progress report of the IAP Congress, October 12 to 17, 2008,
by George Kontogeorgos, Congress President,
to the Executive Committee of the International Academy of Pathology,
Boston, Massachusetts, March 2008**

Over 2400 participants from 90 Countries, representing almost the whole world attended the Congress, joining science with pleasure in a sunny beautiful Athens, Capital city of Hellas. From them, 400 were from Hellas, 190 from the USA, 130 from Japan, 103 from Canada and 70 from Australia.

During the 5 days the Congress, a Faculty of 433 persons participated in 86 sessions, covering almost the whole spectrum of Pathology. These included 14 Short Courses, 2 Long Courses, 45 Symposiums, 20 Slide Seminars, 4 Keynote Lectures and the Opening Lecture. For first time, Slide Seminars were available on DVD disks including high-resolution images, full virtual slides and the full digital book edition of each Seminar. In addition, the 993 Abstracts submitted, were published in Histopathology and presented as Posters.

The highlights of the Congress were the “George Papanicolaou” Symposium, where Dr. Helen Deligeorgi-Politis was honored with the George Papanicolaou gold medal award for her immense contribution to the diagnosis of papillary thyroid carcinoma, after her original recognition of “*nuclear grooving*” as major diagnostic feature. The second major event was the Opening Lecture delivered by Dr. Robin Cooke, who during his presentation offered a friendly way of his talk on selected Hellenic beauties and history. The 4 Keynote Lectures delivered by skillful speakers, worldwide known for their achievements. They included Dr. Aidan Carney, Dr. Robin Warren, a Nobel Price Recipient, Dr. Stewart Sell and Dr. Sylvia Asa who replaced the last moment, Dr. Alex Fervency, who had an accident one day before the Congress and was unable to come to Athens.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President: George Kontogeorgos, Vice President: Efi Bairaktari,
Secretary: Ipatia Doussis-Anagnostopoulou, Treasurer: Ivi Arvaniti, Member: Eleftherios Eleftheriadis**



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Among the social events, the Presidential dinner was held, in the charming restaurant “*Dionysos*” with a spectacular view to the illuminated Acropolis and Parthenon. The Opening Ceremony, followed by a friendly welcome get-together Reception was given at the Conference Center. The Gala Dinner, at the Athens Hilton Hotel was organized in an original Hellenic way, where all guests enjoyed music and dance accompanied by traditional cuisine. Last but not least, the “*Orchestra of Colours*”, performed the farewell Concert on Thursday, at the Megaron Athens Concert Hall.

I would like to express my gratefulness to the USCAP and to the British, Australasian and Japanese Divisions for providing Bursaries to young pathologists from underserved countries to attend the Congress.

I would also like to thank all who contributed from different positions (Speakers, Participants, Exhibitors, Personnel of the “*Megaron*” and the Congress Secretariat, ERA Ltd) for the success of this major scientific event held in my Country.

George Kontogeorgos MD, PhD

Congress President

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