

## **Progress Report for the 2012 International Meeting: Cape Town**

**Prof M J Hale**

### **USCAP Meeting: Boston, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

The local organising committee has met in Cape Town together with the Professional Congress Organiser and the Cape Town International Convention Centre to review current details and to revise these where required.

Following a tour around the convention centre it was agreed that additional bookings would be added to the existing reservation, these comprising restaurant areas to allow for improved catering facilities for attending delegates. Further to this, risk catering is being considered by the committee whereby the convention centre sets up kiosks where delegates are able to purchase their own lunches or snacks. This will reduce delegate costs on the budget and aid the attendance of delegates from the African continent.

It is to be noted that funding is becoming available, including the promise of considerable sums from within Divisions of the IAP to subsidise delegates who do not have, or are unlikely to secure funding for the meeting.

During the review of the venue, further consideration was given to the space that would be allocated for poster presentations. A number of foyer areas are available for these and given that posters will be changed everyday a total of 1750 presentations can be accommodated over the duration of the meeting. This is notwithstanding the possibility that posters could also be presented in the Ballroom in conjunction with the morning and afternoon tea facilities and in the joint presence of the trade exhibits.

Names of possible distinguished speakers for the daily keynote lectures are being compiled, along with renowned people for the Faculty. Here advantage is being taken of the extensive South African diaspora that exists internationally, many of whom have already volunteered their services.

Consideration is also being given to the possibility of starting the scientific sessions at 07:30am and finishing at 15:30pm to allow delegates to take advantage of the many natural attractions that Cape Town has to offer its visitors without unduly compromising attendance at the scientific sessions.

Three social events have been tentatively set down for the meeting, these including a Welcome Reception (Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September), a dinner to be held at traditional style restaurant on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October and repeated on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and a cultural evening to be held at the world renowned Kistenbosch Gardens at the foot of Table Mountain on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Hotels in the vicinity have reviewed, including the Westin Grand (previously the Sheraton) and the Cullinlin with view to running a number of companion meetings, before during and after the main meeting to maximise the educational benefit that could be extended to other specialties that have close links with pathology. Such meetings could include dermatology, gastroenterology, haematology, paediatrics, infectious diseases, HIV and oral pathology. These venues being adjacent to the congress venue will be ideal for the congress secretariat functions required for the meeting and the venues are being booked accordingly.

Hotel accommodation is in the process of being reserved and in particular attention is being focussed on identifying suitable budget accommodation that will be reserved for those attending with constrained financial resources.

A web site for congress is in the planning stage and a number of options and designers are being considered before a final decision is made. It is anticipated that the web site will be live during the middle of the year enabling the distribution of information about the meeting.

The information stand at the Athens meeting attracted considerable attention with many delegates actively seeking it out and asking further questions of the South African delegates attending the meeting. The IAP Executive is thanked for allowing the South African Division to do this.

A number of pre-and post congress tours are being assembled by the Professional Congress Organiser which will provide a mix which is uniquely African with a blend of the Western Cape.