

**THE ARAB DIVISION
OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY**

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Arab Division Executive Committee

**President: Dr. Samir Boubaker, Tunisia
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Past President: Ali El Hindawi, Egypt
Secretary: Dr. Ghazi S Zaatari, Lebanon
Treasurer: Dr. Hassan Z Annab, Jordan
Chairman, Arab School of Pathology: Dr Ismail Matalka, Jordan**

March 4, 2008

**David F. Hardwick, MD, FRCPC, LLD
Secretary International Academy of Pathology**

Dear Dr. Hardwick

Please find attached my report on the activities of the Arab Division of IAP for 2008/2009 for presentation and discussion at the executive Committee Meeting of IAP to be held Sunday, March 7, 2009 in Boston.

After 23 years of service at Dhahran Health Center in Dhahran, I moved to a new job at King Fahd Specialist Hospital in Dammam, Saudi Arabia on March 1, 2009.

I can not travel at the present time. I apologize for being unable to attend the council meeting. I hope to join you again in future meetings

Sincerely,

SAMIR S. AMR, MD

**THE ARAB DIVISION
OF
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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2008/2009**

INTRODUCTION

In my last report, I stated that our Division looks for more peaceful times in our region so that our group can reach out to colleagues in areas that had been devastated by wars and turmoil.

But it seems that peace is still eluding our region. A devastating war on Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009 had its heavy shadow and impact on the region. Our Division had to face consequences of this new instability in the region like postponing some activities.

Prior to this war by 6 weeks, we held our Twentieth Meeting in Algeria in November 2008, and we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Division of IAP.

We had a humble start when 25 pathologists from 6 Arab countries met in Amman, Jordan, in April 1988. Since then, we carried, steadily and consistently even when wars erupted in the region, an annual meeting in various Arab countries.

We are grateful for the continued support of IAP and sister Divisions, particularly the British and French Divisions, which had been quite instrumental in the progress of the Arab Division. USCAP supplied our Division with educational material (DVDs) which were duplicated and distributed to our members and members of other Divisions as well.

The Arab Division is dedicated and committed to the ideals of IAP, and shall continue with its mission of education and research in pathology in the Arab World.

**The 20th Congress of the Arab Division of IAP
Alger, Algeria**

This meeting was held in November 24-26, 2008 at the Army National Center (Cercle National de l'armee) in Algiers, Algeria. It is a recently-built remarkable hotel and club with halls and lecture rooms. It was an excellent choice of venue for the meeting. This is the first international pathology meeting to be held in Algeria, a country that is coming out from a lengthy internal strife that prevented holding such a gathering in the past.

The President of the meeting is Prof. Kheira Bendisari Bouzid

The topics presented at this meeting were:

- **Extra-nodal lymphomas.**
- **Osteo-articular pathology.**
- **Cytopathology**
- **Breast pathology**
- **GI and Liver pathology.**
- **Pediatric pathology.**
- **Nephropathology.**
- **Thyroid pathology.**
- **Mesothelioma.**
- **Bone marrow pathology.**
- **Cancer and viruses.**
- **New technology in pathology.**

The following is a list of the speakers who participated in the meeting:

Dr Nicole Brousse, France
Dr François Cochand Priollet, France
Dr J Michel Coindre, France
Dr Antoine DeMascrel, France
Dr Gonzague Depinieux, France
Dr Francis Jaubert, France
Dr Frederique Penault Llorcat, France
Dr Vassili Valayannopoulos, France
Dr Jaime Calonje, UK
Dr William Geraint, UK
Dr Kristin Henry, UK
Dr Karel Geboes, Belgium
Dr Manuel Sobrinho Simoes, Portugal
Dr Louis Guillou, Switzerland
Dr H Konrad Muller Hermelink, Germany
Dr Jan Van den Tweel, Netherlands
Dr Zaitouna El Hamany, USA
Dr Hala Makhoulf, USA
Dr Wael Sakr, USA
Dr Ghazi S Zaatari, Lebanon
Dr Samir S Amr, Saudi Arabia

A total of 256 participants, mostly from Algeria as well as from other North African countries including Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Mauritania. Arab pathologists from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt attended as well.

I gave a presentation at the opening ceremony entitled “The Arab Division of IAP: Twenty years of achievements”. It was a walk through the history of our Division with numerous pictures outlining our progress and achievements.

Although many speakers had their presentation in English to an audience of Algerian pathologists who are taught medicine in French, the participants were able to follow the lectures quite well.

Copies of a DVD containing many lectures and presentations from USCAP meeting, courtesy of USCAP and its Secretary Dr Fred Silva, was distributed for free to all participants as an educational service directed mainly to trainees in pathology.

A two-day tutorial of the Arab School of Pathology on cytopathology was held before the meeting on November 22-23, 2008. The speakers were Arab pathologists from medical schools in USA headed by Dr. Mousa Al Abbadi, Professor of Pathology, East Tennessee State University, and included Dr Rouba Ali from Wayne State University, Dr Ahmed Shbaik from San Diego University, and Dr Husain Saleh from Wayne State University. It was aimed mainly at junior pathologists and pathologists in training. A total of 54 participants attended the workshop, mostly from Algeria. We had excellent positive feedback. The participants asked for more workshops to be held in Algeria.

The 21st Congress of the Arab Division of IAP Manama, Bahrain

This meeting is scheduled to be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf region on December 6-8, 2009.

It shall be conducted in collaboration with Bahrain Association of Pathologists

The venue of the meeting will be at Bahrain Exhibition Centre.

The President of the meeting is Dr Raja Al-Yousif. She is the Chairperson of the Department of Pathology at Salmaniya Medical Complex, a 1000 bed Hospital. Organizing and scientific committees are established and contacts with potential speakers are made.

We expect to attract large number of participants from Middle Eastern countries, particularly Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman) as well as Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon. If security situation in Iraq continued to improve, then we expect some Iraqi pathologists to attend.

The topics that shall be presented at the meeting include:

- Neuropathology
- GI Pathology
- Endocrine pathology

- Pediatric pathology
- Soft tissue pathology
- Breast Pathology
- Lymphoreticular pathology
- Gynecological pathology
- Urologic pathology
- Cytopathology
- Research in pathology
- Molecular pathology

FUTURE MEETINGS OF ARAB DIVISION OF IAP

- 2010 in Al Ein El Sokhnah by the Red Sea, Egypt.
- 2011 in Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2012 in Khartoum, Sudan.

Our plan is to alternate the sites of the meetings between Arab countries in North Africa and Arab countries in the Middle East, so as to reach out to the largest number of pathologists possible.

ARAB-BRITISH SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY AND THE ARAB SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY

Seventh Tutorial of the Arab-British School of Pathology NEUROPATHOLOGY Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia March 31-April 2, 2009

The Seventh Arab-British School of Pathology will be held in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia at King Fahd Hospital of the University on March 31-April 2, 2009.

This 3 day workshop was coordinated by Prof. Paul Ince from University of Sheffield, UK (British Division) and Dr. Dalal Tamimi from King Faisal University (Arab Division).

In addition to the British speakers, additional speakers from Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are involved in this workshop.

There shall be didactic lectures on tumors of CNS, degenerative and ischemic brain diseases, inflammatory diseases and neuromuscular diseases. Slide seminar sessions are included as well.

ARAB SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY

Tutorial on Pediatric Tumors

Amman, Jordan

July 2009

This tutorial shall be held in the first week of July 2009 at King Hussein Cancer Center, Amman, Jordan.

The main emphasis shall be on tumors in children. Dr Ismail Matalka and Dr Maysa Hussaini are the coordinators for this workshop.

Speakers from USA, UK and Arab countries were recruited for this workshop.

WORKSHOP ON HEMATOPATHOLOGY

MANAM, BAHRAIN

December 4-5, 2009

This workshop shall be held prior to the 21st Meeting of the Arab Division of IAP in Bahrain.

The coordinator for this workshop is Dr Nayef Aqel from UK with speakers from Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

It shall include didactic lectures on WHO classification of lymphoma, role of new techniques in identifying various types of lymphoma and role of flow cytometry. There shall be slide sessions with examples on various entities of lymph node pathology.