

REPORT FROM DR ROBERT ECKSTEIN, IAP VICE PRESIDENT FROM AUSTRALASIA, TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE IAP, MEETING, TO BE HELD IN SAO PAULO ON 9TH OCTOBER 2010

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Membership and Staffing of the Australasian Division in 2010

Membership of the Australasian division stands at 592. The membership subscription is \$143 annually. The paid secretariat consists of two part-time staff in Sydney. The secretariat is co-located with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. The main sources of income are the annual scientific meeting and membership subscriptions. The division is financially sound.

Annual Scientific Meetings

The annual scientific meetings are held at roughly the same time of year (the last weekend of May or the first weekend of June), at the same location in Sydney. This has helped establish the annual meeting as a key calendar event for pathologists in the Australasian region. The dates of future scientific meetings are as follows:

2011 - 3rd-5th June

2012 - 1st-3rd June.

The format is always similar. On the Friday, there are companion club meetings (at the present time there are 13 different companion clubs). Specific themes are dealt with on the Saturday and Sunday of the meeting. These are predominantly conducted by guest speakers from overseas. In addition, there are several plenary lectures, including a lecture named for the founding president of the Australasian division, Vincent McGovern. There are poster sessions, a trade exhibition, and sessions specifically targeted at trainee pathologists.

The 35th Annual Scientific Meeting was held earlier this year. The themes were gynaecological pathology and dermatopathology, and the overseas guest speakers were Dr Glenn McCluggage and Dr Philip LeBoit. Slide seminars were conducted by each of the speakers. Dr Robin Cooke organised the production of slide seminar hand-outs. There were 570 registrants for the meeting and 57 posters were submitted. The Vincent McGovern lecture, on breast pathology, was delivered by Dr Michael Bilous. A plenary lecture was given on malignant melanoma by Dr Richard Scolyer.

The 36th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from 3rd-5th June, 2011. The major themes are breast pathology and general surgical pathology, and these sessions will be conducted by Dr Sarah Pinder and Dr John K C Chan. A plenary lecture will be given by Dr Gregory Lauwers on the topic of gastric neoplasia, and the Vincent McGovern Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr David Ellis on the subject of Epstein-Barr virus infection.

Sponsorship of Pathologists to the Annual Scientific Meetings

This programme has been conducted since 2006. In 2010 three pathologists were sponsored by the Australasian Division to attend the annual scientific meeting. These were pathologists from Fiji, Western Samoa and Malaysia. The sponsorship includes airfares, registration, and accommodation and living expenses. In addition, two of the three pathologists spent a week visiting pathology laboratories in Sydney. This programme will be repeated in 2011.

IAP Meeting in Sao Paulo 2010

The division agreed to provide \$7000 sponsorship funding for the IAP international meeting to be held in Sao Paulo.

Asia Pacific IAP Meetings

The sixth Asia Pacific IAP meeting was held in August 2009 in Kochi in India and was well supported by members of the Australasian division, some of whom gave presentations and were involved in the organisation of the scientific programme. The Division looks forward to contributing to the seventh meeting, to be held in Taiwan in 2011. A \$5000 donation was made to support the meeting in Kochi.

Website

The website of the Division continues to be a useful source of information, especially for forthcoming scientific meetings. Links to the websites of other Divisions of the IAP and to key scientific meetings of the IAP are posted on the website.

Ninth Asia Pacific IAP Meeting

The Australasian Division is planning to hold this meeting in Brisbane. There is likely to be a 3-4 day meeting to be held in early June, and will substitute for the usual annual scientific meeting held in Sydney.

Contact

This is best made through Jan McLean (for email address, see above).