

**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY
EXECUTIVE MEETING: WASHINGTON 20TH MARCH 2010
VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA: MJ HALE**

East African Division

Since the formation of the East African Division in October 2008 there has been considerable activity in that region with these summarized below

2009 East African Pathology Safari

April is the EADIAP Pathology Safari month. Travel seminars were held in the teaching departments in each respective capital i.e. Nairobi, Kampala, Dar es Salaam and Kigali. There were 2 safaris:

1. Dr Alec Howat from the BDIAP: Quality Assurance in Anatomical Pathology & Slide Seminar on Cutaneous Melanocytic Lesions. *Mar 30 – Apr 3.*
2. Dr Josefine Heim-Hall from Friends of Africa-USCAP: Soft tissue and Bone Neoplasms.

The Pathology Safari travel seminar sessions encompass 1-2 lectures, slide presentations and case reviews around multiheaders with the local pathologists/registrars.

As a result of Dr Howat's visit where he noted the dire state of technical back-up for histopathology (so bad that he was unable to read H&E slides), the BDIAP and Leeds University are holding a technical workshop in Muhimbili University in Dar es Salaam this March 2010.

Dr Josephine Heim-Hall has volunteered to spend a month in Nairobi mid-2010 to teach and mentor on soft tissue and bone tumours, and will team up with the Kenyan pathologists and orthopedic surgeons to open a bone tumour registry.

2009 (Inaugural) East African British School of Pathology

A very successful EABSoP was held in 5th – 7th August 2009 at the Nairobi Hospital. This was attended by a total of 150 pathologists and registrars/students including colleagues from South Africa and West Africa. The course titled “*A comprehensive three-day teaching package on the pathology of the gastrointestinal tract*” was in every way a world-class event conducted by Prof Neil Shepherd, Prof Geraint Williams, Dr Ray McMahon and Prof Sebastian Lucas from the BDIAP.

The EABSoP was the flagship activity of 2009 that truly roused the spirit of IAP among the local pathologists despite earlier apathy and skepticism. More than half of the participants were sponsored for accommodation and travel through a grant from the IAP Educational Committee via funds channeled through USCAP, and also funding from the BDIAP.

2009 EADIAP Annual Meeting and Scientific Day

The scientific meeting was a poor show because none of the delegates had prepared posters/presentations owing to apathy/skepticism that the event was even going to take off. We hope that 2010 will be better.

2009 Cytology Workshops by Prof Andrew Field

The FNAB Cytology Workshop series conducted Prof Andrew Field from Australia together with his colleagues from US and UK were held with help and coordination from EADIAP officials in the following capitals:

- Kampala: Mon 13/7 – Thu 16/7
- Nairobi: Mon 5/10 – Thu 8/10
- Dar es Salaam: Mon 12/10 - Thu 15/10

It is envisaged that a Society of Cytology for East Africa will be formed soon to include membership from cytologists, cytotechnologists, nurses and clinicians. The EADIAP will continue to play a supporting role in the cytology workshops.

COPECSA

The EADIAP with support from the BDIAP who in turn have used their influence to bring in further support from RCPATH is spearheading the formation of the College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA) through APECSA as the vehicle to carry the process forward. Dr Ahmed Kalebi is the Chairman of the Steering Committee with >70% of the Steering Committee members being histopathologists who are EADIAP members including Dr Victor Mudenda from Zambia, Dr Rudo Mutasa from Zimbabwe and Dr Charles Dzumalala from Malawi. COPECSA is at an advanced stage of formation and will be inaugurated in September 2010 at the APECSA Kampala meeting. The Steering Committee's mandate ends in December 2010 and an elected Council will take over.

2010 Calendar of Events

Pathology Safari 2010: Prof Mike Wells (BDIAP), Dr Ahmed Kalebi (EADIAP)

April 2010 all capitals

Cytology workshop in Nairobi: Prof Andrew Fields and colleagues *May 2010
Nairobi*

Bone and soft tissue tumour pathology camp: Dr Josephine Heim-Hall *June 2010
Nairobi*

APECSA 2010 Biannual Congress *13th – 17th September Kampala*

THEME: "Repositioning Pathology Practice in sub-Saharan Africa; opportunities and challenges"

- 2nd EABSofP – Breast Pathology 3-day Course with Prof Ian Ellis (UK), Dr Sarah Pinder (UK) and Prof Andrew Field (Australia).
- Autopsy meeting – Dr Ann Nelson/Prof Sebastian Lucas.
- Haematopathology seminar (clinical pathology).
- Regular Congress routine incl. Key Note Lectures & Scientific Presentations.
- Formation of COPECSA.

South African Division

The new format for the annual meeting of the South African Division held in conjunction with the combined meeting of the Federation of the South African Societies of Pathology and the Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists was

held in Durban at the International Convention Center between the 6th and 10th October 2009. The combined meeting was prompted by the knowledge that funding by the trade exhibitors was limited, and that the Trade was unable to provide financial support for two annual meetings, namely that of the pathologists and that of the technologists. Accordingly, it was agreed by the two Societies that a trial combined meeting would be held, which by all accounts appeared to be successful. Delegate attendance was good and the interaction between technologists, scientists and pathologists is likely to result in enhanced academic activities into the future.

Professor Andrew Nicolson and Dr Michael Ashworth were the International delegates to the meeting of the South African Division, with Professor Nicholson being sponsored by the BDIAP as their Goodwill Ambassador. Our thanks are extended to the British Division for their continued support for this initiative. The slide seminars and lectures given at the Congress together with the country-wide visits and lectures given at all the medical schools were enthusiastically attended. Valuable contacts were made and it is hoped that use will be made of these into the future to enhance post-graduate training.

The BDIAP sponsored fellowship of Dr Ahmed Kalebi drew to a close in May 2009 following the success of Dr Ahmed Kalebi in the final examination for Fellowship of the College of Pathologists of South Africa. This venture proved to be particularly successful and was remarkable in that it concerned three countries and overcoming their collective administrative hurdles. The initiative has not only improved diagnostic ability at an individual level, but has brought to the East African region enhanced academic activities as witnessed by the creation of a new Division for the Academy and a formative College of Pathology. A number of successful academic pathology meetings attracting international participation have already been held, with more scheduled for 2010.

The model needs to be continued as driver of academic pathology on the continent and it is a pity that attempts to establish a similar focus in Zambia have failed to date. This should be seen as a temporary setback, given that a Zambian registrar is nearing the end of his training at the University of Stellenbosch and is expected to return to his country. Once this happens it is likely that with support, similar educational achievements will become possible in that region.

The next scientific meeting of the South African Division is scheduled to be hosted by the University of Stellenbosch at Somerset West from the 2nd – 5th September 2010.. The arrangements for the invited international speakers are in the process of being finalized.