

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having been Chairman of the IAP Education Committee for the past 10 years, it is now a great honour to be appointed IAP President.

As President, I sincerely hope that over the next 2 years I will do justice to this role not just by supporting our many Divisions and building on existing educational programmes but also in driving forwards with new educational initiatives aimed especially at those Divisions representing underserved Countries.

My tenure as President commenced on December 1st 2010 after the October XXVIII International Congress in Sao Paulo. Sadly, having attended the IAP business meetings on the weekend 9th and 10th October, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to attend the Congress itself.

However, I have had reports that it was hugely successful and would like to thank Marcello Franco and his team for organizing such a successful meeting at every level. They deserve the highest praise and this has been reflected in the many letters of congratulation sent to Dr. Franco .

Altogether there were 2347 participants. 1826 were registrants from 72 countries and of these 384 were residents/PGs with 65 of the young pathologists and trainees having been awarded bursaries - 57 of which were IAP Bursaries.

It seems appropriate at this point to briefly outline the work of the IAP Education Committee of which I am very proud to have been the Chair and to have had the support of the Education Committee Members who between them provide global representation.

Over the past 10 years, the Education Committee has supported 35 Scientific Meetings worldwide. Countries perceived as especially deserving have been located in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Asia Pacific regions, South America and some other Spanish Speaking countries areas. Amongst recent notable meetings have been the First International Scientific meetings of the Cuban, Romanian, Russian and Ukrainian Divisions, the 4th Asia Pacific IAP Congress held in Beijing - the first international pathology meeting to be held in central China- and the 6th APIAP Congress in Kochi India. This year, the 7th APIAP Congress in Taipei, Taiwan and international Scientific Meetings in Cuba and the Ukraine and will be supported and more requests are in the pipeline.

An important aspect of the Education Committee is the selection of applicants for IAP Bursary awards. These Bursary awards are made possible by the generous donations to the IAP from some of the larger IAP Divisions. The Bursaries are aimed primarily at young/Trainee Pathologists to assist them in attending the IAP International Congresses and strict guidelines are in place in applying for them. It is most gratifying to receive the reports from these young pathologists stating how much they enjoyed the experience: one particular aspect appreciated was the opportunity to meet senior colleagues and speakers and to exchange ideas with other participants. There are however, many more deserving applicants than can be awarded Bursaries due to limited funding. So, it is my hope that more Divisions will donate funds for Bursaries.

The increasing demands made on the Education Committee for educational financial support has been recognized in that the biennial allocation has been significantly increased. Even so, other means of increasing the funds available continue to be actively explored.

The recent donation of \$3000 from the Indian Division made specifically towards educational activities was most gratefully received and it is hoped will serve as an incentive to other Divisions to do likewise. Also gratefully received was the gift from the Hellenic Division of a share of profits from the 2008 Athens Congress towards educational support for underserved countries.

It is now my pleasure to welcome Dr. HK Ng as the new Chairman of the Education Committee who will take over this role at the closure of the San Antonio Education Committee Meeting

An important activity of the IAP is to promote and assist in the interaction between different Divisions of the IAP and support their educational programmes. In the forefront of such educational collaborative activity has been that between the French and British Divisions and the Arab Division; the US, British and South African Divisions with the East African and West African Divisions, the educational programmes set up for the Asia Pacific countries led by the Australian, Hong Kong and Japanese Divisions and the ‘Transfer of Technology in Pathology Meetings set up by the Hungarian Division aimed at pathologists from Central and Eastern Europe.

Another important outcome of successful collaboration between different IAP Divisions has been the setting up of annual joint Schools of Pathology targeted at trainee pathologists. Also welcomed is the setting up of the International Junior Academy of Pathology, an annual Summer school set up by the German Division aimed at trainee pathologists from Germany and other European countries. All these Schools underpin the IAP mission of disseminating knowledge and high standards of pathology practice. It is hoped that other Divisions will likewise form interactive links between themselves leading to educational programmes and new Schools of Pathology.

Some Divisions lack many educational facilities and there are also Countries desperately in need of educational assistance which do not have a Division. These will be encouraged to form links with larger, stronger Divisions and in the latter case encouraged to form their own Division

With regard to new educational initiatives, I have set up a Working Party to look at novel ways of building on and developing educational support for those Divisions most in need.

The areas which will be actively explored include;

- i. An ‘outreach’ programme of visiting Ambassadors/Lectures to countries with poor educational facilities and resources. These Lecturers will be drawn from those willing to travel to conduct workshops, seminars or other educational activities as requested by the country visited,
- ii. The provision of teaching materials (CDs/DVDs) including the availability and easy access to Divisional Meeting course material.
- iii. The setting up a Senior Pathologists Bursary Fund enabling senior pathologists with limited financial support to attend international congresses.

Another aim is to interact with other Pathology Societies. Such interaction would be beneficial in terms of devising joint educational programmes. There are already links with the European Society of Pathology in that a joint ESP/IAP symposium is conducted every two years during the European Congress of Pathology.

In conclusion, I salute the outgoing President Dr. Florabel Mullick and would like to thank her for her hard work in setting up a Task Force; the Way Ahead. This Committee, chaired by Dr. Mullick, has conducted several valuable studies such as that approaching the different Divisions to assess their individual educational needs. Particular problems have also been identified in the organization of the IAP. You have my assurance that these issues will be addressed.

Kristin Henry
President
International academy of Pathology