Munich the capital city of the State of Bavaria

Munich is a vibrant city famous for its history, culture and scientific achievements. Its most famous tourist attraction is the Oktoberfest which in 2016 will be held from 17 September to 3 October. (German reunification day). Delegates attending the International Congress in Cologne might like to include a visit to Munich either before or after the Congress.

Prof. Thomas Kirchner, head of the famous Ludwig Maximilians University Department of Pathology is a very keen attendant of this festival. I was visiting his department when the 2013 Oktoberfest was in full swing and he kindly invited me to join him and members of his department in one of the ‘Beer tents’ in which he had booked some tables. I hope the photos capture some of the sights, sounds, bustle and enjoyment of the revellers. Adding to the atmosphere was the myriad of professional staff working in the background to provide the food and to deliver it to the tables. Musicians, entertainers, supervisors, security, fire fighters, cleaners, first aid medical staff etc were also on hand. Free alcohol breath tests were provided.

The Oktoberfest came into being when King Ludwig I of Bavaria was married to Princess Therese on October 12, 1810. The King arranged an extravagant party for the citizens in the ground in which the Oktoberfest has been held annually since then. Six Munich brewers produce a special beer called Munich beer that is served at the festival. In 2013, 6.4 million people attended the festival and 6.7 million litres of beer were sold.

Ludwig Maximilians University

The University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Universities in Germany. It was originally established in Ingolstadt in 1472 and it moved to its present location in central Munich in 1862. The Head of the Institute for Pathology in the Ludwig Maximillians University in Munich is Professor Thomas Kirchner. The Institute encompasses basic research, experimental and service pathology. To support the research there are a number of well equipped, modern laboratories and an experimental animal facility. The Institute is attached to two University Hospitals, one in the City Centre and another in the suburb of Grosshadern. Together they have about 2,300 beds. The Institute provides service in all the major specialties, and consultations for Munich and surrounding districts. As well as a heavy surgical pathology...
The 2016 meeting of USCAP was held in the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle, the main city in Washington State. The State borders the Pacific Ocean in the North West of the USA. Seattle was the name of an Indian chief from the area.

European settlement began in Seattle in 1851. It was incorporated as a town in 1865. The town was surrounded by primeval forest, and the felling of the trees created a timber industry that heralded the first phase of prosperity. When this resource was exhausted, the next industry that brought money to Seattle was the servicing of the mining boom that followed the discovery of gold in the Klondike River in the Yukon Territory of the North West of Canada in 1896. Seattle was the main departure point for the miners, and it supplied the provisions they needed. This lasted for a few years and there was another decline.

World War 1 (1914-18) saw the birth of a shipbuilding industry which declined after 1918 and brought an economic slump. Enter William E. Boeing (1881-1956). Boeing visited the world fair in Seattle in 1909 and became fascinated by an early 'flying machine' and purchased one. In 1916 he and a partner, George C. Westervelt set up a company to build aeroplanes. When the US entered WW1 in 1917 they got an order for 50 planes from the US Navy. After the War they began to concentrate on commercial aircraft.

The company really got off the ground during WW2 and the Boeing 707 had its first flight 3 days before Boeing died. The Boeing Company is now the biggest employer in Seattle.

In 1979 Bill Gates (1955–) and Paul Allen (1954–) the founders of Microsoft moved to Seattle. They provide a major source of employment and they have also generated many other computer based companies.

The company Amazon.com is another, more recent major employer.

The University of Washington was established in 1861. The University of Washington Medical School opened in 1946. There are no medical schools in the neighbouring States of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho and students from these States come to Seattle for training. The Medical School morphed into the University of Washington Medical Center which opened on May 5, 1959.

Medical students:
Mara Rendi is the staff pathologist in charge of teaching medical students. The course is a 4 year one. The students come after having completed a Science degree in the Universities of their respective States. There are 220 students in each year of the course. Students are dispersed to many centres in the various States. Mara has made videos for teaching in the off campus centres and there are pathologists in each site to help with the teaching. Much of the teaching is in small groups. They do not have a pathology museum but they keep specimens in formalin containers and take them out for teaching. Pathology is taught in the first two years of the course.

Service pathology:
The central hospital has 500 beds and it houses all of the major specialty units. The pathology department also services a number of other nearby hospitals. They report about 36,000 surgical specimens each year.

There are 26 residents who do a four year training in Anatomical Pathology and General Pathology. There are 16 Fellows in all of the subspecialties. Fellows usually do one year in each specialty. Neuropathology and Haematopathology are 2 year Fellowships. Ben Hoch is the Staff Pathologist who is in charge of Residency training.

Charles Alpers is a medical renal pathologist. He developed the specialty in the Department. It reports 1600 biopsies each year and there are now 3 other renal pathologists. He has recently become the Chairman of the Pathology Department.

Corrine Fligner is in charge of the Autopsy Service and has a special interest in Infectious Diseases. They do about 240 autopsies each year. Most of these are adults, but there is a Childrens'
Hospital affiliated with UWMC. Teaching conferences for Residents and Fellows are conducted every day. Clinical correlation conferences are held in each specialty every week. There are formal case presentations every few weeks. (Information for the above was kindly provided by Ben Hoch, Carrine Fligner and Mara Rendi).

This is part one of a report on the meeting and will concentrate particularly on some of the activities that take place on the weekend before the main scientific meeting begins.

**Companion Society Meetings**

American Association of Neuropathologists meeting dedicated to the late F. Stephen Vogel (former Executive Sec of the USCAP and President of the IAP). The presenters were all former students of Peter Burger who was a close associate of Dr. Vogel.

**Binford-Dammin Society Companion Meeting Speakers**

L to R: Tahir Tihan, Doug Anthony, Peter Burger, Greg Fuller, H K Ng.

**Friends of Africa who represent both the West and East African Divisions of the IAP**

**IAP USCAP Combined Session**

L to R: Ghazi Zaatari (Lebanon), Robin Cooke (Australia), Shin Kwon Khoong (Korea), Martin Hale (South Africa), Dan Berney (UK), HK Ng (Hong Kong, China).

**Dinner function of the Japanese Division of IAP**

Front row L to R: Yukio Nakatani, Robert Oshimura, Mrs. Silverberg, Stephen Silverberg, Osamu Matsubara.

**History of Pathology Society Speakers**

Anthony Gal, Stephen Gallic, Harry Vinters

**Special Lectures**

Nathan Kaufman Timely Topics Lecture

Eric Glassy who gave this lecture at the Digital Pathology Association stand. Eric works at the Affiliated Pathologists Medical Group, Torrance, California and is the incoming President of the Digital Pathology Association.

His talk was entitled ‘Riffs on Future Path: The Fall of Paper, the Rise of Smarties and the Quest for Selfies.’ This was an informative, entertaining and - for the older members of the profession - a somewhat daunting talk on the uses of the mobile phone, and the part it is already playing in our daily lives.

‘Hut Lung: A Poignant Portrait’ one of the Special Lectures

Idris Ocal (A Turkish pathologist at Mayo), Tom Colby, Henry Appleman (Univ of Michigan, and a former President of USCAP) at the President’s Dinner.

Tom Colby is a specialist in Pulmonary Pathology on the staff of the Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona. He combined with Annie Griffiths, a distinguished photojournalist who works with the National Geographic Magazine, to present this special lecture.

They showed that women who had spent many hours of their lives cooking over wood fires in the confined spaces in village huts, had a significant incidence of Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease and interstitial fibrosis. They related this to the inhalation of particulate matter from the wood fire smoke.

Paleopathology Club Speakers:

Robin Cooke, Cynthia Wilczak, Pedro Fernandez, Darlene Weston, Enrique Granato
Poster Sessions

There were 278 posters presented. The following are just a few.

VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University), Cora Uram-Tuculescu (staff pathologist), Steven C. Smith, Amanda Gohlke (one of the chief residents).

Javier Arias-Stella (a third generation pathologist from Peru) with Jane Dahlstrom (Sec of Aust Div IAP and incoming Chair, Education Committee of the IAP).

Vaidehi Avadhani, Emory Uni.

Fellowship Fair

This is a chance for the various training institutions in the US to display information about their resident and fellowship programs, and for trainees to view these, and to quiz students and staff about the details. It is very crowded, noisy and filled with the enthusiasm of youth.

Some of the 42 stands are illustrated at right.

Emory Uni Atlanta, Daniel Brat, Adeboye Ogunshola, Charles Hill, Loyola University Health System, & to R: Ameet Kini, Nicolas Lopez-Huisjen, Gaila A. Barkan, Maria Picken, Kamran Mirza.

Uni of Michigan, Madelyn Lew (Assistant Professor Cytopathology) and Daniel Boyer, Assistant Professor Hematopathology, Henry Appleman on the poster.

Unposted Wausahaan, L: Rhea Fagnan (Program Operations Specialist), R: Holly Vargas (Fellowship Program Administrator).

Above: Washington Uni St Louis, Jason Rosenbaum and Ian Hagemann.
A guitarist provided musical accompaniment to the festivities.

Vanderbilt Uni, Emily Reinhard, MD, Tophorie DeVary (Fellowship Manager), Woon Chau, MD, PhD.
**President’s Reception**

This is held on Tuesday evening as a break between the first and second part of the meeting. It is an opportunity for entertainment and 'meeting people.'

Edda Vuhahula (Tanzania) and Robert Lukandi (Pres. East African Div of IAP).

Fernando Seara (President of the Brazil Div of IAP), Eduardo Santini-Araujo (Argentina, President of IAP), Isabela Werneck.

John Goldblum, (Pres of USCAP and Chairman of Pathology at the Cleveland Clinic), Ben Callman (Cleveland Clinic).

Collecting empties.

Delivering drinks.

Exhibitors are an important part of the meeting. Exhibition space is much sought after at this, the biggest meeting of anatomical pathologists in the world. This year there were over 125 exhibitors. Book publishers are among the most visited stands. A few of them are illustrated.

American Registry of Pathology with Mirlinda Caton (Head of Publications).

Below: Wiley publishing. Alastair Burt and Elizabeth Whelan. Editor and Publisher respectively of Histopathology - the journal of the British Division of the IAP.

Above: Nature publishing. This company publishes (amongst other things) the journals of the USCAP.

Below: David Kapprichly (Executive Vice President of USCAP) mingling with the crowd.

Zichun Lu (resident), Nilesh Gupta, Richard Zarbo (Former Pres of USCAP Chairman of Pathology, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit), Sean Williamson, Javier Arias-Stella (resident), Ghassan Allo.
load the department conducts about 200 autopsies per year. They also do 6 classical clinicopathological conferences each year that are attended by senior clinicians, trainee specialists, residents and medical students.

There are many cancer review meetings. To register an oncology service, the German Cancer Society requires pathologists, surgeons, oncologists and radiologists to attend these meetings in person. The pathologists show sections at the sessions. In some cases these meetings are conducted by telepathology. The Department conducts an active postgraduate pathology training programme. The first year after undergraduate training, prospective pathologists spend 6 years in training.

In the Medical School there are 450 students in each year of a 6 year course. The first two years are pre med. They start pathology in 3rd year. In the clinical years they have problem based learning tutorials in association with clinicians. Students attend autopsies, and there are a few pathology specimens in pots. However, most of the teaching is done with power point presentations. There is no longer a formal pathology museum. Microscopic pathology is taught using individual microscopes, and also by using whole slide scans.

Information for this report was kindly supplied by Prof. Thomas Kirchner and Prof. Peter Meister.

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I could not resist taking two strictly medical photos. The beer waiter has a ‘beer belly’ - a good start for liver disease. In his early years as a pathologist in Munich, Peter Meister reported a series of ‘beer hearts.’ (insert is from one of his cases.) It was the custom for employees of the breweries to be given a daily allowance of beer. Many of the workers took this to its limits, and in middle age they died from cardiac failure from the effects of this largesse.

An important ingredient in the menu is the special German Pretzel bread. The dough for this bread is rolled into a roll that is then twisted into the characteristic shape (like a figure of 8) before baking. The crust is salty and brown, and it may have seeds incorporated into it. The centre is soft. The bread is baked in a bakery in the beer tent, collected by waiters and then sold to the revellers.

Below: One of the 14 larger Biertents on the Fair ground with a capacity of about 2,700 people. Each tent serves beer from one of the 6 accredited brewers. This is where Prof. Kirchner had reserved some tables. Each of the tents is self contained with its own catering, entertainment and services.