Message from the newly appointed President

Dear members of the International Academy of Pathology, I feel pleased and honored to be installed President of the IAP and I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all present and past members of the Executive Committee for their broad support. IAP is the largest Society of Pathology with approximately 20,000 members and 55 Divisions worldwide.

As Vice President for Europe for more than 10 years I realized that there is a wide heterogeneity of education levels in Pathology among countries I visited. Several countries are underserved in Pathology and they deserve support. Given that education is the priority of the Academy, I have to work hard in collaboration with all executives to achieve the maximum of this mission. Certainly, education needs improvement and innovations to achieve harmonization.

I have to give credit to the Education Committee of the IAP for having been very active and generous during the last decade, by providing financial support to local scientific events organized by underserved countries, and by offering bursaries to junior pathologists to participate in the IAP International Congresses.

Several issues have come out during the last years, including the introduction of Assemblies, composed of IAP Divisions of certain geographic areas. Assemblies can play an important role in the educational harmonization, and can also motivate pathologists of neighboring countries either to join them or to form their own Divisions. The Schools of Pathology also contribute to the educational activities by organizing annual programs.

Another significant project that offers assistance to underserved counties is the Goodwill/Visiting IAP Ambassador program. “IAP Ambassadors are invited to provide educational and other activities to underserved areas”. According to my personal experience as an IAP Ambassador in two separate visits, I found this program as an extremely important educational tool. For this reason, I plan to continue and reinforce it, by recruiting internationally recognized tutors to offer their valuable knowledge.

Telepathology including virtual microscopy, teleconferences and webinars represent modern and powerful educational means. Webinar broadcast...
This jointly organized meeting will go down in the annals as a highly successful scientific congress. It is a milestone in the cooperation between two great societies devoted to pathology, the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) and the European Society of Pathology (ESP) which together represent more than 6000 pathologists in Europe, and thus the largest group of pathologists in the world.

The successful organization of this congress was a gratifying developmental process, which eventually led to a truly joint program. In contrast to similar attempts by other societies we were really acting like one society, and not two societies running two congresses at the same time in one building. Both societies have a common message, to advance the knowledge in pathology by organizing congresses in different countries so that pathologists from underserved and neighboring countries can attend these meetings and take advantage of the close proximity to their home countries and short travel distance.

The well balanced scientific program attracted 3163 delegates from 104 countries. In total 4103 persons registered in the conference including 167 accompanying persons and 670 persons from 90 companies. Most participants came from Europe, but there was also a big group of colleagues coming from non-European countries.

2082 abstracts were received. Out of these 192 abstracts were selected by the scientific committee as oral free presentations, 956 as posters, and 577 as electronic posters. The quality of most abstracts was good or very good, many were excellent or even outstanding.

We invited 471 speakers including 4 keynote lecturers who all gave excellent presentations.

100 bursaries were provided for applicants from Europe and non-European countries. These bursaries covered registration, travel, and lodging. Altogether, we spent slightly more than 100,000 € for this purpose. In addition, 38 Bursaries were offered by the IAP central to non-resident applicants, 15 bursaries were provided by the British Division of the IAP, and 6 more bursaries were offered by the Vladimir Totovic Foundation.

The strong support from the industry was highly appreciated. As it is true for most congresses the congress in Cologne would not have been possible in this impressive format without support from the industry. It was frequently stated by the exhibitors that they liked the content of the program, the setting in the KölnMesse with a close proximity of the plenary hall, the poster exhibition area...
and the technical exhibition and the organization by the team of CPO Hanser and the management of the KölnMesse. 90 exhibitors were present who rented 1.124 sqm exhibition space net.

The congress offered also a wide range of tours for accompanying persons in and around Cologne which were very well attended. 902 registrations for the concert in the Cologne Cathedral were received, 402 colleagues attended the congress party. Both events were really special and highly memorable. I’m pretty sure that not only for me but for most of you the Congress Concert in the Cologne Cathedral was a very special highlight.

We would like to thank all colleagues and all the other people who were involved with the organization of this congress. Thank you to the conveners who did a wonderful job in putting together an excellent program. Martina Schmidt deserves special thanks. She has achieved her task as managing director with great bravura. Above all, she was always able to answer difficult organizational questions and solve problems because of her clearly structured work style.

We are grateful to the team of CPO Hanser and to Raed al Dieri and the team in the ESP office in Brussels who cooperated very well with Martina. To me CPO Hanser was an excellent PCO of this congress.

Our thanks also go to the officers of the IAP, especially the President of the IAP Eduardo Santini de Araujo, who strongly believed in

Opening Ceremony: Dance troupe performing in the style of the Annual Cologne Carnival that is held each November. They did basic Scottish and Irish type dance steps but there were 4 or 5 couples who performed basic but very well performed lifts and then very spectacular moves throwing the girls high in the air and catching them. Some girls performed somersaults in the air. There is a final can can type dance and the finale with the girls doing the splits. Then they leave with girls on the shoulders of the boys.

Continued page 5
Above: Osamu Matsubara (Past President and long term Sec of Japanese Div of IAP), and Teh-Ying Chou (President Taiwan Soc of Pathology) assessing posters for an award. I met Osamu and he said that he was on his way to look at a lung poster that he had seen in the abstract book. I said that I was also on my way there to take some random photos of the posters. We passed some posters before he found the one he was looking for. It was one by Eugenia Kogan and her daughter Sophie Dimura. I had just been speaking to Eugenia and I had met Sophie when I visited the Moscow Medical Academy some years ago. Such associations can only be made at a real live conference and not at televised ones. Chance meetings such as this can be very important consequences of International Congresses.

Left Thurston Wiech, (Germany, visiting the poster) and Sabine Leh (Norway) demonstrating her poster. I asked Sabine to comment on this method of poster demonstration. Dear Dr. Cooke, We talked about eposters today, you took an image, and you asked me to give a feedback regarding this kind of poster. What I like about them is: I do not have to carry a poster roll. The search function works great – the poster is easy to find. I can send a link to colleagues with email and I can post a link in facebook or twitter. What still could be better: The resolution of the histological image in my poster was not optimal; I think they compressed the images too much. I wonder if there is a possibility to advertise the poster in a better way during the congress? By the way: The congress is great, I do like the social atmosphere. I met a lot of colleagues and had great discussions. Best regards Sabine Leh MD, PhD. Department of Pathology and Department of Research and Development, ICT section Haukeland University Hospital, Department of Clinical Medicine, University in Bergen 5021 Bergen, Norway.

Editor’s comment: I would like to thank Sabine for her comments and I would like to add some further comments. I have been looking at this method of poster presentation for some years from the point of view of a conference organiser and as a presenter of a poster by this method. At one conference I attended, the organisers had the posters attached to monitors throughout the concourse and the posters scrolled through on these monitors. For the conference organiser the monitors are fairly expensive to hire. If you are looking for a poster it is a bit of a sweat to find the monitor on which the poster is held. If you want to wander through the posters to see what is being offered, it is easier to walk past posters on stands rather than to scroll through the posters on the monitor. When someone is looking at one poster of say 20 on one monitor, no one can look at the others on the monitor.

David Handrick and Anton Klamphot-Birch presenting Charles Runney with a gold medal of the IAP, for his distinguished service in facilitating the transfer of the records of the IAP from Washington and Augusta to one data base. This made it possible for the secretariat to be transferred to the UK, and in the future to anywhere else. In the process of finding and collecting the paper based records and digitising them, Charles has become an authority on the History of the IAP. It is hoped that he will be able to publish this information in the not too distant future.

Above: Keynote speaker Tuesday Prof. Sir Mike Stratton, Director of the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Chief Executive Officer of the Wellcome Genome Campus. In 2000 he initiated the Cancer Genome Project which conducts systematic genome-wide searches for somatic mutations in human cancer. This Institute is situated in the small village of Hinxton, near Cambridge, UK. It currently employs 900 people and conducts investigations in some other areas including studies on the genetics of pathogens. He was introduced by Pierre Botton and Reinhard Bukow.

Above: Mary Elias & Sleiman Khalil, Damascus, Syria.

Above: Mary Elias & Sleiman Khalil, Damascus, Syria.

Below: Eposters.
the idea of a joint congress of the IAP and the ESP. Perhaps this wonderful congress in Cologne can serve as a model for future joint congresses of the IAP and ESP when they happen to be in Europe in the same year. Last but not least we are extremely grateful to the colleagues in the Scientific Committee, Fatima Carneiro, Han van Krieken from the ESP, and Reinhard Büttner and Sigurd Lax from the German Division of the IAP for their relentless operational readiness, their collegiality and professionalism. Organizing this first joint meeting between the European Society of Pathology and the International Academy of Pathology was a challenging task, but we all really enjoyed working together with so highly professional colleagues.

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schmidt, Congress President for the IAP
Prof. Dr. Pierre Bedossa, Congress President for the ESP
Martina Schmidt, Managing Director of the German Division of the IAP

A short comment on Pathology in Sweden:
There are about 300 pathologists and there are two societies - one Pathology and one Cytology. They have one combined annual meeting and a quality control meeting in April or May in Uppsala. There is a central Ministry of Health with County administrations having some say in the management of their own central hospital. There are 21 counties in Sweden with a Central Hospital that has a pathology laboratory. The laboratories try to provide a quality of service that is equivalent to that in Stockholm. They are all designed and equipped in the same way, but the staffing varies. The three large Research Units - Karolinska, Uppsala and Lund have their own administrations.

Maria Gere and husband Tibor Tes, Sweden. Maria is interested in gynae path and Tibor in breast path. They had their medical training in Serbia. Then they worked in a small city in Hungary and now they are in a small city in Sweden. Their department is affiliated with Uppsala University.
The meeting was held in the Pathology Department of the University Hospital, Cologne. Cardiovascular pathology is a Cinderella among other pathology branches and subspecialities. There are only hundreds of devoted cardiovascular pathologists all around the world despite the real burden of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in the Western world.

The European Association for Cardiovascular Pathology (AECVP) was founded in 2001 in Amsterdam, developing from the European School for Cardiovascular Pathology, which started in 1994. At the moment, the Association has 146 members, mainly from Europe but including some from Australia, Asia and the Americas.

The AECVP brings together pathologists, forensic pathologists and cardiologists actively involved in cardiovascular pathology. It serves as a platform for liaison between pathologists, cardiologists and surgeons as well as basic researchers in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Working with the North American-based Society for Cardiovascular Pathology we have issued various guideline documents on processing samples, education and terminology.

The AECVP has developed a close liaison with the European Society of Pathology (ESP) and is now a companion society, providing the cardiovascular pathology program in the annual European Congress of Pathology meetings.

The AECVP itself organizes biennial meetings. The first of these was held in October 2004, in Padua. The latest was held 23-24 September 2016 in Cologne, preceding the joint meeting of the ESP and IAP. Prof. Robert Anderson was invited to give the AECVP Michael Davies Distinguished Achievement Award Lecture. The program consisted of three symposia: the Olsen-Gurley Symposium on new frontiers in heart failure, a symposium on sudden unexpected death in forensics – diagnostic approaches and prospects and a symposium on aortic valve stenosis pathology and treatment. The topics were covered by leading pathologists and clinicians. Keynote lectures were given on regenerative medicine and biomarkers by one of the Association’s founding fathers, C. James Kirkpatrick and on miRNA in cardiovascular diseases by Andreas Schober. Challenging cases were presented during one of our traditional ‘What is it?’ sessions. Last but not least there was a free paper session and two poster sessions giving the podium especially to younger colleagues and residents.