The 9th Asia Pacific IAP Congress and the 7th National Histotechnology Conference
Brisbane, Australia, June 4-7, 2015

This Congress, hosted by the Australasian Division of the IAP was attended by 1213 delegates from 38 countries. There were 951 (648 from Australia and New Zealand) pathologists and 262 Scientists. The Congress was supported by the attendance of 22 Exhibitors who demonstrated their products.

The three invited international keynote speakers for this Congress were Dr Eduardo Calonje (UK), Dr John Chan (Hong Kong) and Dr Esther Oliva (USA), and the Vincent McGovern lecture was presented by Prof Paul Waring (Australia).

The Distinguished Pathologist Medal for 2015 was awarded to Professor Sunil Lakhani (Australia), an internationally renowned breast pathologist and researcher.

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Pathology Services in Afghanistan -  
A report from two active units

With more than 30 million inhabitants, Afghanistan has suffered the brunt of more than 30 years of war, civil unrest and destruction of its infrastructure, economy, education & health services. Infant, child, and maternal mortality rates are high. This is at least partly due to poor sanitation and an impure water supply. Malnutrition, infectious diseases such as diarrhoea, tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, B & C, Malaria, typhoid fever are all extremely prevalent.

The United Nations in late 2001 through the US led Operation Enduring Freedom began to improve the health care facilities. However there are now very few qualified medical practitioners and other health professionals in the country. Training facilities are inadequate and even when qualified, health professionals prefer to work in other occupations because they are better paid. Pathology services are particularly under supplied. Two units that have established pathology services will be reported.

In North Western Afghanistan:  
In the city of Mazar-e-Sharif a new hospital was built by a German Government Grant. In 2010 the manager of the hospital recruited Dr Rokai Rauofi (a senior surgery trainee and Dr. Samera a senior trainee in Gynaecology) to train to become pathologists. He then asked Dr Gerhard Stauch, a retired German pathologist, and Dr Stefan Falk to establish a pathology service in the Abu Ibn Sina hospital. Dr. Stauch adopted the policy that he would train these doctors in their hospital so that a diagnostic service could be established as soon as possible without having to wait for fully trained staff to become available. He spent 8 periods of 4-6 weeks in the laboratory providing Drs. Rokai and Samera ‘in house’ training. He provided continuing backup diagnostic support by having them prepare photographs from H&E sections which they sent to him for checking via a telepathology system using the internet. The laboratory was opened in September 2010. It offers tests in histopathology and FNA cytology. This endeavour is supported by two overseas aid suppliers - the KW (a branch of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and UK Aid.

Rokai recently spent a short time in Austria for training in Breast pathology because breast cancer is so common in Afghanistan. Immunohistochemistry staining for Estrogen and Progesterone receptors is about to be added to the range of tests they offer.

In Kabul the capital of Afghanistan:  
The French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) was established in 2005 as a Public/Private partnership between the governments of France, Afghanistan, The Aga Khan Development Network through The Aga Khan University Karachi and the French Charity - La Chaine de L’Espoir. Initially the hospital was an 85 bed paediatric and general facility. A new 70 bed Obstetric and Gynaecology facility is due to be opened by March 2016. From its inception this hospital embarked on a program of training for health professionals. A pathology department that provided Clinical Pathology Services was established. Its capabilities are being slowly expanded.

The present Director of the Anatomic Pathology Laboratory, Dr. Jamshid Abdul-Ghafar, received preliminary pathology training in Yonsei University, Wonju College of Medicine in South Korea. He returned to Kabul in January 2014 and then spent another 6 months training in the sister organisation, The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKU-H) in Karachi with Professor Shahid Pervez and other histopathology faculty members. Soon after this, Prof. Pervez visited Kabul and conducted a two day workshop. In February 2015 a full cytopathology service was inaugurated. Equipment for a full histopathology service has been ordered and it is hoped to begin this service in 2015.

Four-year Post Graduate Residency Program in Pathology at FMIC  
This residency program was started in Clinical Pathology in 2013. At present, there are five residents in the program. A residency program in Histopathology is planned for 2015 and one of the residents has already been selected for this.

Afghanistan Pathologists Association  
This organisation has been formed with Jamshid Abdul-Ghafar as Foundation President. It is awaiting formal approval and registration from the State Authorities.

These two laboratories intend to collaborate in their endeavours to further the development of pathology in Afghanistan. In due course it is hoped that the Pathologists Association will become a formal member of the International Academy of Pathology.

Information and photographs for this report were supplied by Jamshid Abdul-Ghafar, Rokai Rauofi, Gerhard Stauch and Shahid Pervez.

Inset above: Rokai Rauofi. Below: Homayoon, a technician cutting paraffin sections.

The first meeting of the Arab Division of IAP was held in Amman, Jordan in 1988. One of the most important people responsible for the establishment, naming and blossoming of the Division was Samir Amr. It was fitting that he delivered the annual Kamal Ishak Memorial Lecture at the 25th meeting of the Division which was held again in Amman, November 7-9, 2013.

In this 25 year period the Division has managed to undertake a very active programme of continuing education throughout the Arab World in spite of the tumultuous conditions that have existed in the Region in that time.

The coming of age of the Division has been recognised by the appointment of Samir Amr as the President of the IAP 2013-2014, and by the awarding of the right to host the International Congress of the IAP in Amman in 2018.

Further evidence of the strength of the Division is given by the activities in which it engaged during 2014. Workshops conducted in Arab countries - ‘Soft tissue Tumour Pathology’ in Muscat Oman, March 2014 and in Algiers, Algeria in May 2014. There was also a workshop on Haematopathology in Beirut, Lebanon in June 2014 and another Workshop on Uropathology in Beirut in September 2014.

A Conjoint meeting was held with the German Division March 22-23, 2014. The topic was Haematopathology and the meeting was held in the headquarters building of the German Division.

Samir Amr and Ismail Mataalka attended the first meeting of the Turkish Division of the IAP in Istanbul, Turkey June 6-7, 2014. The Secretary of the Turkish Division, Sitki Tuzlali and Ilhan Tuncer were the main organisers of this meeting. Pathologists from neighbouring Balkan countries were invited to attend.

Samir Amr in his capacity as Past President of the IAP attended the first meeting of the Malaysian Division of the IAP in Selangor September 24-26, 2014. He and Fouad Al Dayel (a Past President of the Arab Division) conducted a Workshop on Bone Tumours.

Samir Amr and Salwa Sheikh, who succeeded him as Chief of Pathology at Johns Hopkins Aramco Health Center, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, conducted a Workshop on Soft Tissue Tumours at a meeting of the Indonesian Association of Pathologists and the Indonesian Division of the IAP November 7-9, 2014.

In March, 2015 many members of the Arab Division of IAP in North America met for a reception during the meeting of the USCAP meeting in Boston.

The 9th meeting of the Asia Pacific IAP Congress was hosted by the Australasian Division June 4-7, 2015 in Brisbane, Australia. Samir Amr attended and assisted at two of the educational sessions.

Information and photographs for this report were provided by Ismail Mataalka, President of the Arab Division 2013-2015 and Maysa Al-Hussaini (Jordan), Editor of the News Letter of the Arab Division.
Asia Pacific Congress continued

Robin Cooke prepared Colour Handout books with CDs for the slide seminars conducted by the three Keynote speakers.

The local organisers were Dr Linda Shen, Dr. Sam Boros and Professor Robin Cooke.

There were eight pathologists sponsored from the region to attend the meeting, IAP Central Education Committee provided $5000US in sponsorship.

The scientific sessions were of a high standard and they were all well attended. The organisers had many emails complimenting them on the Congress. In particular the high quality of the food came in for special mention.

Jane Dablistrom, Secretary of the Australasian Division of IAP

Photographs by Robin Cooke.
In 2012 a new Curator, Subhadra Das was appointed to oversee the refurbishment of the museum collections that had been amalgamated at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead from the collections of other hospitals in the North London Region. These included the collections from the Royal Free, the University College and Great Ormond St. Children’s Hospitals, together with a few smaller collections.

The incoming specimens had been recorded and catalogued by the previous Curator, Paul Bates. Old solutions were changed and many specimens were remounted in newly made perspex containers. More recently, new shelving has been installed for specimens to be displayed for examination by students. Existing office space was rearranged for specimen storage and the laboratory and workroom spaces have been renovated to better suit specimen conservation work. The just retired Curator, Paul Bates returns on occasion to help with the refurbishment of the specimen jars.

This work was largely completed by 2015 and on March 25, 2015 the Museum had an official opening.

Once inside the entrance door to the museum a visitor is confronted with a view of displays of specimens. On the right are specimens from Great Ormond St. Children’s Hospital. Some of these specimens are from cases that were published as the first examples of particular diseases. One of these is the joints of a young patient who had rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatoid arthritis in children is now called Still’s Disease after Dr. Still.

Each organ in this newly furished museum is colour coded and all the specimens from this organ are uniquely colour coded. The diagrams of the organ systems were designed by the graphic designer Mark Hudson and installed by the graphic design company lucienneroberts+

There is a separate display case that contains some special specimens. These “cabinets of curiosities” were a feature of the homes of wealthy collectors particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries. Two of the curiosities in this cabinet are the hand of an acromegalic man who was 8 feet 9 inches tall. Another is the oesophagus of a sword swallower who made a mistake and perforated his oesophagus.

Members of the public as well as health professionals are now invited to visit the museum.

Information for this report was kindly provided by the Curator, Subhadra Das. Photographs by Robin Cooke.

View on entering the newly furished museum on 1 April, 2015. Specimens from Great Ormond St. Children’s Hospital.
A special collection of Great Ormond St. Children's Hospital specimens to go on loan to the Wellcome Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons 11-3-13. Right sided diaphragmatic hernia, Intussusception, Hirschprung's disease.

A historic collection from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

When he founded the Great Ormond Street Hospital, Dr Charles West’s vision was that, along with treating the sick children, it would be a place to train specialist doctors and nurses. The hospital museum, established in October 1832, was fundamental to carrying out this mission. Specimens, plaster casts, clinical photographs and X-rays were collected from this time, some from the first patients to be diagnosed with particular conditions. The result was a unique and unrivalled collection of specimens illustrating paediatric pathology and surgery across the 19th and 20th Centuries. The specimens show the wide range of common diseases seen in children today along side conditions which are easily treated by modern surgical techniques and medicine.

Above: A plaster cast of the left hand of an acromegallic man who was 8 feet, 9 inches tall.
Left: A photographic enhancement of an old specimen from the Great Ormond St. Children's Hospital collection. It is mounted in a cylindrical glass container. Strings are used to suspend the specimen in the fixative fluid. It is sealed with a thick piece of glass. The specimen shows a presacral teratoma. The front and back views of the specimen were photographed and they are mounted together so that both surfaces can be viewed at the same time.

Colour coding of the organs designed by graphic designer Mark Hudson.

Cardiovascular system
Respiratory system
Renal system
Endocrine system
Gastrointestinal system
Nervous system
Musculo-skeletal system
Neuro-muscular system
Cutaneous system
The cardiovascular system moves blood—and the oxygen, nutrients, hormones and cellular waste products blood contains—around the body. The primary organ of this system is the heart, a muscular pump enclosed by a fibrous sheath. The contraction