Over the last 24 months, as President of the Australasian Division of the IAP (ADIAP), my predecessor, David Ellis, has initiated significant steps to review the operations of the Division and the possible measures to safeguard its future finances and governance integrity. Hence, a strategic planning meeting was held in 2012 which subsequently led to an external review of the Division by Professor Michael Wells earlier this year. As a result, a number of changes to our Division are foreshadowed.

There are plans to change the nominations and electoral processes for future candidates for Executive and Board of Management positions of our Division and these will be brought to the membership for approval at the next Annual General Meeting in 2014. In the future, these processes will be publicised more extensively in order to actively engage our membership in a more meaningful manner.

Support activities from our Division for postgraduate training and education in Surgical Pathology in the South Pacific region has been spearheaded by Professor Jane Dahlstrom and A/Professor David Ellis in collaboration with A/Professor Raghwa Sharma from Westmead Hospital and Dr Kamal Kishore from the Fiji National University. A number of initiatives are now in place to ensure a robust and comprehensive training programme in Fiji (see accompanying report from Prof Jane Dahlstrom and A/Prof David Ellis).

The programme for the 39th Annual Scientific Meeting in 2014 will continue to follow the format of the previous meetings. The three main speakers are Professor Greg Fuller...
C Soon Lee. President 2013-15, graduated MBBS from the University of Melbourne and obtained his MD from the same university for his research in pancreatic cancer.

He completed his pathology training in Melbourne, obtaining his FRCPA in 1994, followed by staff specialist appointments in Sydney and Newcastle.

He was appointed Head of Pathology at University of Newcastle in 1997 before he returned to Sydney as a staff pathologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1998.

In 2008, he was appointed to the Foundation Chair of Pathology at the University of Western Sydney.

He is also currently Head of Cancer Pathology, Ingham Institute; Clinical Professor and Head of Cancer Pathology at the Bosch Institute, University of Sydney; and Conjoint Professor of Pathology, UNSW.

He holds appointments as a senior pathologist at Liverpool Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and in the private sector.

His major diagnostic and research interests are in GI, breast, head and neck, and prostate cancer pathology.

He has published over 160 full journal articles with over 4,600 citations to his publications, and an H-index of 39.

He has served 9 years as Editor of Pathology, and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Pathology.

He has been an Editorial Board Member of the British Medical Journal, and is currently a member of the editorial boards of a number of pathology and internal medicine journals.
Above: Pathologists who were associated with Patricia Bale who spent most of her professional life as Paediatric Pathologist at the Children's Hospital, Sydney. Patricia wrote a book about her husband, Eddie Hirst, Distinguished pathologist from Sydney Hospital 30-5-13. Nicky Graf, Susan Arbuckle, Elinor Wrobel (Curator of Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation Museum, Sydney Hospital), Stan McCarthy (Stan followed Eddie at Sydney Hospital and ably filled his shoes), Alex Kan.

Left: Richard Scolyer Vincent McGovern Lecturer presented with a memento of the event by David Ellis

Below left: Cocktail party 30-5-13. Soon Lee (Pres elect), Mike Wells (BDIAP), Ralph Coffin, Cheryl Coffin (Vanderbilt Uni guest speaker at Paediatric Pathology Sessions), David Ellis (Pres), Jane Dahlstrom (Sec), Roma Cooke, Elizabeth Montgomery (Johns Hopkins, Gastrointestinal pathology), Stan Robboy (Pres of CAP), Brett Delahunt (Vice Pres of IAP for SE Asia).

Left: Distinguished Pathologist Award, Brett Delahunt, presented by David Ellis.

Below: Paediatric pathologists Westmead 30-5-13
Alex Kan, Michael Krivenak, Amanda Charlton, Cheryl Coffin (Vanderbilt Uni), Susan Arbuckle, Elizabeth Montgomery (Johns Hopkins), Vicky Graf.
Ceremony to celebrate 25 years at Darling Harbour

The Convention Centre will now be closed for three years for major rebuilding including two new Hotels. The Director of the Centre invited members of the Executive of the Australasian Division of IAP to this function. The IAP was one of the first, and the longest continuing Organisation to hold meetings in the Convention Centre.

Since its inception, the IAP meetings were held in the Lecture Theatre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the lunches were held in the Nurses’ Dining Room a few blocks away. The trade display consisting of Howden Books and Dako was conducted in the dining room.

Most of the interstate delegates stayed at the nearby Motel on the West end of Missenden Rd. This was a very collegiate and congenial arrangement. The short walks were pleasant on most occasions. On the weekends that it rained it was a bit uncomfortable.

For a few years before the completion of Darling Harbour, it was clear that the delegate numbers were growing quickly and that we would soon be outgrowing the facilities at RPAH.

Robin Cooke was President and Warick Delprado was Secretary when the transition from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was made. At the last meeting at RPAH, delegates were sitting on the steps of the lecture theatre, and the body heat was outstripping the capacity of the airconditioning. So we were moving just in time to avert a crisis.

If all goes to plan we will be back at Darling Harbour in 2017.
In 2013 the Australasian IAP Board, in co-operation with IAP Central, made a decision to increase financial support for postgraduate pathology education in the South Pacific region through the IAP South Pacific Visiting Fellow Scheme. This scheme provides a bursary of up to $1500 for Australasian Anatomical Pathologists and members of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (RCPA), who are members of the Australasian IAP, visiting Suva as part of a teaching program initiated by Dr Raghwa Sharma from Westmead Hospital, NSW, Australia. This year the Australasian IAP has provided support to four pathologists to assist with the delivery of this program.

In Suva, Dr Kamal Kishore a microbiologist, coordinates the overall pathology program through the Faculty of Pathology and Department of Health Sciences of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences of the Fiji National University with active support of Colonial War Memorial hospital based consultants. Dr Raghwa Sharma is coordinating the visiting teachers program involving pathologists delivering a series of lectures and workshops designed to synchronise with the developing local two tier postgraduate program with the current two year diploma and further two years masters component under development. Registrars from Samoa and Tonga receive financial support from the Strengthening Specialized Clinical Services in the Pacific (SSCSiP) program to attend the courses.

We have the use of a digital camera and projection system as well as a five header microscope. The tutorial room is spacious and well air conditioned (see photograph). The quality of local slides has been variable because the microtome was in need of repair. Minimal immunohistochemistry and histochemistry is available. Most textbooks are old editions and the Australasian IAP executive is donating the latest editions of the WHO books to the hospital.

All registrars are very attentive, motivated and a delight to teach. The years of training of the registrars ranged from 8 months to 5 years. Formal evaluation of the program occurs. Each anatomical pathologist who is provided with a bursary from the Australasian IAP Board is required to submit a written report to the secretariat on their contribution and experience.

The Australasian IAP Board also help support a two-day symposium held on 19 and 20 April, 2013 (Inaugural Pacific Pathology Symposium) attended by the 10 trainees from Fiji, Tonga and Samoa as well as pathologists from around the region. Faculty included Dr HK Ng representing the International IAP Education Committee, Dr Raghwa Sharma, A/Prof Venkatesh Shashidhar Murthy from James Cook University, Prof Jane Dahlstrom and A/Prof David Ellis, local trainees and consultants. Areas covered included fundamental, and more advanced pathology concepts, including lymphoma, central nervous system pathology, breast and ovarian pathology, cardiomyopathy, autopsy pathology, immunohistochemistry and medical education. The second symposium is planned for May 2014.

If you are interested in being involved in this post graduate pathology education program in the South Pacific region in 2014 or 2015 please contact Dr Raghwa Sharma (Raghwa.Sharma@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

Further information about the IAP South Pacific Visiting Fellow Scheme bursary can be found on the Australasian IAP website or contact Jan McLean (jann@rcpa.edu.au).

Jane Dahlstrom and David Ellis
same organiser we have engaged, Hi Events, and the new and impressive Convention Centre in Brisbane, a seamless flow of the meeting is anticipated. Whilst the move to a new venue is a logistic challenge for the organisers of the meeting, it is also a most opportune time for the membership of our division to experience the Scientific Meeting in a new and fresh environment, away from Sydney. I look forward to seeing you there next year.

C Soon Lee, President, October 2013.

Roche was the major sponsor of the Meeting.
Below: Australian and New Zealand Paediatric Pathology Group founded in 1976 at the meeting of the RCPA in Brisbane.