

## Meeting report

# 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific congress of pathology, Singapore

The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology (5<sup>th</sup> APIAP) Congress was held at the Raffles City Convention Center in Singapore from 27-31, May, 2007. The theme was "Globalization of pathology". The Congress was organized by the Chapter of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore and supported by the International Academy of Pathology. The Organizing Committee consisted of President: Dr Gilbert Chiang, Vice-President: Dr Aileen Wee, Chairperson: Dr Angela Chong, Secretary/Treasurer: Dr Wai Ming Yap, Co-Chairpersons of Scientific Committee: Dr Puay Hoon Tan and Dr Ming Teh, and Chairperson of Social Program: Dr Anjula Thomas.

There were fifteen scientific sessions helmed by two to three convenors each as follows: Bone and soft tissue pathology, Breast pathology, Cytopathology, Dermatopathology, Gastrointestinal pathology, Gynecologic pathology, Hematolymphoid pathology, Hepatobiliary pathology, Infectious disease pathology, Molecular pathology, Neuropathology, Pediatric pathology, Pulmonary pathology, Renal pathology, and Urologic pathology.

Participating societies included: Australasian Division of the IAP, Chinese-American Association for Clinical Microbiology (CAACM), The Singapore Urological Association (SUA), Singapore Society of Nephrology (SSN), The Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology (PSC), and The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The Congress was officially opened by Prof. K. Satku (Director of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Health, Singapore). Prof (Em) K. Shanmugaratnam (National University of Singapore) delivered the keynote lecture, entitled "Happenings in pathology: A post world war II perspective".

There were altogether 505 delegates from 31 countries. The full and day registrants comprised pathologists, scientists, cytotechnologists and clinicians. The Faculty consisted of 129 speakers from 22

countries with the majority from the Asia Pacific region.

The scientific program consisted of plenary sessions, lectures, meet-the-expert sessions, slide seminars and poster presentation. The plenary lectures were: "Changing concepts in the classification of invasive breast carcinoma" (by I. Ellis); "Gastritis when it is not *Helicobacter pylori* related" (by G.Y Lauwers); "Endometrial carcinoma: pathology and genetics" (by J. Prat); "Stem cells and ductular reaction in human livers" (by N.D. Theise); "Viral pandemics that affect the lung" (by W.D. Travis); and "Medicolegal issues for the pathologists: general aspects and specific cases relating to genitourinary pathology" (by J.I. Epstein).

There were meet-the-expert sessions for breast, gynecologic and urologic pathology. Slide seminars were conducted for bone and soft tissue pathology, breast pathology, dermatopathology, gynecologic pathology, hematolymphoid pathology, neuropathology, pediatric pathology, pulmonary pathology, renal pathology and urologic pathology. There were 127 poster presentations. The abstracts were published in a Blackwell Scientific Book. Congress materials were available in a Program and Abstract Book, Congress CD and Slide Seminar materials.

The Asia Pacific Society for Molecular and Immunohistology (APSMI) held their annual scientific meeting as a companion meeting in conjunction with the Congress on 27-28 May 2007. There was a tour to the Biopolis for delegates to visit some of the key research centers in Singapore. Business meetings were held by the APSMI and the APIAP.

It was a highly successful meeting providing the platform for fruitful exchanges and opportunities for collaboration amongst colleagues in the region and between the East and the West.

(Correspondence to: Prof. Aileen Wee, Department of Pathology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore; E-mail: patweea@nus.edu.sg)