

PATH TALK



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2014 Issue



Dear members,

Pathology Day, 5th November 2014

The public is still largely unaware of the roles of pathologists played in the healthcare scene. Even our clinical colleagues have taken us for granted. Every day when they read about the results of laboratory investigations, they are oblivious of the “blood and sweats” underlying those pathology reports, either as hard copies or visual displays on the computer screens. Various sister colleges have been making an effort to create greater awareness among our clinical colleagues as well as laypersons.

Unfortunately, these creative outputs in the form of brochures, CDs, DVDs, public fora and the likes do not seem to make much of an impact. Recently, the idea of a Pathology Day was mooted and some of the national pathology organisations began introducing a pathology day to promote interests in pathology. However, there was never a concerted effort as each association would organise the event on a different day. This year, it will be different. Some of the pathology associations, particularly the UK College of Pathologists (RCPATH), the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), have agreed to celebrate the Pathology Day on 5th November 2014. The Council of CPathAMM too has adopted the same day to be our national Pathology Day. Perhaps, the World Association of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM) would take the initiative to make 5th November as a World Pathology Day!

External Quality Assurance Programmes (EQAP)

For those members who had attended the Annual General Meeting of the College last year, they are aware that a not-for-profit company (**MCPATH QAP Sdn Bhd**) to provide external quality assurance programmes to pathology laboratories had been established by CPathAMM. Indeed, the company is now conducting pilot runs in a few selected laboratories. The initial programmes to be offered are clinical chemistry profiles, full blood counts and common serology tests.

We appeal to our fellow members that, when it is time to renew your subscriptions to your current external quality assurance programmes, please give due consideration to this national EQAP, an effort taken the College so that EQAP are competitive in pricing and more laboratories can take up EQAP as part of the quality improvement in the practice of pathology.

We also appeal to our fellow members to come forward to provide advisory services to continuously improve the EQAP as the programme evolves.

We would like to thank Dr. Menaka, Dr. Leslie Lai and Prof. Yap Sook Fan who serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Company without emoluments. We would also like to thank Puan Rukiah, Mr. Lee Han Chung, Ms. Teh Hui Xin and Puan Shanaliza who work voluntarily to get the Company off the ground.

Subspecialty Training in Collaboration with MOH

The Master of Pathology programmes established at the universities have been quite successful in educating and training our specialists in core disciplines of pathology. The most recent addition was the molecular pathology programme established in Universiti Sains Malaysia. We are indeed very proud of our achievements, an effort that began in the seventies in the University of Malaya and culminated in a vibrant community of pathologists nationwide. Just like other disciplines in medicine, in order to provide a better service to our patients, subspecialisation is unavoidable. Just look at our fellow breast surgeons and you can appreciate how busy they are and what an excellent service they have provided to our patients. Breast cancer remains the number one cause of mortality among women with cancers in Malaysia and other countries.

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Inside This Issue:

Message from the President	1
Announcement	2
Renal Pathology Update 2014	3
Upcoming & Past Events	5

As the number of centres required to provide subspecialist services are limited and the number of subspecialists required for the Country is small, it is more realistic to produce these specialists under an in-service training scheme in those centres providing the service. This is now happening in other disciplines such as subspecialties in internal medicine. Indeed, the Malaysian Society of Haematology (MSH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Malaysia (MOH) has organised a very successful 3-year clinical haematology subspecialty programme since 2005 with 19 graduates and 33 registered trainees to date.

The CPathAMM Council has established a subcommittee headed by Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman to study the feasibility of subspecialty training in collaboration with MOH. In the initial discussion, several subspecialty fields have been identified for implementation such as transfusion medicine, haemostasis medicine, and renal pathology. This is an important milestone of the College consistent with the objectives of the College. We appeal to our members to come forward to support this effort by the College.

*With best wishes,
Emeritus Professor SK Cheong,
President,
14th June 2014.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations

Path Talk is pleased to announce that **Professor Dr. Ainoon Othman** was recently conferred the Datukship title in conjunction with the birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

Path Talk, on behalf of the College, congratulates Prof. Dr. Ainoon Othman on her outstanding achievement.

New Fellow & Members

The college extends a warm welcome to the following new admission:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leong Chooi Fun (Fellow)
2. Dr. Subashini Chellappah Thambiah
3. Dr. Chew Man Fong

Renal Pathology Update
Clinical School Johor Bahru, Monash University Malaysia
4 - 5 April 2014

The **Renal Pathology Update 2014** held recently in Clinical School Johor Bahru, Monash University Malaysia was a huge success. Participation was well above the initial anticipated number, reaching 107 registered delegates from all over Malaysia as well as many foreign delegates from Australia, Indonesia and Singapore.

The 2-day meeting brings together local and foreign pathologists and nephrologists to a common platform for a comprehensive update of major diagnostic entities in nephropathology with emphasis on clinical correlations and pathogenesis. Many developments and classifications have evolved in the last few years in this specialized field relating to disorders of the native and allograft kidneys. Thus it is a timely event for the update and is appropriately hosted by Monash University Malaysia in collaboration with Sultanah Aminah Hospital and College of Pathologists. The meeting had received overwhelming response and was well attended.

The faculty for the meeting consisted of **Professor Stewart Fleming** of University of Dundee, **Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr. Looi Lai Meng** of University Malaya Medical Center and **Associate Professor Dr. Tan Puay Hoon** of Singapore General Hospital. The conference format was both lectures and glass slide based-video microscopy sessions. The invited speakers gave a comprehensive review and update of important topics in nephropathology with valuable and clear explanations. They also generously shared some of their cases with the delegates and conducted practical slide sessions. The delegates participated actively and enthusiastically in the discussion.

The meeting was held at the conference hall of the new Clinical School, Johor Bahru at the Level 4. In addition the delegates were able to view the microscopy slides at the Pathology Resource Center and were allowed to download the digitalized version of the slides and cases used in the conference at the Computer Laboratory.

The organisers had also arranged for a mini-book fair with two medical book stores, a souvenir stall and a small art exhibition of pencil drawings by a young talented 15-year-old autistic artist in conjunction with the event at the main lobby of the university.

The meeting was well organised and went on smoothly. The delegates enjoyed the meeting and stayed on until the very last session of the conference with great enthusiasm. They gave very good evaluation scores of the meeting and included many complimentary and congratulatory remarks.

*A/Prof Khoo Joon Joon,
Organising Chairperson.*



Prof. Stewart Fleming of UK



Microscopy sessions



Interactive discussion with delegates



From left: Prof. Fleming, Prof. Tan, Prof. Datuk Looi, Prof. Khoo & Dr. Noraida



Group photograph

UPCOMING EVENT

Indian Ocean Rim Laboratory Haematology Congress Mandurah, Western Australia, 16th - 17th October 2014

This inaugural meeting has been developed to meet the needs of laboratory-based haematologists and scientists working in countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Due to the region's varied geography, climate and economic situation, there are many and varied topics in haematology that are of relevance. This 2-day congress will discuss topics in laboratory and scientific haematology covering aspects of state-of-art and cutting-edge laboratory haematology as well as issues that are relevant to remote and resource-poor settings.

Topics to be included:

- Integrated diagnostics for malignancies
- Practical approach to abnormal leucocytes
- Challenges in transfusion
- Challenges in haemostasis
- Tropical haematology
- Diagnostic challenges in resource-poor settings

Registration is now open. Early bird registration deadline: 15th August 2014. Abstract submission is now open and will close on 27th June 2014. For additional information, please visit <http://www.labhaem2014.org>.

2014 International Congress of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine 26th - 28th August 2014, Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

This meeting is jointly organised by the College of Pathologists and Academy of Medicine of Malaysia with the participation of World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM).

The theme for the meeting is "Personalised Diagnostics: From Bench to Bedside" to highlight the increasing awareness of the importance of personalised care in modern medicine. This meeting is suitable for all pathologists, clinicians, trainee medical and scientific officers looking to update themselves in this field.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.icpalm2014.com> or contact the meeting secretariat via email at admin@icpalm2014.com or via telephone at (603)40234700, (603)40254700 or (603)40253700.

PAST EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
4-5 Apr	Renal Pathology Update	Monash University (Johor Bahru Campus)
30 Apr	Lab Forward with the Next Level of Haematology Workshop	Royal Chulan Hotel, KL

Correction

In our previous newsletter, the Haematologist mentioned under the virtual cell counter section was wrongly named. It should have been **Dr. Wong Wai Keong** and he can be contacted at wongwaieong@gmail.com. We apologise for the error.