

# PATH TALK



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2018 Issue



Dear members,

### **The 19<sup>th</sup> AGM of the College of Pathologists, 2018**

The 19<sup>th</sup> AGM of the College will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Friday) at 5.30 pm in the Vertical, Connexion Conference & Exhibition Centre, Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur. All members are welcome to attend the annual event and catch up with business matters of the College as well as the Academy of Medicine during the AGM.

The membership of the College continues to grow with new graduates who have successfully completed their specialist training and pathologists returning from overseas. There are still many new graduates who hesitate to join us. We appeal to the seniors to actively encourage our junior pathologists to become members, in order to promote our profession to the public as well as colleagues of other specialist disciplines.

### **International Congress of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine (ICPaLM)**

This year our annual scientific meeting in the form of an international congress will be held on 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the Connexion Conference & Exhibition Centre @ the Vertical, Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur. The theme is "Frontiers in Diagnostic Pathology." The Congress is organised by a team led by Associate Professor Dr Leong Chooi Fun.

Our sister colleges from Hong Kong, Australasia and United Kingdom will be participating in this year's congress. We thank them for their generous support.

Professor Dr Jane Dahlstrom, from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) was invited to deliver the "K. Prathap Memorial Lecture". Professor Dahlstrom is a practising anatomic pathologist and Professor of Anatomical Pathology, Australian National University Medical School in Canberra. She is going to tell us about "Evolution and advancement of breast cancer management: The pathologist's contribution".

Professor Dr Mike Laffan, Consultant Haematologist at the Hammersmith Hospital London and Professor of Haematology, Imperial College of London, was invited to deliver the plenary. This lecture is supported under the Bhagwan Singh Fellowship Programme, the Royal College of Pathologists of the United Kingdom.

This year, we are very fortunate among the plenary speakers to have Professor Dr John Rasko with us. Professor Rasko is a renowned haematologist down under, well known for his expertise in stem cell and gene therapy. He is also the current serving President of the International Society of Cellular Therapy (ISCT). He will be delivering a plenary entitled "From DNA to molecular medicine – gene therapy is now!"

See all of you in Bangsar South!

*With best wishes,  
Emeritus Professor Dr SK Cheong,  
President,  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2018*



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## UPCOMING EVENT

**17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Pathology & Cancer Epidemiology**

**Edinburgh, Scotland**

**8-9 October 2018**

The theme of this conference is Pathology: Recent advancements and future challenges. It provides a platform to learn about upcoming technologies, future and current developments and lines of research determining the future of pathology. The conference also brings together pathologists from academia and industry to discuss the pros and cons of all the development and how upcoming technologies or procedures will change the face of pathology and pathologists. There will be plenary talks, industry presentations, panel discussions, Q&A rounds, oral presentations, workshops/symposiums, exhibitions and young researcher forums. CME/CPD points available.

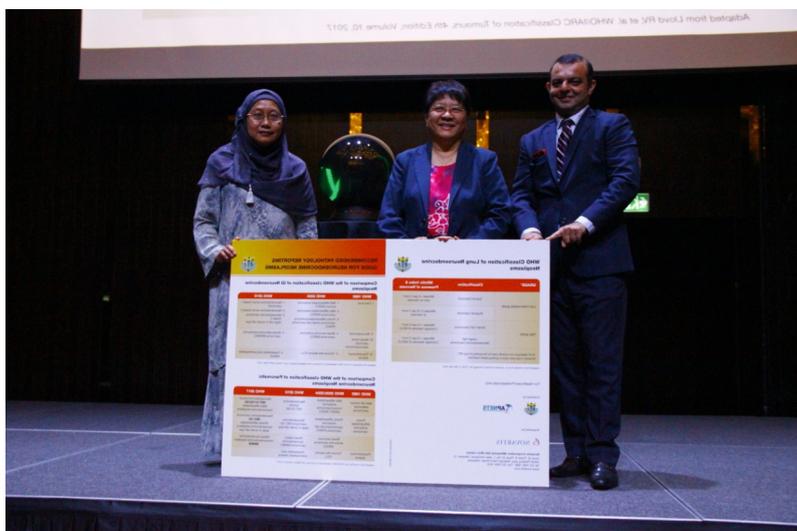
For further information on the conference and registration, please visit the following website: <https://pathology.euroscicon.com/>.

## Pathology Reporting - Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (GEP-NETs)

The College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPathAMM) recently launched the updated version of recommended parameters for pathology reporting of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP-NETs). The launching took place on 3 March 2018 at Sheraton Hotel, Petaling Jaya. This updated version is based on the latest WHO classification for NET and replaces the previous version that was launched on 22 May 2013. The changes to WHO classification are:

1. GI-NET reporting remained as per WHO 2010 classification
2. Pancreatic-NET reporting based on WHO 2017 classification
3. Added Lung-NET reporting based on WHO 2015 classification

The recommended WHO classification and reporting format are available at <http://www.mjpath.org.my/2018/v40n1/GEP-NETs.pdf>. The College would like to thank the NET Alliance Interest Group of Malaysia for assisting with the development of the guidelines and also Novartis Corporation (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. for providing the educational grant.



Launching of the GEP-NETS reporting parameters with Dr Imran Rasheed (R), Prof. Datuk Dr Looi Lai Meng (C) & Dr Arni Talib (L).

Group photo taken during the launching of the GEP-NETS reporting parameters.





### LANCET SERIES ON GLOBAL PATHOLOGY:

#### Pathology & Laboratory Medicine in Low-income & Middle-income Countries

Pathology and laboratory medicine (PALM) is an integral part of any healthcare system from diagnosis to treatment options, outcome prediction and disease monitoring. PALM is also important in devising global cancer and surgery strategies. However, PALM is hardly mentioned in universal health coverage discussion especially for low-income and middle-income countries. In order to kick start and accelerate global efforts to strengthen PALM, the Lancet published a series of articles by an international team of experts in global medicine and pathology on 15 March 2018:

1. Access to pathology and laboratory medicine services: A crucial gap. This paper by Michael L Wilson *et al.* details the crucial and central roles of PALM services in the healthcare system and examines the current barriers in resource-poor settings.
2. Improving pathology and laboratory medicine in low-income and middle-income countries: Roadmap to solutions. This paper by Shahin Sayed *et al.* proposes ways of overcoming the barriers that are applicable in low-income and middle-income countries.
3. Delivering modern, high quality, affordable pathology and laboratory medicine to low-income and middle-income countries: A call to action. This paper by Susan Horton *et al.* put out eight recommendations and calls for joint efforts from all parties to ensure the delivery of effective and sustainable PALM services.

In addition to these articles, there were also three commentaries published:

1. Pathology and laboratory medicine: The Cinderella of health systems by Sabine Kleinert and Richard Horton.
2. Laboratory medicine in low-income and middle-income countries: Progress and challenges by John N Nkengasong *et al.*
3. Pathology and laboratory medicine in partnership with global surgery: Working towards universal health coverage by Isabelle Citron *et al.*

Full-text of these articles are available at <https://www.thelancet.com/series/pathology-and-laboratory-medicine>.