

**NOTES ON THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
THURSDAY 5 JULY 2007, 12.00 HRS  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW  
LECTURE THEATRE 1, BOYD ORR BUILDING**

In order to improve the timeliness of the meeting, brief verbal reports will be given at the Business Meeting. The following notes are designed to accompany the Annual Business Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM No 4: THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**1. Successful Centenary year 2006/2007**

We were pleased to mark the Society's Centenary year with a number of significant events and initiatives. The Summer Meeting in 2006 was a really special event, not least because the first meeting of the Society, 100 years earlier, had taken place in Manchester. The atmosphere at the meeting was further enhanced by our being able to celebrate the news received a few weeks earlier that the Journal of Pathology had emerged as the Number 1 Pathology Journal in the world in terms of citation index. We had overtaken the long time leader in the field, the American Journal of Pathology.

To mark the Centenary a number of initiatives were undertaken, perhaps the most poignant of which was the production and free distribution to all members of the book "Understanding Disease – A Centenary Celebration of the Pathological Society" edited by Peter Hall and Nick Wright. We also supplied members with free copies of the new TNM classification of malignant tumours. Special initiatives undertaken to mark the Centenary included the creation of 3 Clinical Research Fellowships, 3 additional PhD Studentships, a substantial donation to the Royal College of Pathologists towards the refurbishment of the College and to secure the lease on the Society's offices until 2020, and additional spends on pilot research projects, Intercalated Degrees and the Open Scheme. In all we spent a total additional amount of £1 million to mark the Centenary, and I am pleased to be able to say that the new schemes, particularly the Clinical Research Fellowships and the PhD Studentships were taken up through robust and high quality competitive processes.

**2. Other Activities in 2006-2007**

We are also very keen to engage the public in understanding disease and understanding pathology and pathologists. We have supported a number of public lectures with limited success, but more recently have engaged with a professional journalist and publishers and are in the middle of discussions to embark on a book with the working title "Conversations with Pathologists", which will contain interviews with charismatic pathologists from across the globe.

The final activity of the current year that I would draw your attention to is our efforts to develop partnerships to enhance the understanding of disease; one example of this is our ongoing and very successful collaboration with the BDIAP and various other sister organisations in organising and putting on meetings such as Glasgow Pathology 2007.

**3. Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> Ritchie Medal**

The name of the recipient will be revealed and the presentation made at the Business Meeting.

**David Levison**  
**May 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM No 5: GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This is my last AGM as General Secretary and I am delighted to report considerable progress in four areas that have been central to my tenure in this position.

**1. Organisational changes**

When I became General Secretary I was determined to make the Society more representative of the Membership and develop an administrative structure that allowed for more involvement in decision making. These ideas were outlined in previous documents including 'The Way Forward'. The last year has seen the full implementation of all of these changes. All Sub Committees are now functioning and we are currently holding the first open elections for the Trainees Sub Committee. Below are reports from these Sub-committees and I anticipate that over the coming years we shall see them take real ownership and leadership of their respective areas and be positive agents for the advancement of the Society and our discipline.

**2. Membership trends**

A pleasing consequence of the hard efforts of the Committee has been the progressive increase in our membership. From a nadir in 2002/3 when we neared the precipice of less than 1000 members we now have 1201 members (648 ordinary, 25 Honorary, 303 Senior) which includes 225 ordinary members with a concessionary rate. The vast majority of these are trainees in pathology and of course our future. I should point out that Senior Members (the majority of whom are retired) are now less than a quarter of our membership as opposed to more than a third at the beginning of my term of office.

**3. Benefits of Membership**

A central plank of promoting membership has been the idea that there should be real and tangible benefits of membership. Over an above the various schemes and awards (detailed by the Treasurers report and mentioned in Sub-committee reports) we have over the past 2 years introduced substantial tangible benefits. Last year all members were presented with a bound hardback volume of the Society History edited by Nick Wright and myself. While stocks last, all new members will receive a copy of this celebration of the Societies' Centenary. In addition all members received a gratis copy of the TNM Manual which can be invaluable to all practicing pathologists and useful to those interested in cancer. I am pleased to announce that in late 2007 all concessionary members will receive a copy of a diagnostic pathology manual prepared by Dr Paul Tadrous and published by John Wiley's. This will also be available to any other member at a heavily discounted rate of £20. It is planned that in 2008 all members will receive a copy of the TNM Atlas to compliment the TNM Manual. Finally we are in the final stages of negotiation with Elsevier regarding making available to all members the magazine Current Diagnostic Pathology. This is currently a quarterly but will in

January 2008 become a monthly magazine. I believe that this will be a valuable addition to the benefits enjoyed by all members.

#### **4. Newsletter**

Another innovation I introduced was the twice yearly Newsletter. This has proved popular and is now in the safe and enthusiastic hands of Dr Suha Deen. This has been an invaluable means of communicating with the Membership: communication that is now enhanced by a fully electronic mechanism for interacting with the membership. Not only is this fast, it is flexible and has resulted in considerable savings in both paper and crucially in money! Money that we can transfer to activities that more tangibly benefit the Membership! Contributions for publication in the Newsletter should be sent to Dr Suha Deen via the Society Administrator

**Peter Hall**  
**May 2007**

### **AGENDA ITEM No. 6 – THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

#### **6.1 Review of Year: 2006**

I am pleased to say that we have seen continued growth in the assets of the Society during 2006; this has again outstripped inflation and is in spite of increased expenditure during the Centenary year. It is in part due to a further increase in revenue from Journal of Pathology but also from a significant increase in the value of our investments. With respect Journal income, it should be noted that the figure in the audited accounts is substantially greater than that of previous years but as a consequence of changes in accounting procedure, and our reporting to Inland Revenue, the amount paid to the Society as part of the profit share is subject to VAT. Even allowing for this the Journal has shown a growth which is better than competitor journals and the increased profits have arisen despite increased costs of colour publishing; undoubtedly these trends have been contributed to by the Journal becoming the number one peer-reviewed journal in its category.

We have again diversified some of our investments to further mitigate against risk of a downturn in the markets but equities have had a relatively buoyant year overall in 2006.

Outgoings in 2006 markedly exceeded those of previous years, partly from our commitment to activities for the Centenary year, including the underwriting of the Summer meeting and the publishing of the book to commemorate the Centenary. In addition, additional costs have been incurred to ensure that there are enhanced tangible benefits for members of the Society including circulation of the free TNM classification book. Looking ahead there will be a further increase in costs emanating from the Centenary “Splash”. This includes a one-off payment of £250,000 to the RCPATH (which at last looks like being spent (see below)) and the commencement of Clinical Fellowships in late 2007.

At the 2006 AGM, concerns were expressed about the service provided by our accountants, Menzies. They accepted that there had been problems in the preceding year and I am pleased to say those problems have been fully addressed and we are now enjoying a fruitful relationship with them. We retained them as our agents last year for the wholly separate process of auditing; it is entirely permissible to have a single organisation undertake both the

accounting and auditing providing that these are kept temporarily and administratively separate.

### **6.2 Investment Management – Tendering Project November 2006**

The Society has used Cazenove as its financial advisor for many years; by and large this has been a successful relationship with our returns, in most years, being in line with the FTSE. There is however a requirement that periodically Trustees of any charity review their arrangements for investment and it was felt timely to put our investment portfolio out to tender. We interviewed four companies, including Cazenove, and were impressed by the presentations of all of these. However, it was concluded that there would be no “added value” in moving from Cazenove, particularly given that they brought forward a proposal to rationalise their fee structure for our portfolio and to consolidate the equity of the portfolio. They have also indicated a very firm commitment to more regular and detailed interactions with both myself, as Treasurer, and with the main Committee (that act as Trustees of the Charity).

### **6.3 Grant Scheme Budgets – The Centenary Splash (see table on page 6)**

### **6.4 Society Offices**

At the 2006 AGM we reported that the agreement with the RCPATH to extend our lease at 2 Carlton House Terrace until 2024 (on a reduced floor space) subject to a one off payment of £250,000 (which would contribute to their renovation fund), was ready to be signed off. Both organisations have been in full agreement for this for some considerable time but delays have occurred since then, in finalising the deal, relating to legal “niceties”. This is all somewhat complicated but related to the leasehold agreements; the final hurdle was securing the approval of CRUK who remain leaseholders with the RCPATH (albeit with a 0% stake). I am pleased to report that we have now had this signed off by CRUK and the lease arrangement is now being completed.

6.3

**GRANT SCHEME EXPENDITURE 2006**

Grant Scheme	c/f from 2005 £	Budget £	No of awards granted	Total allocated /spent £	Balance c/f to 2007 £	Application Deadlines
Bursaries (Undergraduate Elective)	1,170	20,000 ①	23	16,870	4,300	31 Jan, 30 April, 31 July, 31 October
Fellowships	0	20,000	3	13,506	6,494	1 January, 1 August
Intercalated Degrees	0	30,000	7 ⑤	26,250	3,750	1 March
Open	21,242	50,000 ②	18	69,007	2,235	1 March, 1 June, 1 October, 1 December
Pilot Study	4,226	40,000 ③	5	25,075	19,151	1 January, 1 August
PhD Studentship	0	85,000 ④	3 ⑥	85,860	0	1 November
Pathological Society Meeting Bursary	2,500	2,500	0	0	5,000	Reviewed on receipt
Travel & Conference Bursary	1,184	2,500	2	800	2,884	Reviewed on receipt

- ① Includes additional £5000 vired from Open Scheme.  
 ② Includes additional £10,000 from Centenary Splash Fund  
 ③ Includes additional £20,000 from Centenary Splash Fund  
 ④ Includes 2 additional studentships at £34,000 from Centenary Splash  
 ⑤ Awarded to: Edinburgh, Hull/York, Manchester, Queen Mary University London, Newcastle, Sheffield, Southampton  
 ⑥ Awarded to: Belfast (Dr SEH Russell/Prof PA Hall), Bristol (Prof PR Madeddu/Prof M Pignatelli) and Hull/York (Prof PM Kaye)  
 Studentships currently running  
 1. Dundee, final payment September 2006  
 2. St Andrews, final payment September 2006  
 3. Queen Mary University London, 2<sup>nd</sup> payment September 2006

**6.5 Other Matters**

The Officers and Committee of the Path Society are anxious to see that the big changes that we have already instigated are sustained and that there is continued growth of the Society. There are however financial risks ahead. First, there is always a risk of a significant downturn in the markets which would decrease our revenue but also significantly impact on our overall assets. We are working closely with Cazenove to continue to review the portfolio to minimise risk and for them to better understand what income is required to fund our

activities from investments. It is also possible that there would be a significant decrease in income from the Journal with further expansion of open-access publishing; it is now thought unlikely that this will have a major impact on income from journals such as the Journal of Pathology over the next five years or so.

We do however, as a Society, have to identify how to further increase our income from a variety of sources. We are about to embark upon a series of renegotiations with the publishers, in relation to the profit share arrangements for Journal of Pathology, but we need to look to novel ways of generating income, some of which may involve partnerships with industrial collaborators. Negotiations are already underway to explore possible collaborative fellowships with a major international scientific company.

Finally, we should note that the Trustees have reviewed the policy for ethical investment and continue to subscribe to one of “no direct investment in companies related to the tobacco industry”.

**Alastair Burt**  
**May 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM No. 7 – MEETINGS SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The Winter Meeting in UCL in 2007, despite a lowish attendance due to a variety of factors, was a success and very enjoyable, but has prompted a decision by the Committee to modify the format of future Winter Meetings to slightly shorter, more structured affairs with a more significant educational focus.

Winter Meeting incorporating Trainees' Programme, Oxford 2008 8-9 January

Path Soc Summer Meeting 2008: Leeds 1-4 July

Path Soc Winter Meeting 2009: London 7-9 January

Path Soc Summer Meeting 2009: Cardiff, 30 June-3 July

Summer Meeting St Andrews/Dundee: 29 June – 2 July 2010

**Massimo Pignatelli & Ian Ellis**  
**May 2007**

## **AGENDA ITEM No. 8.1 EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Education Sub-committee has continued to be active throughout the year. Most of our work has been conducted by email, with two meetings “in person” during the January and July PathSoc meetings.

We have achieved the following:

### **1. Review and restructuring of the elective bursaries, under the leadership of Dr E Benbow.**

The application form has been streamlined and we continue to aim for online submission. The annual budget of £15,000 is split equally into four quarterly application rounds, i.e. £3,750 per quarter. Applications are marked and funded in order of ranking. Those applications achieving a mark below an agreed level are rejected. Applications not ranked highly enough to be funded in one round (but not marked so low as to be rejected) are automatically carried forward to the next round, assuming the next round occurs before the start of the elective. The applicant adjudged to have submitted the best elective report over the whole yearly cycle will receive a prize and will be invited to present their work at a future Pathsoc meeting. Applications have increased recently in both quality and number, resulting in more work for the bursary review team.

**2. Review of the process for commissioning, submitting and marking the Pathsoc prize essay, under the leadership of Jade Chow.** This essay prize is offered annually and the winner is invited to receive the £500 prize at the Pathsoc winter meeting in the following year. The winner of the 2006 essay prize entitled “The conventional autopsy still has an important role in modern medicine. Discuss this statement.” was presented with her prize at the UCL meeting in January 2007. The title of the 2007 prize essay is: “There is no place for pathology in modern medical curricula. Discuss”. With the author’s consent, the winning essay will be published on the Pathsoc website.

**3. Review of the intercalated BSc awards, under the leadership of Dr RFT McMahon.** We completed a survey looking at the career outcomes and publications of BSc award winners in the past 20 years. The results of his survey were published in the Spring newsletter. Following much discussion, it was decided that the number of intercalated BSc awards would be reduced but that the sum offered would be increased to fund consumables for student projects. It was again emphasised that each student receiving a Pathsoc award would be “expected” to submit their work, either as an oral presentation or poster, at the winter meeting following completion of their degree. Supervisors would be politely reminded to encourage their students to do this.

**4. Organisation and running of a symposium on “Undergraduate Education” at the winter PathSoc meeting held at UCL.** The symposium was well attended and even better received. The talk by Adrian Jubb, a final year medical student from Leeds, on “what pathology a medical student needs to know” was very well presented and should be essential listening for curriculum planners. This was followed by Ray McMahon’s view of “pathology

in a PBL curriculum”, which argued that not everything to do with PBL was necessarily bad. Jade Chow gave her view of “assessment in pathology”, an up-to-date review of the way in which pathology is (or in some cases isn’t) examined!

The symposium ended with a lively debate on the motion “medical students don’t need to learn pathology”. The motion was proposed by Bob Arnott, Sub-Dean of Medicine at Birmingham University, and opposed by our very own Treasurer, Alastair Burt. Both speakers put forward cogent arguments, and the contribution from the floor was just as energetic, particularly from our past president, Nick Wright, who repeated the assertion first made in ACP News that Dr Arnott’s views were “meaningless meretricious sesquipedalianism”! Not surprisingly, the motion was soundly defeated!

We continue to discuss the following:

- Joint RCPATH/Pathsoc core curriculum working group, under the leadership of Paola Domizio. Work on this has slowed recently, but it is hoped that momentum will be regained in the near future
- Development of the committee, including succession planning and whether or not to co-opt trainee and medical student representatives

**Paola Domizio**  
May 2007

### **AGENDA ITEM No. 8.2 REPORT OF RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE**

During the past year the research Sub-committee has been active in pursuit of the research agenda of the Society. As part of the centenary we appointed three new Centenary Clinical Research Fellows in November. Following a competitive round of shortlisting and interviews awards were made to Drs Mary Gallacher, Alistair Easton and Simon Paine. These awards are for three years of full time research towards a higher degree.

We have funded a PhD studentship awarded to Professor Adrienne Flanagan. We have expanded this highly competitive scheme and aim to make two awards in subsequent years.

We continue to support research by members through the Pilot Study and Fellowship schemes. The emphasis of these has changed in recent years towards a more pump priming role to allow pilot data to be generated in order to support more substantial applications for research awards elsewhere. We have also launched the Sino-European Award this year and are currently looking at the first round of applications.

The committee personnel have changed, Drs Going and Arends being replaced by Professors Lemoine and Byers. The Chairman Stewart Fleming is now a member of the College Research Committee a move designed to co-ordinate the approaches to research of the two organisations. We look forward to further developing the research profile of the Society and its members.

**Stewart Fleming**  
May 2007



### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.3 REPORT OF THE TRAINEES' SUB-COMMITTEE**

Since the trainees' Sub-committees' first official meeting in July 2006, the Sub-committee has established our aims; to focus on the needs of trainees with an interest in academic pathology, regardless of whether they are in full-time training or academic posts. To support any trainees who are either currently engaged in research or, perhaps more importantly, trainees with little or no research experience who would like to know more about getting involved in research. Aside from this, we would like to provide educational opportunities geared to the needs of junior pathologists. In particular the Sub-committee aim to:

1. Promote collaboration and better communication between trainees engaged/interested in research.
2. Be an approachable point of contact for any trainee with questions or concerns over any aspect of their research activities, no matter how big or small. Where required, we will feedback enquiries to the Society as a whole.
3. Promote trainee research and education through dedicated trainee sessions at the bi-annual PathSoc meetings.

We are coming to the end of our first year which has been a successful one. Trainee and concessionary membership continues to rise at a steady rate. All new trainee/ concessionary members of the Society now receive an email from one of the co-chairs of the trainees' Sub-committee (Dr K Robertson) sent on behalf of the trainees' Sub-committee to welcome them to the Society. This email is sent from the trainees' Sub-committee email ([trainees@pathsoc.org.uk](mailto:trainees@pathsoc.org.uk)).

The trainee sessions at the summer meeting in Manchester and the winter meeting in London were well received although it was felt that the timing of the trainee oral presentation slot at the UCL meeting had led to a disappointing attendance by non-trainee members of the Society. The change in the format of the winter meeting will alleviate this problem in the future.

The original cohort of co-opted members of the Sub-committee agreed that 3 members would resign from the Sub-committee in July 2007, and a further 3 in July 2008 to allow for new Sub-committee members to be elected by trainee/concessionary members of the Society. We have increased our profile amongst trainee/concessionary members of the Society such that five nominations have been received to fill the first three vacancies that will arise in July 2007. The nominees are Dr Jonathan P Bury (Sheffield), Dr Adam Christian (Cardiff), Dr Hesham El Daly (Cambridge), Dr John Le Quesne (Leicester), and Dr Ann Treacy (Dublin). The interest in the Sub-committee is encouraging and it is hoped that the new members will bring new skills and added enthusiasm to the existing group.

Website – the trainees' Sub-committee is keen to increase the resources available on the website. To facilitate this, Dr P Da Forno was nominated as the lead Sub-committee member in all web/IT related issues. Speakers at the trainee session at the UCL meeting in January 2007 kindly agreed that their talks could be uploaded onto the trainee portal of the website. This has yet to be completed and it is hoped that it will be done within the next month. However, Dr Da Forno is leaving the Sub-committee in July 2007 and it is envisaged that one of the new members will assume the role of web/IT coordinator for the Sub-committee.

Summer school – the Sub-committee welcomed the development of the first Pathsoc’ Summer School. At the last Sub-committee meeting suggested topics which might be of interest for future events were discussed. These include statistics, translational research, grant writing, paper writing, presentation skills, and teaching skills. Sending out a questionnaire to all trainee/concessionary members asking what they would like to be covered in future summer schools would be a good way of ensuring members needs were being met. This could be done via email (see below).

Finally, the trainees’ Sub-committee would like to thank everyone from the main committee, all other Sub-committees, and Roselyn Pitts and Julie Johnstone for their continuing help, support and encouragement.

**Katie Robertson & Maesha Deheragoda**  
**May 2007**

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT OF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Since the last Society Committee meeting, we have held a full meeting of the Advisory and Editorial Boards, at which we discussed a wide range of issues related to future development of the Journal. Particular points of note follow.

There has been a significant increase in the number of research paper submissions from North America from 40 (7%) in 2005 to 120 (15%) in 2006. The number of reviews, perspectives and commentaries published rose in 2006, and four of the reviews are in the 10 most accessed articles from that year. Improved planning has led to the publication of a review, perspective or commentary in every issue since January 2006 to date and we have copy in the system to sustain this until November 2007. The 2007 Annual Review Issue was published on schedule in January 2007 and the 2008 ARI has 12 acceptances from authors at this point.

The presentation of supplementary material has been improved. However, the nature and extent of supplementary material is changing, with a significant number of papers now being accompanied by online text and/or figures. Wiley are investigating whether the presentation of this material should be different from traditional supplementary data, and whether it should be copy-edited and covered by the copyright transfer agreement.

I am delighted to announce that the first Sims-Woodhead medals, awarded in honour of the Journal’s founder to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Journal, have been awarded to Professors Peter Toner and Dennis Wright, former Editors-in-Chief.

In view of the increasing number of submissions, and the need to manage the review content of the Journal more actively, the Society committee has agreed to the appointment of a Deputy Editor of the Journal. Following an advertisement and interview process, a recommendation has been made to the committee regarding this appointment.

Finally, I have signalled my intention to step down as Editor-in Chief at the end of 2007 and the Society are currently considering the appointment of my successor. I have thoroughly

enjoyed my term of office but feel that the next phase of the Journal's development would be best overseen by a new Editor.

**Simon Herrington**  
May 2007

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 WEBMASTERS REPORT**

Since January, the Pathological Society website has undergone significant redesign, a necessary improvement to manage the significant amount of content that the website now delivers to members and non-members alike. This has allowed us to better organise content using drop-down menus from the main screen. All of the content from the "old" platform has now been moved across and reorganised.

#### **1. Document structure**

We have introduced a document database (??) with predefined names and document directory structure to make accessing and updating documents and easier process for web editors.

#### **2. Joint Meetings Website**

A joint meetings web portal has been successfully established for the PathSoc/BDIAP. This provides access to joint meeting information and can be linked to directly from both organisations.

#### **3. Trainee Portal**

We have been in discussions with Dr Phil Da Forno who will be talking on responsibility for developing the trainee component of the website. Dr Da Forno sits on the Trainee Subcommittee and has come with some new ideas for enhancing this section of the Path Soc website.

#### **4. Meetings/Abstract Portal**

We have had ongoing problems with TSG, the company commissioned to develop the members/meetings/abstract web portal/database for the Society. While the membership database solution seems to be functioning and effective, here have been significant problems with the meetings products they have produced for us, insofar as we have had (again!) to revert to an alternative solution for the Glasgow meeting. There have also been major support issues in trying to resolve these problems. A meeting with TSG is planned for the near future where we must decide if and on what terms we continue to work with TSG and how they might compensate us for the problems caused.

#### **5. Webstats**

A full webstats report will be given provided showing site usage will be provided in due course.

**Peter Hamilton & James Lowe**  
May 2007