Message from the President

Dr. Maysa Al-Hussaini
Full Member
King Hussein Cancer Center
Amman Jordan

Dear colleagues,

It is with honor that I address you in this issue of the Newsletter, not only as the President of the Arab-Division of the IAP, but also as a key member in the Organizing Committee of the 32nd Congress of the IAP that is taking place at the Dead-Sea, Jordan, a prestigious event that the Arab Division is honored to host.

Since winning the bid in Cape Town, South Africa during the 29th Congress of the IAP in 2012, the Organizing Committee of the 32nd IAP Congress has worked restlessly to ensure assembling a high caliber scientific program by inviting renewed speakers who are experts in their fields, who will be addressing the recent advances and up-to-date knowledge in pathology, a field which is becoming at the center of this modern era of medicine; the Personalized Medicine. In addition; the Congress will be offering a platform for the many of the participants from around the world to share their research work through oral and poster presentations.

However; don’t forget to save sometime to sightseeing, having Petra, one of the new 7 wonders, as one of the main destinations, which unquestionably will leave unforgettable memories.

In addressing the main mission of the AD-IAP; the advancement of pathology education in the Arab countries, 2017 has witnessed 2 important landmark activities. In November 2017, the 29th meeting of the AD-IAP was held in Muscat- Sultanate of Oman for the first time. Our Omani pathologists’ colleagues invested time and effort to deliver a rich and well-organized meeting that attracted many Arab pathologists. Additionally, a neuropathology workshop organized by the Omani Society of Pathology under the umbrella of the Arab School of Pathology (ASP) was held during the mid of April 2018. In alignment with the undertaking of the ASP, the workshop targeted primarily junior pathologists and those in training, delivering its content on the new updates in the classification of brain tumors in an interactive teaching format. Both events are addressed in this issue of the Newsletter.

I look forward to welcoming you all into the 32nd Congress of the IAP and I wish you all a fruitful, pleasant and enjoyable stay.
The meeting took place for the first time in Muscat, Oman from the 16th-18th November 2017 at Grand Hayat Hotel, Muscat. The opening ceremony commenced at 7:00 pm under the patronage of Dr. Hilal Al-Sebti, the executive director of the Omani Medical specialty Board. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hadabbi, the president of the conference welcome the attendees to the first Oman Pathology society conference and the 29th Conference of the AD-IAP. A total of 13 speakers from the USA, UK, Pakistan, Germany and Ireland participated in the conference. There were a total of 68 abstracts submitted distributed over 6 oral and 62 poster presentations. Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, the secretary of the AD-IAP gave his remarks, where he emphasized on the leading role of the AD-IAP within the IAP and the 2018 conference that will take place at the Dead Sea in Jordan in October. Professor Kheira Bouzid, the president of the AD-IAP also welcome all the participants. Dr. Ahmad Al-Farisi recited a poem dedicated for Pathology and Cell Biology. Dr. Hilal Al-Sabti presented tokens of appreciation to the speakers. In return, Dr. Kheira presented a token of appreciation on behalf of the Division to Dr. Al-Sabti. The Kamal Ishak memorial lecture was delivered by Professor Raymond MacMohan, the secretary general of the IAP on Lynch Syndrome. The opening ceremony was concluded by a dinner held at the Garden of Grand Hayat. The first day of the conference included sessions on breast pathology delivered by Professor Naila Kayani (Pakistan) and Professor Emad Rakha (UK). Dr. Mary Toner from Ireland covered the head and neck pathology. Lymph node pathology was delivered by professor Shahid Pervez from Pakistan. Dr. Abbas Agaimy from Germany covered paraneoplastic syndrome and soft tissue pathology in the second day. An update in endocrine pathology was delivered by Dr. Ronald de Krieger from Netherlands on the morning session of the second day. Urological pathology was covered in the afternoon sessions by Professor Wael Sakr from USA. The third day included sessions on gastrointestinal pathology and neuroendocrine tumors by Dr. Tomas Slavik (South Africa) and Professor Elizabeth Montgomery (USA). The conference concluded with a gynecological cytology afternoon sessions by Dr. Fadi Abdul-Karim (USA).

The conference was preceded by a one-day workshop on gynecological pathology delivered by Professor Ruba Ali-Fehmi (USA), Dr. Fadi Abdul-Karim (USA) and Dr. A. Faruqi (UK). The work shop was attended by 93 participants. There were a total of 230 participants representing the various Arabic country members of the Division including Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, in addition to practicing and in-training pathologists from the host country, Oman. A complementary tour in the old city of Muscat was presented to the speakers by the organizing committee, followed by Dinner. The Gala dinner took place on Friday at Crown Plaza outdoor garden.

The council meeting took place on the afternoon of Wednesday the 15th November where various items were discussed. The general assembly took place on the noon of Saturday 18th November. Dr. Zaatari briefed all the audience on the various business items that were discussed during the council meeting.
In addition, Dr. Maysa Al-Hussaini from Jordan was inaugurated as the new president of the Division for 2017-2019. Dr. Hunaina Al-Kindi from Oman was nominated as the president elect. Dr. Ibrahim Khalifeh from Beirut continues to serve as the Chair of the Arab School of Pathology and Arab-British School of Pathology.

The “Medal of Merit” was awarded to Dr. Fadi Abdul-Karim and to the late Dr. Issam Abdel Samed who passed away a few months earlier in Paris, France. A traditional folklore music and performance entertained the gathering. The Ibn Alnifs award went from Dr. Maelle Saliba from AUB, Beirut on her oral presentation on “Standardization of an Evolving Disease with Ancient Roots”.

The award for the best poster presentation went to Ben Hadi Khalifa from Tunis on “Hodgkin’s lymphoma in children: Clinico-pathologic study of 34 cases”. While the second place went to Dr. Abdelaziz Albalusi from Oman on “Retroperitoneal ancient Schwannoma: A rare case report.”
Khoula hospital in collaboration with Arab School of Pathology and Oman Pathology Society organized a Neuropathology workshop on 13th-14th April 2018 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The workshop started with introduction about the course and welcome speech by Dr. Hunaina Al Kindi, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee and the president elect of IAP-AD of 2019-2020. This was followed by a speech from Dr. Maysa Al-Hussaini, the President of IAP-AD.

Several lectures and case presentations that covered different aspects of brain tumors and pituitary gland were conducted over two days by distinguished invited and local speakers. The speakers included Prof. Eyas M. Hattab, Dr. Maysa Al- Hussaini, Dr. Ali Alassiri, Dr. Marwa Abdulkader, Dr. Aalaa Alkhotani, Dr. Abeer Tabbarah, Dr. Zahra Al Hajri, Dr. Suad Al Jahdhami and Dr. Simin Laiq.

A total of 30 participants attended from all over Oman and Gulf countries.

The workshop was concluded by Dr. Hunaina Al Kindi with vote of thanks to all speakers, participants and organizers.