

Cyto Paths

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Marluce Bibbo, M.D., Sc.D., F.I.A.C., Editor

Second Biannual Congress of the Mexican Academy of Cytopathology

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Highlights

- 16th International Congress of Cytology
- Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
- Dr. Kusum Kapila

The Mexican Academy of Cytopathology held its second biannual congress in Queretaro, Mexico, on December 1–4, 2006, along with the XIIIth Congress of the Latin American Society of Cytology. Dr. Raquel Garza Guajardo, president of the Mexican Academy, chaired the congress. Dr. Oralia Barboza chaired the academic committee.

Experts from the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico spoke at the congress. Among the scientific activities were courses on lung pathology, effusions, fine needle aspiration of different sites (including the thyroid gland, breast, lymph nodes and pancreas) and sessions on urinary cytology and other topics important in daily practice.

On the first day of the congress was

held a satellite symposium on glandular lesions of the female genital tract, organized by the International Academy of Cytology and moderated by Drs. Matías Jiménez-Ayala, president of the academy, and Carmen Alvarez Santín, from Uruguay. One day was devoted entirely to oral presentations.



(Left to right) Dr. Beatriz Sereno Gomez, president, 2007–2008; Dr. Laura Estrada Natoli, vice-president; and Claudia Estrada, assistant to Dr. Natoli.

At the end of the scientific activities a new executive board of the Mexican Academy of Cytopathology was elected for 2007–2008: Drs. Beatriz Sereno Gomez, president; Laura Estrada Natoli, vice-president; Nadia Judith Gomez Hernandez, secretary; and

Ludwig E. Gonzalez Mena, treasurer.

Those attending the congress, numbering 220, had the opportunity to enjoy the Queretaro colonial architecture and history museums and to savor the local culinary delicacies.

IAC Websites

www.cytology-iac.org
www.acta-cytol.com
www.aqch.com
www.cytology-tutorial.org

Tell Us About Your Lab

Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, Cytology Department, a Subsidiary of Sonic Healthcare Limited, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Dr. Annabelle Farnsworth, F.R.C.P.A., F.I.A.C.

Douglass Hanly Moir (DHM) is a large, comprehensive pathology practice in Sydney, Australia, and the first and founding laboratory in the Sonic Healthcare group. The laboratory is a community-based one that also provides pathology services to a number of large private hospitals. We service a large part of New South Wales, including the western districts and north coast as well as the greater metropolitan area of Sydney.



Douglas Hanly Moir, Sydney, Australia.

Specimens are brought to the laboratory by an extensive fleet of courier cars. Reports are delivered back to the physician as both hard and electronic copies. We have 45 cytologists (cytotechnicians) and a lab staff of 19. The director is Dr. Annabelle Farnsworth and the manager of the department, Adele Richards.

Our cytology department is the largest comprehensive cytology department in Australia. We process large numbers of

both gynecologic and nongynecologic specimens. The specimens we examine cover the full range of cytology and include conventional Pap smears and liquid-based cytology (LBC) (ThinPrep, Cytec Corporation, Marlborough, Massachusetts). In Australia LBC is still done as a split sample as there is no insurance or government funding for it.

Australia has a well-organized and very successful cervical screening program that continues to use the conventional smear as its screening test. Part of the screening program entails stringent quality assurance (QA) requirements for laboratories reporting gynecologic cytology. Government funding for gynecologic cytology is linked to these QA requirements. Laboratories such as ours are inspected every 3 years and have to meet predetermined standards. One of the requirements is to calculate annual performance standards. These are a set of numbers that includes rates of unsatisfactory samples, rates of reporting high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions and calculations of false negatives and false positives. These calculations can be undertaken only with the help of Pap test registers, an integral part of the national cervical screening program and state based. It is a legal requirement that all Pap test and cervical histology results be sent to the registers. Patients can choose to opt out, but otherwise the results are recorded. This information is used to return data to laboratories for calculations as above and are also used to

ensure that patients are followed after abnormal Pap smears. Routine reminder letters are also generated at the appropriate screening interval.

Fine needle aspirates are attended both within hospital radiology departments and stand-alone radiology practices in the community by both pathologists and scientists. Cytopathologists perform fine needle aspiration biopsies (FNABs) themselves in regular clinics. All samples are screened initially by cytotechnologists and then reported by the cytopathologists. We have a full range of additional techniques available to us as part of a larger laboratory. Immunoperoxidase stains on cell block preparations and flow cytometry on lymph node aspirates are used frequently to aid in achieving the correct diagnosis.

Our practice has a very large urogenital component; we see numerous urine samples, including washings and brushings from the urinary tract. We also receive sputum and cerebrospinal fluid samples, and a large number of other types of fluid samples.

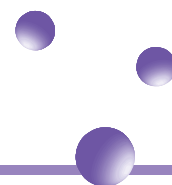
In Australia there are no formal cytotechnology training schools, but training is undertaken within a laboratory. We have a designated trainer, Jasminka Humcevic. The number of scientists we train varies from year to year, but thorough training is undertaken in accordance with the syllabus of the Australian Society of Cytology. After 2.5 years of training, the trainees take the Australian Society of Cytology's cytotechnology examination. As in most other countries, there is a shortage of cytotechnologists, and we recently employed 2 cytotechnologists from Canada who appear to be enjoying both the work and life in Sydney.

We have a team of cytopathologists

working in this area, although all the pathologists report histopathology as well as cytopathology on a rotating basis. We also undertake quite extensive training of pathology registrars in cytology, giving them a good grounding in the basics of this science.

As in all other countries, Australian cytology and our laboratory will face numerous challenges during the coming years. Australia was the first country to offer a population-based HPV vaccination program against types 16 and 18. Although screening for cervical disease will still be necessary, the number of abnormalities is likely to fall and the screening interval likely to change. The recommended screening interval in Australia currently is every 2 years, and we have a screening rate of just under 60%. Our laboratory recently completed a large study comparing the results of samples read by conventional cytology and using the ThinPrep Imager (Cytoc Corporation). These results appeared to favor the Imager, so the issue of introducing liquid-based cytology will be revisited. This issue could be extremely timely since the technology might be of value in a vaccinated population with fewer abnormalities to detect and also might allow other testing (whether for HPV or other markers) on the fluid sample.

Ours is a very large, busy department. Both the cytologists and cytopathologists work extremely hard, not only to produce the correct report but also to do so in a timely fashion as service is a very important component of our practice. Our basic philosophy is that although we are large, we do not forget that behind every sample is a patient who is depending on us.



**16th International Congress of Cytology
Photo Gallery**

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, May 13–17, 2007



16th International Congress of Cytology Photo Gallery

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Light Source

Kusum Kapila, née Angrish, MBBS, M.D., F.I.A.C., FAMS, FICP, FRCPath, MMed, was born, raised and educated in India. She received her medical degree from Lady Hardinge Medical College in 1975. In 1977, after holding house officer positions in general and pediatric medicine, she entered the pathology training program at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, under the tutelage of Professor H. D. Tandon. On completion of her degree in pathology, Dr. Kapila decided to specialize in cytopathology. Her work enabled Professor Tandon to assist her in securing a postdoctoral fellowship in cytopathology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute, New York, in 1980. There she had the opportunity to train and interact with several eminent cytopathologists and gain valuable experience in the field.

In spite of tempting offers to stay in the United States and work as a cytopathologist, Dr. Kapila returned to India and joined the AIIMS faculty in 1982. There she established a cytology laboratory and gained her professorship in 1996. With Professor Kusum Verma she made the cytopathology laboratory at AIIMS the equal of the most advanced laboratories in the world. She introduced immunocytochemistry and electron microscopy for cytologic material and supervised/cosupervised several theses in

cytology.

Dr. Kapila has contributed extensively in establishing diagnostic criteria in exfoliative and aspiration cytology, especially in the diagnosis of infectious and tropical diseases. Among her numerous honors, she was designated a fellow of the International Academy of Cytology in 1986 and received the fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2001. She is a fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences and of the Indian College of Pathologists. Her professional awards include the Nalini Bai Thakar Award, Ernst Fernandes Award, Cipla Award, Academy Oration of Indian Academy of Cytologists and the Braganza-Advani Oration. Dr. Kapila is an active member of the Indian Academy of Cytologists, in which she has served with distinction as secretary, treasurer, convener, member of the accreditation and examination committee, and organizing secretary of the annual conference held during the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

Dr. Kapila has numerous medical interests outside cytopathology. Her interest in medical education led her to obtain a master's degree in medical education from Dundee University in 2003. She was appointed adjunct faculty member to the Centre of Medical Education at AIIMS and participated in several national and international workshops/



Kusum Kapila, née Angrish, MBBS, M.D., F.I.A.C., FAMS, FICP, FRCPath, MMed

seminars.

Dr. Kapila became professor and head of the Cytopathology Unit at Kuwait University in 2002. Currently she is the program director of Graduate Studies in Pathology (master's and doctoral degrees) in the Department of Pathology, Kuwait University.

Dr. Kapila has authored over 160 publications in international and national journals plus chapters of books. She serves on the editorial board of 4 cytopathology journals. She has moderated

and taken part as faculty in several continuing medical education workshops and symposia for disseminating the art and science of cytology in India and abroad. She has been an invited speaker and participant at numerous meetings of the International Academy of Cytology and European Congress of Cytology.

In her free time Dr. Kapila enjoys music of various genres, engages in embroidery and participates in a non-profit organization for the welfare of the underprivileged.

Report on the 16th International Congress of Cytology

Vancouver, Canada, May 13–17, 2007

Fernando Carlos Schmitt, M.D., Ph.D., F.I.A.C.

The 16th International Congress of Cytology held in Vancouver, Canada, and organized by the International Academy of Cytology and Canadian Society of Cytology was a successful, stimulating and unforgettable event with 702 participants from 46 countries. IAC president Dr. Alain Verhest presided over the event.

The main theme of the scientific program, “cytology in the global village,” was achieved with the interesting, emotive and educative session “Africa calls,” a live teaching conference with 18 universities in Africa. The scientific program was presented in 8 plenary sessions, 7 award and invited lectures, 10 platform presentations, 12 workshops and 6 satellite symposia organized by American Society of Cytopathology, British Society of Clinical Cytology, Canadian Society of Cytology, European Federation of Cytology Society & European Society of Pathology, Japanese Society of Clinical

Cytology and Latin-American Society. Although the new technologies that are changing medical practice in this century were discussed extensively during the meeting, there were also discussions on the very important use of cytology for screening and diagnostic purposes. The plenary session on diagnostic difficulties in fine needle aspiration was very well attended.

Dr. Diponkar Banerjee, chair of the organizing committee, arranged an attractive cultural and social program that allowed the participants to relax, exchange ideas with colleagues, make new friends and enjoy the natural beauty of Vancouver.

During the closing ceremony of the congress the president of the organizing committee of the 17th International Congress of Cytology invited participants to attend the 2010 congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 16–20, 2010.

NEW IAC MEMBERS — 2006

Medical Members (M.I.A.C.) Admitted to the International Academy of Cytology — July 2006

Mery Gateño Laszer, Montevideo, Uruguay
Heidrun Link, Dresden, Germany

Maria de los Angeles Rodriguez Birriel, Montevideo, Uruguay

Medical Members (M.I.A.C.) Admitted to the International Academy of Cytology — October 2006

Khalid Ahmed Al-Sindi, Kingdom of Bahrain
Peter Justin Kirby Earls, Woden, ACT, Australia

Rajmohan Murali, Sydney, NSW, Australia
Manuel Nevado Santos, Madrid, Spain

NEW IAC MEMBERS — 2007

Medical Members (M.I.A.C.) Admitted to the International Academy of Cytology — January 2007

Mubarak Al-Shraim, Toronto, Canada
Olaf Bettendorf, Nordhorn, Germany
Chiu Sin-chuen, Hong Kong, China

Marc Fischer, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
Toyoharu Yokoi, Nagoya, Japan

Medical Members (M.I.A.C.) Admitted to the International Academy of Cytology — March 2007

Noriko Kato, Yamagata, Japan
Ulrich D. Schmidt, Münster, Germany
Hans Steps, Wesel, Germany

Mary Alexy Thomas, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Marcus J. Trunk, Heidelberg, Germany
Benjamin A. Wood, Perth, WA, Australia

Cytotechnologist Members (C.M.I.A.C.) Admitted to the International Academy of Cytology — March 2007

Christine Hsu Kai-Lin, Taipei City, People's Republic of China
Laurent Patoz, Yutz, France
Simon Prakash A/L Joseph, Melintang Perak, Singapore
Corinne Selle Patoz, Yutz, France

A/L Selvakumaran Shanmugam, Pahang, Malaysia
Catherine Wagener, Rodenbourg, Luxembourg
Wong Yee Man, Kowloon, Hong Kong

International Board of Cytopathology Examination passes (F.I.A.C.) — 2006

Hong Kong, September 2006

Po Tsui, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China
Fung Shing Hoi, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Luk Sheung Ching, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Perth, Australia, November 2006

Marek Havlat, Wembley, WA, Australia



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CYTOPATHS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY ONLINE AT
WWW.CYTOLOGY-IAC.ORG OR WWW.ACTA-CYTOL.COM.
THE NEWSLETTER, IN PDF FORMAT, CAN BE
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