

Cyto Paths

A Communication of the International Academy of Cytology
A Supplement to *Acta Cytologica*
March–April 2007 • Volume 51, Number 2

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

The First 50 Years of *Acta Cytologica*

Alexander Meisels, M.D., F.I.A.C.



Highlights

- Prof. Azat Shibanova
- Members, Kawagoe, Japan
- Dr. Carmen Alvarez Santín

IAC Websites

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

The International Academy of Cytology (IAC) was founded in July 1957. Simultaneously, George L. Wied started *Acta Cytologica* (Figure 1), the first specialized medical journal dedicated exclusively to the new field of cytopathology. George N. Papanicolaou was the honorary editor, and he remained in that function until his death, in 1962. The editor-in-chief was George L. Wied, who served in that position until his death, in 2004. The survival of the journal for 50 years without commercial sponsorship remains one of the

important accomplishments of Dr. Wied's distinguished career. The first issues were printed cheaply and sponsored by Wied's department at the University of Chicago. Since no manuscripts were available for publication because the field was in its infancy, Wied proposed to jump-start the publication by means of

symposia, with international discussions on various subjects that were then timely. The symposia were held entirely by correspondence (snail mail!) and contained "international discussions of scientific

problems of interest to the exfoliate cytologist." Subjects for symposia were selected from recommendations received, and the editorial office (G.L.W.) drew up the list of subjects and published them in *Acta Cytologica* under the heading "Future Symposia." Each subject was introduced by a main speaker or speakers and then considered by "persons

identified as Discussants." The main speakers were then given the opportunity to make unlimited closing remarks. Discussants were requested to strictly limit their contributions to the discussion of the main papers. The closing remarks of the main speakers were to be limited to answering the questions raised in the dis-

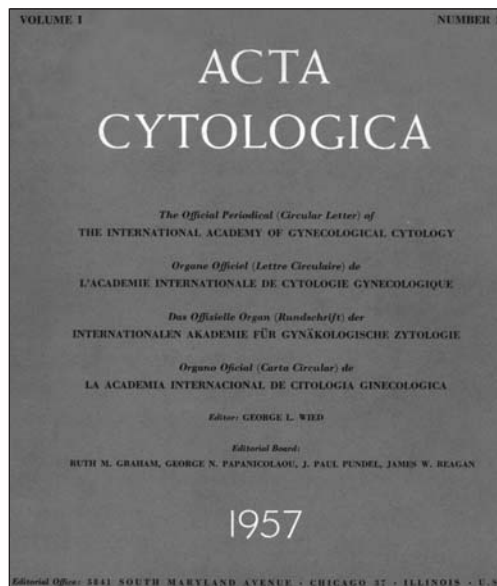


Figure 1 Volume 1, Number 1, of *Acta Cytologica*.

discussion. In 1960 the instructions for symposium participants were printed in four languages—English, French, Spanish and German—reflecting the nationalities of the founding members of the academy and the composition of the editorial board and the editorial advisory board of *Acta Cytologica*.

tology and techniques. For example, in 1960 the subjects were “Effects of Endogenous Estrogen on the Vaginal Epithelium”; “Advantages and Disadvantages of Various Techniques of Obtaining Material for Routine Cytologic Examination”; “Endocervical Adenocarcinoma”; and “Training of the Cytotechnologist.” The symposia were very stimulating and encouraged research and the eventual publication of results. Some of us may regret the demise of the symposia because in addition to their obvious usefulness, they were fun!

From the start, *Acta Cytologica* provided an international forum with the purpose of encouraging publication of new ideas within this new field. This made for a lively and very original journal.

At its inception, *Acta Cytologica* was the official journal of only the IAC (Figure 2). By 1959 Wied convinced the Brazilian and the Mexican cytology societies to adopt the journal as their official organ; in 1960 the Italian society joined, and in 1962 the American society joined. Year after year more national societies made *Acta Cytologica* their official journal; in 2006 there were more than 50. The editorial board had and still has a strong international flavor, and each national society was invited to name a national editor.

Until 1962 *Acta Cytologica* published only invited symposia or invited papers. Starting that year it became possible for anyone to submit a manuscript for publication. A large body of reviewers, including, whenever possible, one from the author’s country, ensured the high quality and accuracy of the approved manuscripts.

Over the 50 years of its uninterrupted existence, *Acta Cytologica* published many of the most influential and sometimes

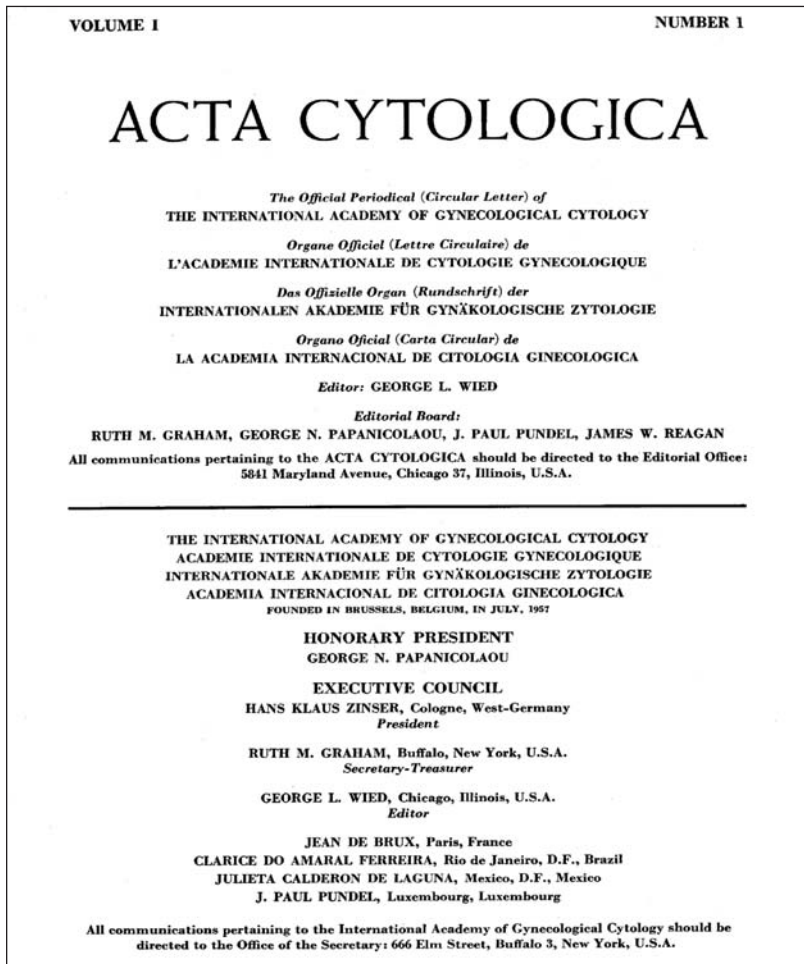


Figure 2 First masthead of *Acta Cytologica*.

In the first issue there were three subjects: (1) “Definition, Morphology, Cytochemistry and Diagnostic Importance of Dyskaryotic Cells”; (2) “Experience with Various Methods of Fixation of Smears”; and (3) “Androgenic Effect on Vaginal Epithelial Cells.” These subjects reflect the problems of the time. For some time the areas were morphology, hormonal cy-

controversial papers in the cytologic literature. All of the prominent cytopathologists who worked during this half century of impressive development of the cytologic technique published the results of their research in *Acta Cytologica*. The journal soon accepted color illustrations, so essential for many of the papers dealing with morphologic descriptions. Evolving with the times, *Acta Cytologica* published not only descriptions of cellular changes but also new developments in the field. Newer instrumentations, as well as newer techniques, found their place in the journal. Work on human papillomavirus and on liquid-based cytology first saw light in its pages. Wied's own work with TICAS predated efforts at automatization and formed the basis of many seminal articles.

Thus, George Wied was not only the founding genius of the International

Academy, with its very successful international and national tutorials of cytology, its certification for pathologists and cytotechnologists, and its position as the driving engine behind the first 15 international congresses, but he was also the genius behind *Acta Cytologica* and later, with the inestimable support of his coworker Marluce Bibbo, ensured that *Acta* remained the best cytology journal. The influence of George Wied on the world of cytology was enormous. He traveled constantly and made connections wherever he went, thus bringing new faces and ideas to *Acta Cytologica*. He always produced brilliant new ideas, both for the academy and for the journal. He was certainly the most influential cytopathologist of the 20th, Papanicolaou included. He is sorely missed by all who knew him. I can still not conceive of a world without George Wied.

Russian Association of Clinical Cytology

President, Prof. V. Bogatyrev, M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C.

Vice-President, Prof. N. Shapiro, M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C.

On November 25–27, 2006, the Russian Association of Clinical Cytology (RACC) held its most recent annual meeting in Moscow. Nearly 150 cytopathologists from 42 regions in Russia participated. Along with the Russian cytopathologists were cytopathologists from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Ukraine.

The meeting was opened by the President of the RACC, Prof. V. N. Bogatyrev. The program included problems with using advanced technologies (atomic



In the presidium (left to right): President Prof. V. Bogatyrev, M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C., Prof. A. Petrova, M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C. (President of RACC in 1995–1999), Vice-President Prof. N. Shapiro M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C. (President of RACC in 1999–2003).

force and scanning electronic microscopy, computer morphodensitometry, flow cytometry, telecytology) and modern methods (estimation of DNA ploidy, nucleolar organizer regions, molecular tests and immunocytochemistry, including computer analysis of Ki-67, Bcl-2, p53 and other markers) for differential cytologic diagnosis.

Numerous reports were devoted to clinical aspects of the use of cytologic methods for diagnosis in the thymus, prostate, breast, thyroid, sali-

vary gland, stomach, rectum and uterus. Much attention was given to the cytologic diagnosis of tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

At an organizational session, the President, Vice-President, members of the Central Executive Council and the Editor of the journal *News of Russian Clinical Cytology* all presented reports.

The association continues to expand and now totals 1,019 members in 64 Russian regions. A recent issue of *News of Russian Clinical Cytology* (vol. 10, 2006) was introduced at the meeting.

The RACC is a member of the IAC and EFCS.

A report presented by a member of the RACC (Dr. I. Shabalova) was recognized as the best at the 32th European Congress of Cytology (Venice, 2006).

The role of the Carl Zeiss Company in the development of cytologic methods in Russia was noted at a session devoted to the 160th anniversary of the company. An expert session on the theme of work on modern microscopes was led by an expert from the Zeiss company.

At the meeting, Marluce Bibbo, M.D., Sc.D., F.I.A.C. (U.S.A.), was unanimously elected an honorary member of the RACC "for her outstanding contributions to the development of Russian and international cytopathology and for her consolidation of unity among cytopathologists throughout the world."



Head of the Moscow Microscopy Department of the Carl Zeiss Company, Z. Petrovskaya, welcomes the meeting participants. In the presidium (from right to left): President Prof. V. Bogatyrev, the member of the New York Academy of Sciences, O. Egorova and Dr. G. Leshkina.



Prof. Azat Shibanova, M.D., Sc.D., M.I.A.C. (Kazakhstan) welcomes meeting participants.

MARLUCE BIBBO ELECTED HONORARY MEMBER OF RAAC

Marluce Bibbo, M.D., Sc.D., F.I.A.C., has been elected an honorary member of the Russian Association of Clinical Cytology for her outstanding contributions to the development of Russian and international cytopathology and for her consolidation of unity among cytopathologists throughout the world.

Moscow, Russian Federation, November 25, 2006

V. Bogatyrev
President

N. Shapiro
Vice-President

Tell Us About Your Lab

Pathology & Cytology Center, Kawagoe, Japan

Kazuhiro Yamauchi, M.D., F.I.A.C.

Our laboratory was established in 1985 by Noburo Tanaka, M.D., D.D.S., F.I.A.C. He moved to Biomedical Laboratories (BML), 1 of the large commercial laboratories in Japan, as medical director after retiring as director of the Chiba Cancer Center. He also founded the Pathology & Cytology Center (PCL) in BML.

PCL grew rapidly in a few years. Today we are evaluating 600,000 gynecologic specimens, 300,000 nongynecologic specimens, 7,200 fine needle aspiration specimens and 460,000 surgical patholo-

gy specimens annually.

The laboratory is located in Kawagoe, the prefecture next to Tokyo, about 1 hour from Tokyo by train. The view outside is pretty much countryside. There are 3 large branches—Fukuoka, Osaka and Sapporo—in Japan.

The members of the team are the emeritus director, Noboru Tanaka; director, Tadayoshi Hayama, M.D.; vice-director, Kazuhiro Yamauchi, M.D., F.I.A.C.; and 80 cytotechnologists, 12 support staff members and 20 cytopathologists.



Members of the Pathology & Cytology Center, Kawagoe, Japan.

Light Source

Carmen Alvarez Santín, M.D., M.I.A.C., was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, the second of three children. Her father, Hermógenes Alvarez, was a prominent professor of gynecology and obstetrics and the first physician to perform (on June 10, 1947) amniotic puncture with the objective of registering intrauterine amniotic pressure. Two years later, in association with the physiologist Roberto Caldeyro Barcia, he established the modern concepts of pregnancy, labor and intrauterine fetal physiology. When her father started his studies of the placenta and developed the technique of transabdominal placental biopsy, Carmen started to work with his team at the placental and reproductive investigations laboratory.

In 1960, when Carmen began working at the placental laboratory and simultaneously began her studies at the medical school of the University of the Republic, she discovered the microscopic world, which was to define her later dedication to histology, embryology, pathology and cytopathology. Early in her career, while still a student, she began her educational and teaching activities in those specialties. They lasted throughout her work life, for 42 years of academic and professional activities. Dr. Alvarez Santín's first published papers date from her placental laboratory years, and her research on the development of the placenta and its char-

acteristics in different clinical pathologic settings won her the Dr. Luis Calzada Award in 1965.

In 1970 Dr. Alvarez Santín graduated from medical school and in 1974 obtained her specialty diploma in pathology.

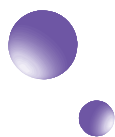
With the aid of a scholarship granted by the French government in 1968–1969, Dr. Alvarez Santín attended a gynecologic cytopathology course held at Professor Jean De Brux's private laboratory in Paris for 4 months and had a chance to attend a course given by Professor J. Dupré-Froment.



Carmen Alvarez Santín, M.D., M.I.A.C.

In 1978 Dr. Alvarez Santín attended a course on general and surgical pathology at the Pathology Department, School of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago, U.S.A., under the direction of Professor Elizabeth A. McGrew, who was then head of the department and professor of pathology.

In 1975 Dr. Alvarez Santín was appointed assistant professor of pathology and head of the Hospital Pereira Rossell cytopathology laboratory. This hospital is the largest maternal-pediatric reference hospital in Uruguay, where residents in pathology are trained in the specialty and where intense teaching activity is held in association with several gynecologic cytology departments at the hospital. Scientific research has resulted in the publication of numerous papers in the field of gynecologic pathology, cytology and the organization of cytology lab-



oratories for cervical cancer screening programs.

In 1989 Dr. Alvarez Santín was appointed associate professor of pathology.

In 1995, when she was asked to take charge of the pathology and cytology unit of the National Screening Program for Cervical Cancer of the Comisión Honoraria de Lucha Contra el Cáncer at the Hospital Pereira Rossell, a program sponsored also by the Public Health Ministry and the school of medicine, she had 20 years of experience in the specialty. This enabled her to organize, for the first time in the department of pathology and in her country, a cytology section in which all the internationally accepted, standard procedures were carried out; they included internal laboratory quality control. In recognition of these activities, Dr. Alvarez Santín was designated technical reference for quality control in the Programa de Cáncer de Cuello Uterino of the Comisión Honoraria de Lucha Contra el Cáncer in 2002.

Dr. Alvarez Santín retired from academic activity at Hospital Pereira Rossell in 2004 but continues to practice in her private laboratory.

Founder of the Sociedad Uruguaya de Citología in 1991, Dr. Alvarez Santín was elected president of the society for two consecutive periods. She also has been a member of the executive committee of the Latin American Cytology Society (SLAC) since 1985 and was elected president of the society for 2000–2004. During this period she promoted the establishment of two SLAC awards, Maestro de la Citología Latinoamericana, for lifetime dedication to cytology, and Alfredo Dabancens Award, for scientific achievement.

A member of the International Acade-

my of Cytology (IAC) since 1985, Dr. Alvarez Santín served as president of the IAC/SLAC liaison committee and member of the IAC executive council for 2004–2007. Her relationship with these scientific associations gave her the opportunity to strengthen links with the Latin American national cytology societies; the result was the formation of friendly relationships with numerous colleagues in the specialty while organizing scientific events.

Dr. Alvarez Santín is a national and SLAC editor of *Acta Cytologica* and member of the scientific committee of the national journal *Archivos de Ginecología y Obstetricia*. She also is an international member of the editorial committee of *CytoJournal*.

Dr. Alvarez Santín was recently nominated honorary member of the Argentinian and Brazilian societies of cytology and of the Uruguayan Society of Gynecotology, having been honorary member of the Sociedad Chilena de Citología since 1983. She has received several awards: Great National Award in Medicine, 2002, for research on the “sentinel node” in cervical cancer; Rotary Award, 2004–2005, for her lifetime dedication to her professional career at the national and international levels on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the International Rotary Club; and the Merit Award for Professional and Scientific Activities, 2006, from the Sindicato Médico del Uruguay.

Dr. Alvarez Santín has a daughter who is also a pathologist and two granddaughters. Her interest in music and other artistic areas started in childhood, and lately she has dedicated herself to historical studies, travelling and enjoying leisure time with friends.



16TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CYTOLOGY

MAY 13-17, 2007

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

The congress theme is
“Cytology in the Global Village.”

The conference program will feature symposia, award lectures, satellite meetings, concurrent sessions, poster presentations and state-of-the-art workshops.

Program highlights will include:

- HPV testing in screening programs
- HPV vaccines
- Cervical cancer management in developing countries
- *In vivo* imaging and cytology
- Impact of genomics and proteomics on diagnostic cytology and screening programs
- Automation in cytology—current status
- Molecular profiles of precancer and early cancer
- Hot topics in diagnostic cytology
- Predictive oncology and personalized, targeted therapies—
is cytology combined with genomics an enabling platform?

Please join us to explore recent advances in cytology as well as to discover or reacquaint yourself with beautiful Vancouver and British Columbia.

**Dr. Diponkar Banerjee M.B.Ch.B.,
F.R.C.P.C., Ph.D.**

**Program Leader, Cancer Pathology
BC Cancer Agency, Room 3225C
600 West 10th Ave
Vancouver**

**British Columbia, Canada V5Z 4E6
Tel: 604-877-6235 / Fax: 604-877-6178
E-mail: dbanerje@bccancer.bc.ca**