Greetings from Yokohama
28. May - 01 June, 2016 Pacifico Yokohama, Japan

The congress that was held in Yokohama this year was an outstanding success. The Pacifico Yokohama was an excellent choice. Easily accessible, a pleasant location with the very latest in technical equipment. Internet access was a fast, free and available everywhere.

The IAC examinations were held on Sunday morning leaving the participants free of any anxiety and able to concentrate on the upcoming days.

At the opening ceremony in the main hall of the convention center local dignitaries, the IAC President and the Congress President, Dr. Aoki welcomes participants from far and wide.

It was also a very great pleasure to present the nine IAC Awards to the very deserving Award recipients. One surprised awardee was Dr. Volker Schneider, former IAC Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman of the International Board of Cytopathology who was presented with an “Academy Honorary Award”.

Unknown to him Dr. Fernando Schmitt had looked into his life and work and amused everyone with some pictures from his past to honor him for his support of the International Academy of Cytology.
The Welcome Reception afterward provided everyone with a chance to meet up and chatter. The wonderful and generous selection of refreshments and samples of local food rounded up a marvelous evening. Kampai!

By Monday morning many registrants had received an e-mail introducing an App specifically for the congress. This App accessed the full program and all necessary information. It also enabled registrants to participate and respond at slide seminars as well as view all the slides. Looking for a particular lecture? Ask the App.

Award lectures, Keynote lectures, Meet the Expert: knowledge, views and experiences were presented. Posters were mounted viewed and discussed. Companion meetings and Business Meetings. On both Monday and Tuesday, over twelve hours, from 7AM to 7PM the activity didn´t stop. And if anyone felt they could get away for a while and relax why not have a go a Ikebana or calligraphy.

The Congress Dinner was held at the Osanbashi Pier. A terminal for cruise ships that also has a multi-purpose hall with beautiful wooden floors and walls reminiscent of an old sailing ship but tonight the sides of the hall were lined with food stations and the center with exquisitely laid dining tables. After a Greeting Ceremony which entailed smashing open ceremonial sake barrels the fun began.

To all who attended this international congress it will remain in their memory as a truly fantastic experience and to help maintain the memories the congress organisers have provided a link to many wonderful photographs.


Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 IAC Annual General Meeting was held during the international congress in Yokohama. A draft copy of the Minutes is available for viewing at the IAC website.

www.cytology-iac.org/news/473-iac-2016-annual-general-meeting
Encouraging membership from developing countries

At the recent 2016 Annual General Meeting a proposal was put forward to encourage potential members from countries where the payment of annual fees would present a financial hardship. The proposal was approved. For the next three years a limited number of free memberships will be granted to candidates who fulfill particular conditions. In 2019 there will be a review of the program.

(Link www.cytology-iac.org/how-to-join/supported-medical-membership-1.)

IAC Tutorials

After the great success of the IAC Tutorials in 2015 further Tutorials are in planning. The first will be in Abu Dhabi, 8 – 10. December 2016. Registration, program and further information can be found at the website of Mena Conference. Link to IAC Tutorial in Abu Dhabi.

Other Tutorials in are planned for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 6-9. April 2017 and Hong Kong, 27-29. October 2017 and in Beijing, Bogota, Colombia, May 2018 and China 12. -15. October 2018. Further information will be available at the IAC website and through e-mail Newsletters once details have been finalised.

The pride of national cytology societies

Once again we are proud to present histories of some of the national societies affiliated with the Academy. Argentina with an active history starting in the 1950s and lively participation in the Latin-American Societies of Cytology (SLAC). India, founded in 1970 with networking and regional chapters as well as international meetings and Spain, founded in the early 1960s and active in the European Federation of Cytology Societies.

Scociedad Argentina de Citologia – from it’s beginning to today

Doctor Guillermo Terzano (1908-1987) was the first Argentinean teacher of cytologists as well as one of the founders of International Academy of Cytology (IAC) and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Citología (SLAC). In the 1950’s he tried actively to incorporate a cytology society into the Argentinean Pathology Society under supervision of the Pathology Cathedras of the Buenos Aires University (UBA).

However, the pathologists of that time refused the project. Then in 1963 a group of doctors lead by Doctor Catalina Gagneten decided to create an autonomous society of cytology. The foundation of the new society was laid on April 8th1963. The first President of Sociedad Argentina de Citologia (SAC) was Doctor Guillermo Terzano together with an organizing Committee of ten members. 

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Scociedad Argentina de Citologia – from it’s beginning to today

Over the last 52 years the SAC has organized 21 National Congresses of Cytology with an average attendance of 280 members. At the first two Congress the invited speaker was Prof. Alexander Meisels, the then Secretary of the IAC. He introduced two important and recalled theory and practical courses creating a revolution among the local specialists.

In May 1989 the 10th International Congress of Cytology was held in Buenos Aires City under the Presidency of Prof. Alexander Meisels, the local Committee, the American Society of Cytology (ASC) and the SLAC. The Congress had registrants from Europe and all over America.

In 1995 SAC acquired it’s headquarters in Buenos Aires City. Here an auditorium was built especially equipped for teaching courses and tutorials that had previously been held in external centers. The most important of the teaching courses offered is the annual course for pathologists that covers all subjects of Cytopathology.

This course began 10 years ago initially every two years. It can be taken at the SAC’s headquarters or online by WEB and always concludes with a final examination. The participants are mainly resident medical doctors of pathology from Buenos Aires City but also from Argentinean states and from several Latin-American countries who participate by WEB.

Regular specialized cytology meetings are organized for resident medical doctors and cytotechnologists as well as refresher courses.

The SAC National Congress is held every two years alternating with an International Course. Participants are from all over the country as well as foreign guests as well as keynote speakers from different international Societies including the IAC.

SAC today has 121 titular members, 290 adherent members, 87 cytotechnologists’ members, 29 honorary Argentinean members and 33 honorary foreign members.

The SAC acts in a capacity as scientific advisor for the National Program of prevention of cervical uterine cancer that depends on Instituto Nacional del Cancer. This program began 8 years ago and now covers 7 provinces, in one of which HPV screening with the autonomous method has been implemented.

During 2015 and 2016 the SAC will co-operate with Sociedad Argentina de Patologia (SAP) and hold theoretical and practical meetings and in April 2017 there will be the Congreso Latinoamericano de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Citopatologia (SLAC) with the SAC in Buenos Aires City. This meeting will count with the IAC participation in a Symposium organized by the three Societies.
Indian Academy of Cytologists (IAC)

**History:** The Indian Academy of Cytologists was founded in the summer of 1970 by a dedicated multi-disciplinary group of pathologists, gynaecologists and clinicians numbering 42 who were interested in cytology under the dynamic leadership of Dr. P.N. Wahi, the then Director–General of the Indian Council of Medical Research and who was elected their President. It found its place on the international map through affiliation with the International Academy of Cytology and the journal ACTA CYTOLOGICA.

**Membership:** Currently the Indian Academy has about 1700 members comprising of cytopathologists, gynaecologists, cytotechnologists and cytotechnicians drawn from all over India as well as abroad.

**International Fora:** Members of the Indian Academy of Cytology are also represented in the International Academy of Cytology participating as members of various committees as well as on the editorial board of Acta Cytologica. Members of the Academy also regularly attend the International Congresses both of the International Academy and European Congresses. The Indian Academy had also made a bid for hosting the International Congress of Cytology in India for the year 2019.

**Regional Chapters:** The Indian Academy of Cytologists has many regional Chapters called the State Chapters. There are presently seven in number. These Chapters have their own regional annual and bi annual meetings where CMEs and Guest lectures are conducted.

**Accreditation and Examination Committee of the Indian Academy of Cytologists:** This committee is responsible for the Accreditation of Cytology Laboratories for Diagnostic Services as well as Accreditation of the Cytology Laboratories for Examination and Training; There are two types of accreditation programme; one for accreditation for diagnostic services only and the other for accreditation for examination and training. Yearly examinations are also conducted by the Academy for Cytotechnicians & Cytotechnologists.

**External Quality Assurance (EQA):** The Indian Academy of Cytologists has its own program initiated in the year 2000 which covers all laboratories accredited by the Indian Academy of Cytologists as well as those accredited by other agencies. The program’s format includes cases of Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology, gynecological and Non-gynecological exfoliative cytology. Numerous laboratories across the country participate in this programme. The aim of the EQA programme is purely educational. From the Response Evaluation Feedback, the participating laboratory can initiate appropriate measures to ensure Quality in terms of reporting.

**CYTOCON – Annual Conference of the IAC:** The Indian Academy of Cytologists conducts the Annual conference of the Academy called CYTOCON which is held in a different city annually. It is usually a four-day event with the first day being a one day CME. This is followed by two days of Conference when a Prestigious Oration called the Dr P N A Wahi Oration is presented. This acknowledges and felicitates a senior member of the Academy for his/her achievements and contribution in the field of fundamental, investigative or epidemiological cytology or in the field of education and training of cytologists. The other prestigious Award is the Earnest Fernandes Slide Seminar which acknowledges and felicitates a senior member of the IAC for achievements and contribution towards development and/or dissemination of the science and art of cytopathology. Posters as well as oral presentations are also included in the programme with Award papers sessions to encourage young cytologists as well as Cytotechnologists in research and original work in the field of cytopathology. The Conference also includes a lecture by a national or internationally renowned cytologists with two Guest lectures. A Symposium is also held during the Conference.
The Indian Academy of Cytologists has instituted an Award in memory of late Dr Subhas Gupta, a Past President of the Academy and one of the pioneers of Indian Cytology. She was an eminent, internationally renowned cytopathologist of our country. She was Emeritus Professor and Head, Department of Cytology and Gynaec Pathology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. Following her training at the prestigious Karolinska Institute, Sweden, she pioneered and introduced the art and science of Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology in India. Her contributions to the field of Cytopathology are immense. A teacher par excellence, she has trained many cytopathologists across the country and the world. She has contributed immensely to IAC.

Workshops: Two workshops one on Cervical Cytology and the other on any other topic are always held during the annual conference of the Academy. The aim of the Workshops is to update knowledge as well as expose the young cytopathologists to newer techniques.

Satya Monga Award: Is given to the best paper published in the field of immunocytochemistry in an indexed journal.

Indian Academy of Cytologists Fellowship training: The India Academy also gives training for young cytopathologists and offers them a Fellowship after their training at one of the centres of excellence in cytology.

The Journal of Cytology is the official publication of the Indian Academy of Cytologists which is published every three months. The journal’s ranking has shown an upward trend since its inception in 1983. Thomson Reuters Impact Factor is 0.413 (0.359) and the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) stands at (0.247) for the year 2013.

Newsletter: A Biannual Newsletter is published by the academy where all the news of the various chapters as well as various announcements are published. A dedicated Web site of the Indian Academy of Cytologists exists with links to the International Academy of Cytology as well as various other bodies.

The Spanish Society of Cytology (SEC)

The society was founded in 1962. Its beginning was centred particularly in gynecologic cytopathology as well as in body fluids, not completely foreseeing the impact of Fine Needle Aspiration in patient care.

The Executive Board is elected every two years and its current President is Dr. Julio Rodríguez-Costa, the head of the cytopathology unit of the Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón de Madrid.

The Society holds an Annual Meeting and together with the Spanish Society of Pathology (SEAP) and the Spanish Society of Forensic Medicine (SEPAF), a National Congress every two years.

The official journal of the Society, together with the SEAP, is the "Revista Española de Patología", edited by Elsevier.
The Spanish Society administers the International Academy of Cytology Examination for cytotechnologists and cytopathologists annually in Madrid and for the last 39 years has organized a week-long Cytopathology Tutorial before the exam.

The Society has recently organized a quality control program for Gynecologic Cytology. It also participates in the HPV quality control program in conjunction with the Spanish Society of Pathology.

A Continuing Education Program includes a recently inaugurated Online Cytopathology Course with four independent blocks (one gynecologic exfoliative, one non-gynecologic exfoliative and two FNA cytopathology) that is on its way to extend to Latino American countries.

The Society is an active member of the European Federation of Cytology Societies and participates in the European Meetings of Cytopathology. Its officers also participate in the European and international HPV meetings.

New guidelines for cervical cancer screening in Spain (1) were published in Fall 2014. They emanate from a consensus of the Spanish Societies of Cytology, Pathology, Gynecology and Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (SEC, SEAP, SEGO, AEPCC). The guidelines were also guaranteed by the Primary Care, Epidemiology and Public Health Societies (semFYC, SEMERGEN, SEMG, SEE).

This accomplishment has been an important step towards fulfilment of international recommendations gathered from this field in recent years.

In that line, the guidelines recommend that:

• women with sexual activity and aged between 25 and 65, be screened.
• should be a population-based, instead of an opportunistic, coverage.
• only cytology screening with a 3-year interval, should be performed in women 25 to 29 years of age.
• for 30 to 65 year old women, the preferred screening strategy recommended is the HPV test every five years (high evidence level, strong recommendation), followed by co-test with cytology and HPV (low evidence level, weak recommendation) or by cytology testing only, every 3 years (moderate evidence level, weak recommendation).
• women older than 65 with a 10 year free interval of abnormal screening or cervical pathology should not continue to be screened (moderate evidence level, strong recommendation).
• the cervical sample (exocervix-endocervix) should preferentially be obtained by spatula/brush and processed in liquid-based cytology (LBC). Other media for molecular testing or conventional smears are acceptable options.
• after a positive HPV test, a reflex cytology should be performed
• after a positive cytology test, HPV and/or colposcopy should follow

The design for strategies to apply screening programs in Spain does not follow a national initiative, but has to adapt to the scope of 19 different local governments for the autonomous communities of the country. However, the Health National System defines the following objectives:

• to optimize the screening programs for low-medium risk asymptomatic women between 25 and 65 years of age to reach at least a 70% coverage.
• to guarantee coverage for women with increased risk through the design of specific screening programs.

Among the multiple upcoming endeavours of the Society is to serve as scientific advisor for the plural initiatives of the local governments to implement the new guidelines for cervical cancer screening in Spain.

IAC Examinations [link to schedule]

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<th>Location / Site</th>
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<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
<td>CT(IAC) and IAC Int. Board of Cytopathology 29. October 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>TIAC                  29. November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi (IAC Tutorial)</td>
<td>CT(IAC) and IAC Int. Board of Cytopathology 11. December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>CT(IAC)               09. April 2017</td>
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<td>San Antonio, Texas, USA</td>
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Meetings

[Link to Meetings List on IAC website]

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Zytologie
Société Suisse de Cytologie.
55. Jahrestagung der SGZ 2016, Zürich 55ème congrès annuel SSC 2016, Zürich

XXXI International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology
and 28th Congress of the European Society of Pathology.
25. - 29. September 2016
Congress-Centrum Ost Kölnmesse, Cologne, Germany

40th European Congress of Cytology - Liverpool, UK
2.-5. October 2016
Arena and Convention Ctr. Liverpool, England, United Kingdom

Australian Society of Cytology 2016
46th Annual Scientific & Business Meeting
21 - 24. October 2016 and
Melbourne, Australia

64th Annual Scientific Meeting ASC, New Orleans
November 4-7, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA, USA

2016 IAC Tutorial, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
1st. U.A.E. International Congress in Cytology
The International Academy of Cytology Tutorial on Gynecologic and Non-Gynecologic Cytology
December 8 - 10, 2016. Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi
Link to IAC Tutorial in Abu Dhabi