

# WASPaLM Newsletter

## January 2012



### 26th WASPaLM World Congress & ASCP Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, October 2011

WASPaLM, representatives of its Constituent Societies, representing many countries, met in Las Vegas in October 2011 at the 26th Biennial World Congress of WASPaLM and the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathology. The Educational sessions and all Administrative Meetings were held at the Venetian Palazzo. The meeting was attended by over 2,000 registrants and the Educational sessions, which covered a wide array of topics, were extremely well attended. Several of the WASPaLM Executive presented at the Educational Sessions and of course many members of the Constituent Societies attended the educational sessions.

During the meeting, the Presidency of WASPaLM changed from Dr. Michael Oellerich to Dr. Gamze Mocan Kuzey who became the 25th President of WASPaLM. Dr. Jagdish Butany remains the 13th Secretary-Treasurer of WASPaLM. Dr Lai Meng Looi (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) is the president elect.

The collaboration with Abbott, Labs are Vital initiative, has begun. With this, Ab-

bott will provide funding on an annual basis for traveling lectureships. Guidelines for these have been set and Constituent Societies are welcome to approach the WASPaLM Education Committee or the Secretary-Treasurer's office for use of these Abbott's Labs are Vital travelling lectureships. Further information regarding this is available on the WASPaLM website.

The WASPaLM Bureau (and the World Pathology Foundation) met in three separate sessions (over 15 hours in total). There were long discussions about the year past, the future of WASPaLM and discussions on improving contacts with Constituent Societies.

A critical fact that remains to be tackled is the need for additional operating funds to enable WASPaLM to pursue its aims, broaden its activities and achieve its goals. At this time, the only source of funds, that WASPaLM has, remains the small amount in dues paid by Constituent Societies, the revenues obtained by the Japan Administrative office and any funds obtained from the World

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Congresses.. This, by itself, is nowhere near enough to even maintain the Administrative Offices and activities.

Further efforts are therefore critical to raise additional funds, annually and worldwide..

An Education Subcommittee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Gamze Mocan Kuzey with members Professor Lai-Meng Looi(President Elect), Dr. Paul Raslavicus, Dr. Roberto Ruiz-Arenas and Dr. Lia Partakusuma. This committee will come up with plans for educational activities in their regions on a prospective basis. We await their report and hope that there will be more regional educational meetings. These could number between one and more than that in each year. These meetings should be self supporting, and well advertised so that regional representatives could attend them in neighboring countries.

**This past year saw many significant activities.** These include:

1. The invited presentations at many meetings in Europe and in Asia, by our President Dr Michael Oellerich.
- 2.A number of meetings were Co-sponsored by WASPaLM, at no cost to ourselves
3. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Abbott's Labs are Vital Program, and the beginning of the program.
4. The signing of an MOU, with

IFCC and later with APFCC.

5. Guest attendance of Dr Sun Fei, General Secretary of the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine , at the Bureau meetings at Las Vegas,

**We expect the CSLM to become a member of WASPaLM, soon.**

Each of these will ,we expect, lead to an increase in WASPaLM Educational activities.

At the Bureau, newly redesigned WASPaLM pins were distributed to members of Constituent Societies and to some of the attending members of the ASCP congress.

“The times are changing and so are the Laboratories and Pathology. We need to keep up with the times. For this, ongoing participation in High Quality Continuing Education/Professional Development activities, are essential!

For every Laboratory attention to Quality And Turn Around Times remains critical, and Accreditation of Laboratories to the highest standards, by recognized organizations having the appropriate staff as well as the expertise will be es-

sential.

The WASPaLM Executive wishes you all, The Very Best in 2012 and promises to try and help you in any way we can.



*President, Dr G Mocan-Kuzey awards the Certificate of Merit to President –Elect Dr Lai Meng*

***CSLM Secretary  
general attends  
WASPaLM  
Bureau meeting!***



**Dr Michael Oellerich receiving the Medal of Honour**

The 27<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine was held in conjunction with the Annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. The meeting was very well attended (over 2000 attendees) and the Educational Programs covered a large breadth of Laboratory Medicine, and were of excellent quality. Those who attended had a great time and choosing between educational programs to attend was often difficult. The next World Congress will be held in Quebec City, Canada from June 8 to 12, 2013. Please make plans to attend.

The address by President William Clinton was extremely well received, and the subsequent Question and Answer session was both lively and informative. This was followed by another excellent presentation by Dr Paul Farmer who is well known for his work amongst the disadvantaged, especially in Haiti.

As they pointed out:

**“Tumour is Rumor  
Tissue is the issue.”**

**This Highlights very clearly,  
even for the lay person, the im-  
portance of tissue diagnosis and  
the role of the laboratory and  
the Pathologist in patient care.**

In essence, anyone can say what they want, but till a pathologist signs a report saying that the tissue shows a cancer (and more details) no one is going to treat the patient!

Several members of the WASPaLM Executive/Bureau presented educational session, which were very well received. The session on International Health was timely and good.

The conference facility was superb and all of the ASCP staff were extremely helpful! The Silent Auction raised over \$2000 for the World Pathology Foundation!

Needless to say, the other parts of the facilities at the Palazzo Hotel had their share of visitors and one could hear the machines making their tinkling sounds all day (and night). Someone was making money, as they are supposed to, in the City of Las Vegas!

At the meetings of the WASPaLM Bureau a wide range of topics was discussed. One of the items discussed was the need for

greater involvement of Constituent Societies in the World Congress as well as greater involvement with the WASPaLM Executive in the organization of regional meetings.

On behalf of the Bureau I invite you to consider sending us your suggestions regarding:

- 1) How your Constituent Society would like to be involved further in the World Congress?
- 2) To let us know who amongst the qualified members of your organization (members of your constituent society) would be willing to speak at World Congresses or at Regional laboratory medicine meetings.

We would like to maintain such a list, and invite individuals, as and when the need for that topic/skill arises.

Please do consider sending us such a listing, through your Societies leadership.

- 3) We would also like to get a list from you, of individuals from your Society, who would be willing to serve on WASPaLM committees, specialized subcommittees (along with their special interest) and those members who would be willing to serve on the Bureau of WASPaLM, in future.

Such a list would be invaluable as we try and make membership representative of regions and Societies.

#### **Annual meetings of Constituent Societies:**

As in previous years, I would like to remind you that WASPaLM is happy to be a co-sponsor of your Annual Meeting(s), should you desire this. However, please note that no financial contribution can be made by WASPaLM to the annual meeting.

**NEW this year!!** Funding: As of this year, there are some funds available for visiting speakers. Should you have a meeting at which you need a particular speaker with a particular specialty interest, please let us know and we will see if we can arrange the funding for this. If you need a speaker for a particular topic, we will be glad to help find a suitable individual. For obvious reasons, this funding is somewhat limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. If you have a particular speaker in mind, we would be willing to see if we can help with that individuals visit for the Educational Program.

Requisites: One of the conditions for this funding is that it only covers Economy class airfare and some of the local travel- home-airport-home expenses, while the rest of the expenses must be covered by the host society. Board and lodging for the visiting speaker is to be covered by the Host Society. The speak-

er is expected to give more than one talk, at more than one institution and a copy of the presentation is to be made available to be kept on the WASPaLM website, so others may also benefit from the lecture..

**WEBSITE:** We invite and urge you to visit the WASPaLM website.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and through this coming year.

**I would like to remind you that the next World Congress of WASPaLM, the 27th World Congress, will be held in Quebec City, Canada, from June 8 - June 12, 2013. We look forward to seeing you and your members at the World Congress.**

**Wishing you the best in this New Year.**

Sincerely,

Jagdish

J. Butany, MBBS, MS, FRCPC

Secretary-Treasurer, WASPaLM

Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto

Director Autopsy Service and Clinical Cardiovascular Pathology

Staff Pathologist, Toronto General Hospital

200 Elizabeth Street, E4-316

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Phone: 416-340-3003 Fax: 416-586-9901

e-mail: jagdish.butany@uhn.on.ca



**WASPALM Bureau Oct 2011**





**YWASPaLM Bureau meeting, Las Vegas Oct 2011**  
 [L-R. Dr Utz Merten, Dr G M Kuzey, Dr M Oellerich, Dr P Raslavicus, Dr R Ruis-Arenyas, & Dr Fred Rodriguez our business tag line here.

**WE ARE ON THE WEB! <http://www.waspalm.org/index.php>**



Dr Michael Oellerich receives the WASPaLM Medal of Honour



Ms Doreen Tho of Abbott Labs Are Vital, explains the LAV Program.



Dr Robbie Bacchus, Chair Education Secretariat moves on to the Presidency of the World Pathology Foundation.