

Dear Colleagues:

In the Northern hemisphere, the summer is upon us and we are also half-way through the 2010 presidency. If you have not already done so, please check our website and take a look at the power point presentation from our business meeting which was held during the USCAP meeting in March of this year. I have also provided a summary, in a letter posted under the same heading (<http://www.renalpathsoc.org/index.php?page=meetings>).

This newsletter is to update you on recent and upcoming RPS sponsored activities. Firstly, a warm welcome to 22 new members who were approved at the USCAP RPS business meeting and many thanks to Praveen Chander and the members of the Membership Committee for expediting the applications. We currently comprise 463 members, including new members from Africa!

The RPS is working with CAP to develop a certification program, as currently there are no board certification possibilities for renal pathology. Program development is scheduled to begin in two years time. Cynthia Nast is spearheading the initiative, focusing on eligibility criteria, maintenance certification and what will be involved in the specialty examination. We will keep you updated as things evolve. The RPS also worked on the subspecialty CME in renal pathology. This year, for the first time, a subspecialty CME in Renal Pathology was offered at the USCAP and the RPS thanks Fred Silva for making that happen.

The RPS training committee, chaired by Lorraine Racusen, is advocating a broader availability of training opportunities in renal pathology and the fostering of quality training programs. The committee is currently collecting information about training programs in the US, and elsewhere, and will study monitoring methods for trainee numbers and outcomes. Amy Bhalodia represents our trainees on this committee.

Michael Mengel has been busy working on our alignment with transplant societies. The RPS Transplantation Committee has prepared a proposal for a Community of Practice for Transplant Diagnostics within the American Society of Transplantation, which will be on the agenda of the next AST board meeting.

The RPS 2010 Program Committee selected the subject of "IgG4-associated conditions for both general and surgical pathologists" for the RPS Companion meeting, to be held in conjunction with the 2011 USCAP meeting. We thank Megan Troxell and Carrie Phillips for putting together this timely and interesting program. The RPS PC will work closely with the ASN Program and Post-Graduate Education Committee, where Manjeri Venkatachalam ("Venk") and Lorraine Racusen represent the RPS. RPS members are also involved in the ASN Glomerular Advisory Board and the ISN-COMGAN (Charlie Alpers, Agnes Fogo, Charlie Jennette).

A number of scientific and educational meetings have taken place during the last three months and several others are up-coming. The XII International Symposium on Amyloidosis was held in April in Rome. Maria Picken co-chaired the consensus session on the diagnosis and typing of amyloid and presented the current status of amyloid diagnosis and typing. Collaboration

between the RPS and the International Society of Amyloidosis (ISA) is extremely important to renal pathologists and offers a unique opportunity to lead in the area of amyloidosis and related disorders.

In June, the First International Renal Pathology Conference in La Coruna, Spain, organised by Surya Seshan, Eduardo Martul, Helen Liapis and Michael Mihatsch was a huge success. >230 participants came from 44 countries around the world. This was a joint venture between the RPS, the European Society of Pathology (ESP)-Working Group and the Spanish Pathology Society. Michael Mihatsch, the ESP-WG current President was delighted to receive the RPS Life Achievement award in person, handed to him by Surya Seshan and Volker Nickeleit.

In October, the IAP Congress will be held in Brazil. Five renal pathology events will be presented: a special symposium devoted to systemic amyloidosis, a workshop on Transplantation Pathology, a slide seminar, a second workshop on Infections and the Kidney, and The 7<sup>TH</sup> RPS Satellite Conference organized by Denise Mailheiros and Tony Chang. We hope that many of our members will be attending this important meeting, which gives us an opportunity to strengthen our ties with Latin American Colleagues. Tony is already busy preparing for the RPS 2011 Satellite meeting as well, which will take place in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the US and Canadian Academy of Pathology.

A number of RPS members will also be presenting at the upcoming Ultrapath Meeting in Richmond, the IPNA meeting in New York, the ESP Intercongress meeting in Cracow, Poland, as well as in Tunis, Tunisia and Manipal, India. Other meetings where RPS members lectured include the ISN held in Geneva, in June, and the ERA-EDTA Congress held in Munich, also in June.

Sadly, at the end of May we lost our distinguished member, Andrew Herzenberg. Andrew, a wonderful colleague and friend, will be missed by his family and the Renal Pathology community. We plan to remember Andrew at the upcoming ASN meeting in Denver.

At the ASN in Denver, the RPS Business Meeting will be held on Friday, November 19th, 6:30-7:30pm followed by the RPS Reception, 7:30-9:00pm. More details will be communicated later.

Harsharan Singh will soon take over the office of RPS secretary, succeeding Helen Liapis in January 2011. I would like to extend my special thanks and appreciation to Helen, Helen's secretary Sherry Eagle, and our webmaster Sanjay Jain, who contributed many hours of work and devotion to the Society.

Wishing you all a pleasant summer (or season), wherever you are!

With best wishes,

Maria Picken  
RPS President, 2010