

COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS



FORMATION

In the late nineties, pathologists within the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM) began to realise the importance of forming a Chapter within the AMM to champion their interests. The AMM Council agreed to establish a Pathology Chapter within the AMM in late 1998. Meanwhile, a postal ballot carried out by the Council of the Malaysian Society of Pathologists (MSOP) recorded an overwhelming enthusiasm for a merger with the Chapter of Pathologists, AMM. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the MSOP that followed on 29th April 1999 unanimously confirmed the ballot decision.

The MSOP merged with the Chapter of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia to form the College of Pathologists, AMM, on 22nd June 1999. It adopted the Constitution of the AMM and was covered by the registration of the AMM (Registered in 1966). The AMM changed its Constitution (approved by the Registrar of Societies on 22nd September 2000) to allow the use of the word “College” by the Chapter. The MSOP was officially dissolved on 22nd June 2001 with all funds transferred to the CPathAMM.

The MSOP Council (1997-1999) which negotiated the formation of CPathAMM included:

President	Professor Dr Looi Lai Meng
Vice-President	Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng
Secretary	Dr Cheah Phaik Leng
Treasurer	Dr Noor Hamidah Hussin
	Dr Nor Hayati Othman
	Dr Chan Kai Soon
	Dr N Parasakthi

Members of the Pro-Tem Committee, Chapter of Pathologists, AMM (1997-1999), who were involved in drafting the regulations and rules for CPathAMM were:

Chair	Professor Dr Looi Lai Meng
Secretary	Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng
	Dato’ Dr M Jegathesan
	Professor Dr Victor Lim
	Dr Mak Joon Wah
	Dr Cheah Phaik Leng

The first elected Council of CPathAMM included:

President	Professor Dr Looi Lai Meng
Vice-President	Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng
Secretary	Dr Cheah Phaik Leng
Treasurer	Dr Noor Hamidah Hussin
	Dr Nor Hayati Othman
	Dr Halimah Yahaya
	Dr N Parasakthi

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The Emblem of the CPathAMM was modified from the original emblem of the MSOP. This signifies the historical relationship of the MSOP and the CPathAMM, where the MSOP is the parental body.



The Emblem of the CPathAMM

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF CPathAMM SINCE ITS FORMATION

Establishment of the National Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (MS ISO 15189) by the Department of Standards (DSM) of Malaysia

A meeting between Puan Mariani Mohammad (Director-General, DSM) and the CPathAMM Council on 15th June 2002 at Professor Dr Looi's office, established that there was a mutual desire for the implementation of a National Accreditation Scheme for pathology laboratories. The AGM of CPathAMM on 22nd June 2002 gave unreserved support for this move. On 5th October 2002, an MoU was signed between CPathAMM (represented by Professor Dr Looi as the President) and DSM (represented by Puan Mariani as the Director-General) to co-operate in the

establishment of medical pathology accreditation under Skim Akreditasi Makmal Malaysia (SAMM). This involved the development of national policies, guidance documents, technical assistance, assessors, training services and technical information to support accreditation under MS/ISO 15189. Professor Dr Looi was appointed as the Project Director, and project team members were Professor Dr Victor Lim, Dr Halimah Yahya, Dr Jamilah Baharom, Dr Roshida Hassan, Dr Rohani Yassin.

During the next two years, work progressed at an amazing pace, engaging numerous pathologists, laboratory scientists and technologists of all disciplines. MS/ISO 15189 was successfully launched in December 2004. Since then, numerous pathologists of CPathAMM have been trained and engaged as lead and technical assessors under this scheme. Many laboratories have achieved accreditation. Quality and audit has become a way of life in the Malaysian pathology services scene.

PATHOLOGY PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND POSITION PAPERS

Pathology practice guidelines were established by the College which serve as national references for accreditation and licensing. These were also published in the Malaysian Journal of Pathology so that they can be easily accessible by all pathologists. Position papers were released periodically by the Council to guide the members over issues arising from their practice.

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CONTRIBUTION FROM PATHOLOGISTS TOWARDS THE DRAFTING OF THE PATHOLOGY BILL ENACTED IN PARLIAMENT IN 2007

The landmark events leading to the Act are recorded in a paper by Professor Dr Looi, who also explained the rationale behind the clauses of the Act (Malays J Pathol 2008; 30: 1-10).

LABQAS (LABORATORY QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME)

In 1998, FOMEMA requested the MSOP to help out with developing an External Quality Assurance programme for laboratories involved in foreign workers screening. The MSOP conducted a questionnaire survey which showed that 48 private laboratories were willing to subscribe to the scheme. LABQAS began operation on 1st November 1999 and was officially launched on 2nd October 2001 by the then Minister of Health (Datuk Dr Chua Jui Meng). The LABQAS committee chaired by Dr Leslie Lai and governed jointly with the MIMLS through the CPath-MIMLS Joint Council for Laboratory Services chaired by Professor Dr Looi; finances were arranged through the MIMLS because the MIMLS is incorporated as a company, whereas CPathAMM is not. This scheme continues to operate today and there were 99 private laboratories registered as subscribers by the end of 2014.

AMENDMENT OF THE AMM CONSTITUTION TO FORM A COMPANY

CPathAMM spearheaded an amendment to the AMM constitution to allow it and its Colleges to form company. This was approved by the Registrar of Societies and opened the path for CPathAMM to form an External Quality Assurance (EQA) company.

MALAYSIAN COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME SDN BHD (MCPATH QAP SDN BHD)

One of the principal requirements of the MS/ISO 15189 Accreditation is that for a test to be accredited the laboratory has to participate in proficiency testing or an external quality assurance programme. For the moment, these external QAP are from overseas and therefore, very expensive to subscribe to. Thus, it deters many smaller laboratories from pursuing voluntary accreditation. The CPathAMM and DSM would therefore like to see an alternate competitively priced programme to offer such services.

A committee was set up for the purpose and it comprised the following members:

Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng (*Chairman*)

Dr Leslie Lai

Dr Cheong Yuet Meng

Dr Tengku Norita

Professor Datin Dr Noor Hamidah Hussin

Dr Julia Manchar

Dr Gong Swee Kim

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A working paper was composed on the business model and the operation of the company. This was approved at the 11th AGM held on 25th June 2010, at the Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya. The Council of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia was also duly informed. The company MPath QAP Sdn Bhd was established in January 2014, and is now in operation.



MPath QAP Sdn Bhd logo

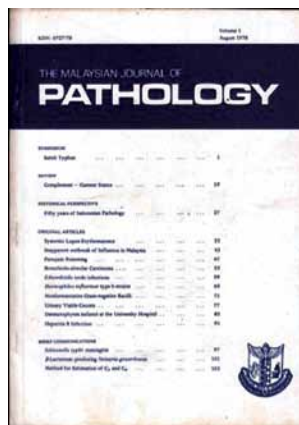
INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

The CPathAMM maintains an active relationship with international institutions of similar interest.

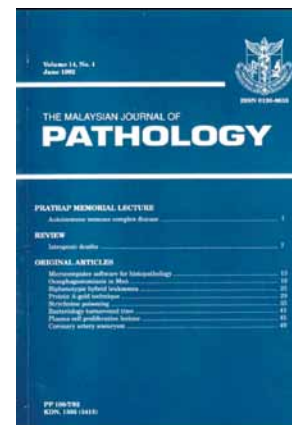
- ❖ Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) UK – jointly administer the Bhagwan Singh Fellowship
- ❖ Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) – regular RCPA visiting lecturers to Malaysia
- ❖ World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM) – the MSOP, subsequently the CPathAMM has been a voting member since the 1980s.
- ❖ International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (ILPP) – Pathology Presidents meet annually to discuss issues of common interest. International Pathology Day was initiated in 2014.

THE MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF PATHOLOGY

The late Professor Dr K Prathap was the first Editor of the Malaysian Journal of Pathology – first issued in 1978. After the death of Professor Dr K Prathap in 1983, Dr C G Lopez served briefly as the Editor. Professor Dr Looi was appointed Editor-in-Chief in 1986, and has served as Editor-in-Chief since. Started as an annual, it commenced publishing twice a year in 1990. It is now in its 38th year of publication, and is issued three times a year from 2014. This is a peer-reviewed medical journal that has attained international readership, is listed in the Index Medicus/PubMed and Scopus, and can be accessed through PubMed and Medline. In April 2015, it is also listed in the Science Citation Index Expanded, beginning with Volume 34 (1) of 2012.



Front cover of the first issue of the Malaysian Journal of Pathology



Front cover of the Malaysian Journal of Pathology adopted for June 1992 issue onwards

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WASPaLM 2007 (Exhibition Area)



Professor Dr Pathmanathan Rajadurai -
K Prathap Memorial Speaker



The Organising Committee for the
WASPaLM Congress in 2007 –
Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng,
Professor Dr Ainoon Othman,
Dr Patricia Por, Dr Leslie Lai,
Professor Dr Looi Lai Meng



ICPaLM 2014 (Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng and Dato' Dr
Lokman Hakim, Deputy Director-General)



International Pathology Day Celebration,
5th November 2014 – Dr Nik Rus, Dr Azma,
Datuk Dr Faraizah, Professor Dr Cheong Soon Keng,
Dr S C Ng and Dr Eusni

Compiled by

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