

As we welcome 2012 and start planning for this year, I would like to share with you some of the accomplishments of the **Arab Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP)** for 2011 and in which ways we can enrich our participation and involvement in this global organization.

The **23 rd Congress** of the Arab Division, held in **Beirut**, Lebanon on November 30- December 3, 2011 was great success, thanks to the 300 members who attended the Congress and its pre- Congress Workshop by the Arab School of Pathology on **Molecular Pathology** on November 29- 30 and the 30 outstanding international speakers who conducted several instructive sessions on several timely topics in pathology. The Congress also witnessed for the first time the participation by the **German Division** of IAP in addition to the traditional and strong participation by the **British and French Divisions** of IAP. The Workshop was also co-sponsored by the **Association of Molecular Pathology** and again a first time experience outside USA for this reputed organization. In addition, the proceedings were transmitted live to our colleagues at the University of Alexandria. For those who missed on the earlier announcements, you can always review the informative presentations which are posted on the website of the Arab Division at [www.iap-ad.org](http://www.iap-ad.org).

The plans are underway for the **24<sup>th</sup> Congress** of the Arab Division which will be held in **Khartoum, Sudan** during the first week of **December, 2012**. So mark your calendars to attend this annual scientific event. More details will be provided in your future announcements but I know the program includes pre-congress workshops sponsored by the Arab School of Pathology. Our Sudanese colleagues are actively working on another rich scientific program and entertaining social program. This will be the first time that we meet in Sudan.

The **Arab School of Pathology** is scheduling a mutli-topic workshop in **Irbil, Iraq**, next **May**, another first for that country. More details will be announced at a later date.

Please note that the Division website [www.iap-ad.org](http://www.iap-ad.org) has been redesigned to make it more user friendly and to meet the expectations of the membership and those who visit the site for educational purposes. There are free links to leading pathology websites which have rich educational material. Hopefully some of our junior Arab colleagues and pathologists- in- training will take advantage of the exceptional opportunity to attend international educational meetings by applying to sponsorship through **The Samir Amr Award** and the **bursaries** to attend the next **IAP Congress in Capetown in South Africa**. Visit the website of the Congress at .....for further information on how you can apply for these bursaries. There is also the opportunity to apply for sponsorship by the Arab Division to attend the **Junior** ..... in Dublin, Ireland next July. This tutorial is a joint activity of the British & German divisions of IAP.

I strongly encourage you to share with us any suggestions on improving this web site to meet your expectations and to make it more useful to the pathologists in all Arab countries and worldwide.

The vitality and vigor of the Division are dependent on you and your active and dynamic participation.

Ghazi Zaatari, MD