



Scientific Societies in Oral Pathology: A Mini-review

¹Khalid Al Aboud, ²Ejaz Butt, ³Khalid Bani Yasseen, ⁴Amal Hassan, ⁵Moammad Bader Al-Hamad
⁶Majeed Shaikh, ⁷Hotoon Badawood, ⁸Rowa Bakhsh

ABSTRACT

Professional scientific associations and societies are an important for development of oral pathology specialty. They played a major role to keep the practitioner with up-to-date knowledge by virtue of their various educational activities. This report shed some light on the some professional societies in oral pathology. These societies need to be supported in order to perform its duties effectively. Standards might be needed to measure the performance of these societies.

Keywords: Association, Oral pathology, Society.

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INTRODUCTION

In previous issue, we shed some lights on the periodicals in oral pathology.¹ In this issue, we want to elaborate on scientific societies in oral pathology as another important aspect of oral pathology.

Needless to say that general pathology and head and neck pathology societies provide many educational activities in oral pathology.

This is also applied for several scientific societies in oral medicine, such as American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ACOMS) (<http://www.acoms.org/>), British Society for Oral Medicine (<http://www.bsom.org.uk/>).

However, we shall concentrate in this report on those societies devoted to oral pathology. In Table 1, we listed selected examples of these societies.

These societies play a major role in continuous medical education.²⁻⁷ They improve the specialty by setting high standards for education and practice. Publishing periodicals and guidelines of care, arranging conferences, creation of awards and supporting researches are just few examples of the functions done by these societies.

The societies related to oral pathology faced some changes over the time. For example, the American Academy of Oral Pathology (AAOP) was officially organized in 1948. It was renamed the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (AAOMP) in 1995, when the official name of the specialty changed from Oral Pathology to Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

British Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (BSOMP) started in 1967 as Oral Pathology Club then, in 1976, its name changed to British Society for Oral Pathology and, in 1997, it becomes 'British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology'.

Indian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists started as Indian Academy of Oral Pathologists.

This manuscript is just an overview; however, we can mention some remarks regarding these societies.

Coordination between these societies might increase their benefits to the specialty.

Offices of the professional societies should be highly equipped and staffed to carry out the functions in a timely manner.

Developing a website which provides complete sets of electronic services is a must for each society.

Democracy should be maintained in these societies and every member should find a chance to be elected for the leadership.

Each society has to find the best tools to encourage all the members to be active. Women and young doctors, in particular, should find a place in the executive committees of these societies.

Finally, we shall say that there is an obvious need for more studies and discussions to evaluate the activities of these societies and to develop standards to measure their educational activities.

¹⁻⁴Histopathologists, ⁵⁻⁸Cytotechnologists

¹⁻⁸Department of Pathology, Al Noor Specialist Hospital, Makkah Saudi Arabia

Corresponding Author: Khalid Al Aboud, Department of Pathology, Al Noor Specialist Hospital, PO Box: 5440, Makkah: 21955, Saudi Arabia, e-mail: amoa65@hotmail.com

Table 1: Selected professional societies in oral pathology (listed alphabetically)

<i>Society</i>	<i>Start years</i>	<i>Current president</i>	<i>Websites</i>
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (AAOP)	1948	Craig Fowler	http://www.aaomp.org/
British Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (BSOMP)	1967	P Morgan	http://www.bsomp.org.uk/
International Association of Oral Pathologists (IAOP)	1976	Michael Aldred	http://www.iaop.com/
Scandinavian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (SFOMK)	1965	Bodil Lund, Sweden	http://www.sfomk.org/
Southern California Academy of Oral Pathology (SCAOP)	1956	Joel Laudenbach	http://scaop.com/
Sociedade Brasileira de Estomatologia e Patologia Oral (SOBEP)	1974	Cassius Carvalho Torres Pereira	http://www.estomatologia.com.br/

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