

EDITORIAL NOTE

Development of guidelines on pathology laboratory practice

2004/2005 has been a busy period for the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia. In line with our efforts in the area of laboratory accreditation and also in anticipation of the Pathology Act, six guidelines on pathology laboratory practice have been drafted during this period. One of these, the *guidelines on retention of pathology records and materials* was developed jointly with the Ministry of Health Malaysia, while the other five were prepared by a special working group of the College. These guidelines were formally endorsed by the College at its Annual General Meeting on 19th April 2005, and are reproduced in this issue of the Journal so that they can be accessible to all members of the College and readers of the Journal.

The development of these guidelines mark a major leap forward in the maturity of the College as we assume a more proactive role in shaping the future of the pathology laboratory services in our Country. While we recognise that there will be many factors which influence how laboratory services, and indeed the medical services, will be delivered to patients, we remain committed always to good quality, sound science and high integrity. We hope that these guidelines will serve us well as reference material in our daily work as well as in our roles as advisors and leaders in laboratory management.

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