



Association for Academic Pathology

## AAPath E-News: September 2024

### In This Issue...

Membership Renewal Season, CME Claim Period Ending, Call for Award Nominations, plus Other Events and Opportunities/Resources for Members and Trainees!



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### Gold Exhibitors

Thank you to the following Gold Exhibitors for their generous support of the 2024 AAPath Annual Meeting!



### IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE AAPath

- [AAPath 2024](#) - CME Claim Period Closes Tomorrow!
- [Consolidated Regional Meeting 2025](#) - Registration Open!
- [2025 Membership Renewals](#) - Renew by 12/31/2024!
- [Call for Nominations: 2025 Member Awards](#) - Deadline by 12/31/2024!
- [Research Academy](#) - Enrollment Open!
- [What's New in Academic Pathology](#)
- [AAPath Advocacy Actions Update](#)
- [AAPath Member Recognition](#)
- [Virtual Events for Members](#)
- [Opportunities to Share](#) - Especially for Trainees!

### AAPath 2024 ANNUAL MEETING



#### **Last Chance to Claim CME!**

For meeting registrants who wish to claim CME credit for participating in the AAPath Annual Meeting, claim a maximum of 44.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Track your learning using the [CME Tracker](#) and then submit your responses through the online form ([available here](#)) now **through tomorrow, September 30, 2024**. Certificates will be emailed by the AAPath Office within 4-6 weeks of submitting your claims. For additional CME information and disclosures, please visit the AAPath website at: [www.academicpathology.org/APC2024-CME](http://www.academicpathology.org/APC2024-CME).

The AAPath thanks the ASC for their joint providership in this activity that has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The ASC is accredited by the ACCME to provide CME for physicians.

While the CME claim period is ending, the content will continue to remain accessible to all registrants. If you did not register for the AAPath 2024 Annual Meeting, [register today](#) for



*AAPath does not endorse any commercial products or services.*

## Lead, Inspire, Thrive: A Handbook for Medical School Department Chairs (and Other Leaders)

on-demand access to the high quality, relevant, and timely content on cross-cutting topics, such as:

- Keynote Address: The critical role of academic pathologists on the health care team to improve patient care
- The fundamentals of advocacy, locally and nationally
- Fostering an inclusive workforce by understanding neurodiversity
- Integrating pathology into the pre-clinical curriculum and the clinical clerkship years
- Considerations for investing in digital pathology
- Artificial intelligence in pathology education
- *and so much more!*

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## AAPath 2025 CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL MEETING



Pathology Chairs & Administrators  
2025 Consolidated Regional Meeting

Terranea Resort – Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
Registration Open – Act Now!  
[www.apcprods.org/m-regional-meetings](http://www.apcprods.org/m-regional-meetings)

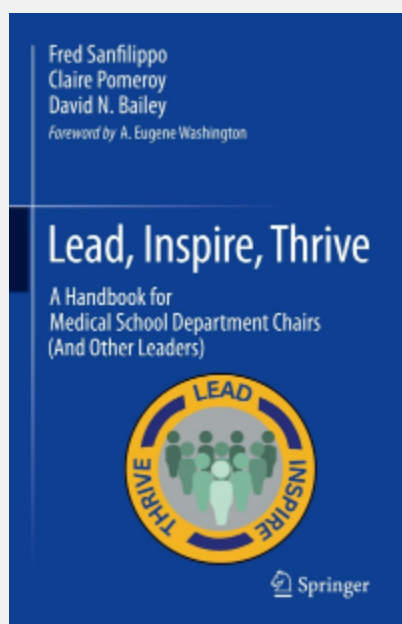
***Registration is open and space is limited!***

Department Chairs and Administrators are invited to attend the first-ever **AAPath Consolidated Regional Meeting** on **January 17-20, 2025** for a weekend of activities, networking and discussion of timely topics in the beautiful surroundings of Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. **Registration is open and space is limited.** Registration includes the option to submit topics and facilitate discussion in break-out sessions. To date, topics submitted and under consideration include:

- Funds Flow & Revenue Cycle Management
- Managing LDTs: FDA Final Rule Considerations
- Recruitment & Retention
- Productivity Metrics & Compensation
- Digital Pathology Implementation
- Engaging Medical Students in Pathology
- Executive & Faculty Wellness

Join your Chair and Administrator colleagues to continue the tradition of intimate regional meetings in an exciting new format and venue! Represented departments from across the country include: *Columbia Univ, Duke, Houston Methodist Hospital, Indiana Univ, Keck/USC, Loma Linda Univ, Montefiore/Albert Einstein, NEOMED/Akron Children's Hospital, NorthShore Univ HealthSystem, Northwestern, Penn State, Rutgers, SUNY Downstate, UC Irvine, UCLA, UCSD, UCSF, Univ of Colorado, Univ of Iowa, Univ of Louisville, Univ of Miami, Univ of Mississippi, Univ of Missouri, UNC Chapel Hill, Univ of*

Congratulations to AAPath Senior Fellows Members, Fred Sanfilippo, and David N. Bailey, with Claire Pomeroy on their handbook for academic leadership of medical school departments [published by Springer](#).



## Academic Pathology

[Academic Pathology](#) is AAPath's **fully open-access, PubMed-indexed, peer-reviewed journal** published by Elsevier available on Science Direct and Clinical Key. [Submit a manuscript](#) and gain international recognition for your advances in pathology education, administration or practice.

[Click here](#) to view the latest issue of *Academic Pathology* and [subscribe to receive alerts](#) when the latest issues are published!



## Member Directory

Only members in good standing have

*North Dakota, Univ of Rochester, UTMB-Galveston, Univ of Utah, Univ of Washington, Yale, and more!*

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## 2025 AAPath MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SEASON

**Renew by December 31, 2024!**

**The 2025 AAPath membership renewal season is now underway!** Designated department representatives were emailed instructions on how to process their membership renewals for 2025. Please review the dues invoice and ensure department membership rosters are up to date. Direct any inquiries to [info@academicpathology.org](mailto:info@academicpathology.org).

We thank you for being valued members of the Association for Academic Pathology (formerly the Association of Pathology Chairs)! Your one departmental dues rate provides access to education, training, information resources, and networking opportunities for [Chairs and Vice Chairs](#), residency program directors (through [PRODS](#)), medical student educators (through [UMEDS](#)), department executives (through [APEX](#)), program coordinators and administrators (through [GMEAS](#)), and other professionals in our academic affinity groups. Keeping your membership roster current is vital for your department to maximize the value of AAPath membership. If you need to update your membership roster, please review the instructions and frequently asked questions on the AAPath website at: [www.academicpathology.org/membership-updates](http://www.academicpathology.org/membership-updates).

We hope you and your department members are enjoying the benefits of AAPath membership, as we strive to better serve and represent you each year! Updates on all of AAPath's activities are provided in our Annual Report, [Paths to Progress](#), and in our monthly [e-News](#).

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## AAPath ADVOCACY ACTIONS UPDATE

*From the desk of AAPath's Deputy Director, [Lydia P. Howell, MD](#)*

AAPath continues to oppose the FDA's recent rule to regulate laboratory-developed tests like medical devices. Here's what's been happening with the LDT issue in September:

There is ongoing interest in Congress in bringing back the proposed VALID Act (Verifying Accurate Leading-edge IVCT Development Act, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2369>). Proposed in 2023 by Representative Bushon (R-IN), the intent behind this legislation was to create an FDA regulatory framework specific for diagnostics; however, it has not yet passed in Congress. AAPath has been opposed to the VALID Act on the principle that FDA does not have formal authority to regulate tests and because the onerous requirements will stop test innovation and harm patients. Many other stakeholders, however, are hoping that the VALID Act now gains traction, since it may appear more appealing than the proposed FDA rule. Draft modifications to VALID are circulating from Representative Bushon and colleague Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO). Highlights of these modifications include:

- The provision of two options for defining high-risk tests, both involving risk for irreversible harm.
- A humanitarian exemption on tests with volumes less than 10,000 annually.
- A low-volume and custom test exemption for tests with volumes of 5-10 tests annually.
- An exemption for tests approved by the New York State Clinical Lab Evaluation Program (CLEP) would be from PMA requirement.

access to AAPath member resources, including the exclusive online member directory. AAPath's member list is always live and searchable. [Click here to search the directory today!](#)

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## Member Profile

Each AAPath Member has a profile that allows you to post information and even upload a photo to let others know who you are and what you do! Your member profile is searchable in the AAPath Member Directory. Update your information today by logging in to the AAPath website at [www.academicpathology.org](http://www.academicpathology.org)!

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## Membership Updates

**New Members** should complete a New Member Inquiry Form found at: [www.academicpathology.org/membership](http://www.academicpathology.org/membership)

**Need to remove a member from your roster?** Please submit a [Member Removal Request](#).

Please contact the AAPath office at [info@academicpathology.org](mailto:info@academicpathology.org) if you have any questions about AAPath Membership.

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## Student and Trainee Opportunities

AAPath is pleased to offer the following *FREE* resources and opportunities for students and trainees:

- [PSTP Program Listings](#)
- [PathElective](#)
- [Fellowship Application Resources](#)
- [Fellowship Open Houses and Unexpected Fellowship Openings](#)
- [S'67 Trainee Project Grants](#)
- [S'67 Open Access Award](#)
- [S'67 Kinney Scholars Program](#)
- [Student Educational Opportunities](#)
- [Residency Open Houses](#)

...and More!

Visit the [AAPath website](#) to learn more!

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## Professional Resources

AAPath is pleased to offer professional resources for members and interested faculty/staff. Click the links below to learn more about the spotlighted professional resources and visit the AAPath website to learn more about what AAPath has to offer!

- [Benchmarking Portal](#)
- [PSTP Recruitment Tips](#)
- [Medical Educator Toolbox](#)

Most problematic are the following two modifications which several organizations are seeking to address:

- For LDTs offered because of unmet need, pre-market approval (PMA) will not be required until the test is on the test menu for 180 days (180 days is deemed too short).
- Tests using high-risk new technologies should be offered under a new Technology Certificate Program (this new certificate program is unfamiliar and uncertain).

The College of American Pathologists gathered several organizations (AAPath, AMP, ASCP, ASC) together in mid-September to discuss where the organizations might find common ground to postpone the rule, and move forward in a mutually agreeable way for LDT regulation. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Lack of common interest in supporting VALID Act; most did not support bringing back VALID.
- Strategies shared to oppose the proposed rule included:
  - Finding patient stories to share with outside stakeholders;
  - Networking with large patient organizations;
  - Supporting a recent survey by Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP); and
  - Postponing implementation of the final rule.

AAPath is working with our legal counsel to draft an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit filed by AMP opposing the proposed rule to regulate LDTs. Other organizations, including CAP, ASCP, and ADLM are working on amicus briefs of their own. An amicus brief can be very influential since it educates by providing expert background and context, and is deemed “arms-length” from an individual or organization that is not a party to the case.

We continue to offer AAPath members educational webinars from academic pathology peers who share their experiences with the FDA's regulatory process. In October, we will offer our 4th webinar on New York State's CLEP pathway for FDA approval on October 17th at 1:00pmET with Priya Velu, MD, PhD (Weill Cornell) and George Vlad, PhD (Columbia Univ). [Register today!](#)

No action yet - or opportunities to weigh in - on the NIH re-organization or on the EDUCATE Act which would limit LD&D activities. We are continuing to follow these activities with great interest.

Lastly, on a recent Zoom call, Danielle Turnipseed, the AAMC's Chief Public Policy Officer, shared the importance of faculty working with their medical school's government affairs officers to address these important issues. I hope that you will make a point of meeting these vital colleagues and sharing your views and your stories – as experts and leaders, your voices carry considerable weight!

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## MEMBER RECOGNITION

AAPath seeks to highlight major member accomplishments in this Member Recognition section of the e-News, where we spotlight special announcements, such as advancement to national leadership positions, inductions into national academies, national and international awards, national press coverage, Chair retirements, new Chair appointments, and more! **If you have an announcement that you would like to share, please contact the AAPath Office at [info@academicpathology.org](mailto:info@academicpathology.org) to let us know!**

### University of Arizona - Phoenix

Kristian T. Schafernak, MD, MPH, is appointed Interim Chair of the University of Arizona - Phoenix College of Medicine Department of Pathology effective September 1, 2024. Dr. Schafernak also holds appointments at the Mayo Clinic, Creighton University, and the Phoenix Children's Hospital.

- [Program Directors' Toolbox](#)
- [Pathology Competencies for Medical Education](#)
- [AAPath Statements & Reports](#)
- [AAPath Career Center \(Job Board\)](#)

...and More!

Visit the [AAPath website](#) to learn more!

## Get Involved - Join a Committee and Appoint Faculty to Affinity Groups

### Committees

Active Chair discussion on issues of common interest occurs primarily through [AAPath's committee activities](#). All Chairs are invited to participate in any of AAPath's committees (listed below). If you are a Chair who is interested in joining one of the committees listed below, please submit your written request to the AAPath office at [info@academicpathology.org](mailto:info@academicpathology.org)

- [Advocacy](#)
- [Graduate Medical Education](#)
- [Undergraduate Medical Education](#)
- [Leadership Development & Diversity](#)
- [Practice & Management](#)
- [Research](#)

### Affinity Groups

AAPath Committees have established affinity groups to address important needs relevant to academic pathology departments. Chairs can appoint faculty leaders to join the groups listed below. More information and appointment processes can be found by clicking the links below.

- [Clinical Service Leaders](#)
- [DEI Faculty Leaders Network](#)
- [Directors of Post-Sophomore Fellowships](#)
- [PhD Program Leaders](#)
- [Vice Chairs of Education](#)

## 2024 Advocacy Priorities

In cooperation with AAPath's Advocacy Committee, which consists of representatives from the Graduate Medical Education, Practice & Management, Research, and Undergraduate Medical Education Committees, AAPath Council issued their [2024 Advocacy Priorities](#).

To learn more about AAPath's advocacy efforts and collaborations to address the most pressing needs of academic pathology, visit: [www.academicpathology.org/statements](http://www.academicpathology.org/statements).



Kristian T. Schafernak, MD, MPH

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## CALL FOR 2025 AAPath AWARD NOMINATIONS



### *Nomination Period Now Open!*

The nomination period for [AAPath's 2025 Service Awards](#) is NOW OPEN through December 31, 2024. Don't wait! Nominate a colleague today by visiting [www.academicpathologist.org/awards](http://www.academicpathologist.org/awards).

AAPath is pleased to annually honor leaders in academic pathology—past and present—with the following awards:

- [Association for Academic Pathology Distinguished Service Award](#)
- [Margaret Grimes Distinguished Achievement Award in GME](#)
- [Michele Raible Distinguished Achievement Award in UME](#)
- [Academic Pathology Executives Section Distinguished Service Award](#)
- [GME Administrators Section Distinguished Service Award](#)

Click on the award links above to see each award's criteria, process, and prior recipients. Email [info@academicpathology.org](mailto:info@academicpathology.org) or call 302-660-4940 to let us know you are interested in nominating a dedicated Chair, Program Director, Medical Educator, Department Administrator, or Program Coordinator. We will answer your questions and send helpful reminders about the status of their nomination package to ensure it's completed by December 31st!

Recipients will be honored and recognized at the AAPath 2025 Annual Meeting, July 27-30, 2025 in Denver, CO!

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## INTRODUCING THE AAPath RESEARCH ACADEMY

## Free Virtual Events for Members

Learn more about upcoming events and access past event recordings by visiting the AAPath website at:

[www.academicpathology.org/virtual-events](http://www.academicpathology.org/virtual-events)

## Job Postings

**Do you have a job opening at your institution?**

Members can share openings with their [section listserv](#) network for *free* as a member benefit. Job openings can also be posted directly to the **AAPath Career Center (Job Board)**, which has broad national visibility.

**Post or Search for Jobs**

at: <https://careers.apcprods.org/>

## Listserv Networks

**Guidelines:** Members are expected to abide by the [AAPath listserv policies](#). For more information on AAPath's listservs, visit the AAPath website at:

[www.academicpathology.org/m-lists](http://www.academicpathology.org/m-lists)

**Best Practice:** When sending messages to the listserv, please be sure to include a **short signature line with at least your name, role, institution, and email address** so that other members can reach you directly if needed.

**Archives:** To view the archive of listserv messages, [log in to your member profile](#) and access the E-lists under My Features.

## Monthly e-News Archive

Find all previous issues of AAPath's Monthly e-News at:

[www.academicpathology.org/e-news](http://www.academicpathology.org/e-news)

## Practical Information for Early Career Pathologists

The AAPath Research Committee is pleased to invite early career clinical and research faculty to register for the new (and FREE) **AAPath Research Academy**. This year-long program features a series of recorded lectures coupled with quarterly live online Q&A sessions with the speakers. The program is designed for Assistant Professors who are predominantly clinical track, but may also be of interest to faculty with a broader research focus. The AAPath Research Academy will address relevant areas in career development, basic experimental design, and approaches to clinical research. Some sample topics include: identifying funding for clinical research, managing collaborative projects, developing a research program, and review of novel career tracks for clinical research, among other topics. A full program is available at [www.apcprods.org/research-academy](http://www.apcprods.org/research-academy).

**Certificates of completion will be awarded upon review of all modules and attendance at all four Q&A sessions.** This program is **FREE** and unlimited for faculty of AAPath member departments, but requires participation approval from the Chair. **You must register to review the first set of modules and attend the first Q&A session on October 31st in order to qualify for the program certificate.** We look forward to seeing you at the AAPath Research Academy! More information is available at: [www.academicpathology.org/research-academy](http://www.academicpathology.org/research-academy).

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## WHAT'S NEW IN ACADEMIC PATHOLOGY

*Academic Pathology* is AAPath's **fully open-access, PubMed-indexed, peer-reviewed journal** and part of the world-class collection of journals and pathology resources published by Elsevier, with visibility to a global audience of academic leaders through Science Direct and Clinical Key. *Academic Pathology's* 2023 impact factor increased to **1.2 (from 1.0 in 2022)** and ranked **64 of 88 journals** in the Pathology category – one more reason to [submit your manuscript](#) to AAPath's official journal!

### Recently Published Articles

- **Graduated responsibility and competency-based education in pathology residency programs: a five-year semi-longitudinal landscape assessment on autonomy and supervision**, D. C. Miller, MD, PhD et al. Research Article First Published September 25, 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2024.100148>
- **A required medical student collaborative case presentation with a pathologist in the surgery clerkship**, A. Flaifel, MD et al. Brief Report First Published September 17, 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2024.100147>

[Click here](#) to view the latest issue of *Academic Pathology* and [subscribe to receive alerts](#) when the latest issues are published!

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## VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

- October 17th, 1:00-2:00pm ET: **Understanding the New York State CLEP Exemption to FDA's Final Rule for LDTs**. Speakers: Priya Velu, MD, PhD (Weill Cornell) and George Vlad, PhD (Columbia University). [Register Today!](#)
- October 24th, 3:30-4:30pm ET: **Save the Date! APEX Brown Bag for APEX Members** – Featuring a demonstration and discussion about AAPath's compensation benchmarking site. [Register Today!](#)

*Learn more about upcoming events and access past event recordings by visiting the AAPath website at: <https://www.academicpathology.org/virtual-events>*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE WITH TRAINEES

### Society of '67 Trainee Project Grants

**Submission Deadline: 10:00am (Eastern) on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

The Society of '67 will be accepting letters of intent for the Trainee Project Grants program through tomorrow, October 1, 2024! This program funds innovative projects that are relevant to health services research or education, including but not limited to healthcare quality, costs, and/or access related to pathology services. Two categories of grants will be considered: Research or Education. Funding is up to \$5,000 for one (calendar) year.

- Research Project Grants: To investigate a question and/or to develop a technology in pathology/lab medicine services that improves healthcare quality, cost, or access.
- Education Project Grants: To develop an educational program or offering in pathology/lab medicine services focused on improving healthcare quality, cost, or access.

See eligibility and other details at: [www.academicpathology.org/societyof67-grant-trainee](http://www.academicpathology.org/societyof67-grant-trainee). *Note that the annual grant application period that begins with a Letter of Intent opens in late August through October 1st.*

### QIPS Scholarship Forum

**Submission Deadline: 11:59pm (Eastern) on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.**

The Residency Program Directors Section (PRODS) of AAPath is pleased to announce a new opportunity to further residents' and fellows' participation and success in scholarship, while raising awareness among programs to the many ways that **quality improvement and patient safety (QIPS)** values are being learned and applied. **All accepted abstracts will be published in Academic Pathology. Selected abstracts will be presented in a virtual forum that will be held on April 14, 2025 at 6:00p Eastern.** The virtual forum will be free and open to all program directors, residents and fellows. This is an outstanding opportunity for residents and fellows to build their scholarship portfolios and showcase their work in QIPS to other trainees and programs. Visit the Call for Abstracts and submission criteria at:

[www.academicpathology.org/qips-forum](http://www.academicpathology.org/qips-forum).

### Residency Application Resources

PRODS Council recommends that programs release residency program interview offers **no earlier than October 18, 2024**. For a list of more than 70 residency programs who are complying with this unified date, visit: [www.academicpathology.org/residency-resources](http://www.academicpathology.org/residency-resources).

### Fellowship Application Resources

The AAPath strongly endorses the national movement to a uniform timeline for fellowship recruitment as described in the 2022 [article by Herrmann et al](#) in *Academic Pathology*. Several key points were made on the importance and responsibility of AAPath membership in supporting a uniform recruitment process to protect pathology residents in a [statement](#) by 2021-2022 AAPath President, Lydia P. Howell, MD. Find more resources at: [www.academicpathology.org/fellowship-application-resources](http://www.academicpathology.org/fellowship-application-resources).

## Contact Info:

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