

APC participated at the AAMC 2018 Annual Meeting in Austin, TX, from Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> through Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. APC was engaged in 3 main events:

1. **The Minority Student Medical Career Fair on Saturday.**
2. **APC hosting a networking breakfast for NUMEDS representatives.**
3. **The Exhibit Hall from Saturday through Monday.**

**1. The AAMC Minority Student Medical Career Fair** is for pre-medical students at the college or high school level. While more than 1,000 students were pre-registered, only about 600 attended the full-day affair. The Recruitment Fair is an afternoon event (1:15pm-4:30pm) where medical schools recruit students to apply via table exhibits. While most of the table exhibitors were from medical schools, APC was one of the few specialty organizations. We invited APC's resident representatives to AAMC's Organization of Resident



Representatives (ORR), **Dr. Sharon Song** (Univ of Pennsylvania), and **Dr. Nathan McLamb** (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), who also received a 2017 and 2018 Society of '67 Scholar Travel Award, respectively. Since forensic pathology was of interest in APC's experience at last year's event, we also invited the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) to identify a representative in the local area to assist. As the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for Austin's county, **Dr. Kendall Crowns** volunteered to provide insight with his expertise and area of pathology. We also requested career brochures from both ICPI and ASCP, as well as produced compilations of "Opportunities in Pathology" for both pre-medical and medical students that included a listing of departments of pathology at medical schools in Texas. **Dr. Michael Prystowsky**, as Chair of the UME Committee, also assisted for some time with engaging attendees to speak with any one of our volunteers. We provided padfolios that were branded with: [www.apcprods.org/opportunities](http://www.apcprods.org/opportunities), as well as highlighter/pens that were branded for *Academic Pathology*. The volunteers described the flow as a "steady trickle," but had a few bursts of visits during a peak time of 30-40 minutes. They estimated only about 30 students visiting the table, but those students were engaged in quality and deep conversations. Dr. Song reported that: (a) Many of the students didn't know



much about pathology beyond forensics and so a lot of the discussion revolved around giving a brief overview of pathology; (b) some were interested in learning about opportunities to engage with pathology/get more direct exposure (so the yellow/green handout was great); (c) a few were interested to know if you'd be in a lab all the time / if you have any patient/people contact; (d) one guy was deciding between medicine and pathology; and (e) many of the questions we got were about forensics.

2. Two “NUMEDS” representatives from new medical schools casually met at the networking breakfast on Sunday morning with, **Deborah Powell, MD** (APC Senior Fellow, Dean Emerita, University of Minnesota Medical School) and **Michael Prystowsky, MD, PhD** (Chair, UME Committee):

- **Jane Gibson, PhD** – Chair, Department of Clinical Sciences; Professor of Pathology – University of Central Florida College of Medicine (LCME full accredited in 2008).
- **B. Alan Rampy, DO, PhD** – Associate Professor (Pathology), Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Department of Medical Education, University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School (LCME provisionally accredited in 2015).

Overall, the experiences from each medical school are each unique, but the effort for pathology education seem similar. Two highlights of the discussion include:

- a. **While new/young medical schools initially begin with a “Department of Clinical Sciences,” the department of pathology (or any other specialty department) comes to fruition in the long-range future of the school.** New schools are primarily focused on developing the curriculum as part of the accreditation process. This fact was repeated from interactions at the Exhibit Booth (see below) where a couple of senior leadership or faculty recruiters from new medical schools inquired about pathologists primarily for an education-track appointment at their school.
- b. **The Pathology Competencies for Medical Education (PCME) and the Educational Cases are being recognized and utilized.** Dr. Rampy gave the example that he used the PCME as a framework since the second-year class, when he first learned of the resource. He was grateful for having a resource of practical Educational Cases to use in his instruction. Again, at the Exhibit Booth, Dr. Rampy had an extensive conversation with Dr. Amy Rapkiewicz, the UMEDS Council Secretary, on pathology curricular integration.

3. **At the Exhibit Booth**, Dr. Prystowsky and I encountered a reasonable flow of traffic from the opening through the final day. Like the Career Fair, those who stopped by the booth engaged in deeper conversations and learned about what APC offers. Like the Career Fair, we provided padfolios that were branded with: [www.apcprods.org/opportunities](http://www.apcprods.org/opportunities), as well as highlighter/pens that were branded for *Academic Pathology*.



Dr. Prystowsky expertly pitched a compilation of three examples of **Educational Cases** that referred to the PCME as selected by Dr. Barbara Knollmann-Ritschel.

He provided the background for creation of the PCME and Educational Cases, and the incentive of clinical scholarship for Chairs to encourage and promote their faculty to work with residents to submit their own educational cases using the PCME framework, especially with the **Society of '67 Open Access Award**. Dr. Prystowsky emphasized that these resources are free and accessible, and explained how other disciplines or deans for academic affairs could utilize this valuable resource for their own curriculum development.

Other resources for medical students were of interest by staff/faculty, i.e., the compilation of **“Opportunities for Medical Students”** (includes summer internships, away-rotations, and post-sophomore fellowships) as well as the **Society of '67 Scholars Travel Awards** and **Healthcare Innovation Project Grants**. There were occasions when an attendee would claim him/herself proudly as a “Pathologist” who was familiar with the APC (or PRODS or UMEDS). They typically inquired about the APC Annual Meeting or *Academic Pathology*. Their interests were for submitting an abstract, potentially

attending, or writing a manuscript. Other times, they reminisced about how they participated in the past or who they might know in the APC organization.



Compared to last year (or perhaps it's my awareness), there seemed to be more representatives (or current medical students) from *new(er) medical schools who approached the APC booth*, including Kaiser Permanente, Univ of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University of California – Riverside, California University of Science and Medicine, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, Hackensack-Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, and the Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. Having the NUMEDS initiative gave a slight advantage of being informed about the school as well as the pathologist (or other) representative on our list of

contacts. APC monitors the LCME accreditation directory to identify potential departments for membership. More often than not, the medical school leaders/faculty recruiters confirmed that there is a pathology educator on faculty, or that a search for one is underway. They appreciated the PCME and Educational Cases examples that we printed and indicated that they would share further with the most appropriate faculty member.

**Finally, APC encountered “high-value” organizations.** Numerous **AAMC** staffers, including legal counsel, stopped by to view APC's offerings. In particular, Eric Weissman, the Senior Director for CFAS Engagement, paused to appreciate APC's presence in the Exhibits program as we have representatives on that Council. Dr. Irena Tartakovsky, the Director of Constituent Engagement for the GREAT (Graduate Research, Education, and Training) Group and MD-PhD Section also acknowledged the committee work by Dr. Robin Lorenz from the Univ of Alabama at Birmingham, who led APC's PhD Data Task Force. At the Career Fair, Mel also connected with Dr. Jabbar Bennet (Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion) from Northwestern University and is the Chair-Elect for the GREAT Steering Committee. There could be ample opportunity to re-connect with issues related to the pathology physician-scientist pathway. We also met **AMA** representatives and the Program Manager, Sara Ayala, for their upcoming new grants program initiative, “Reimagining Residency,” the technical developer for the FREIDA database, and the staff team for the Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium who were promoting their agenda on Health Systems Science. Other organizations with whom I had productive and/or brief encounters included the **NMBE/USMLE, Elsevier, and ECFMG.**

Overall, the three-day experience was a venue for APC to be present and recognized for its resources, program offerings, network (among APC/Section members) of expertise, and the professional home for academic pathology.