SPECIAL CALL for COVID Papers

These past few months have been unusual and unpredictable—yet pathology departments everywhere have met the challenges by adjusting nearly every aspect of their operations, teaching, staffing and finances. The importance of the lab to healthcare has never been more apparent.

Sharing these innovations and best practices will be a valuable next step, one from which we can all learn. Moreover, we hope to showcase the stunning advances and adaptations made by departments of academic pathology in order to serve the Public Good. And our audience should be the full “house-of-medicine,” as well as policy makers, civic leaders, and the public.

To that end, we are planning a series of manuscripts in Academic Pathology—a virtual special issue focusing on our adaptations to and the impact of our work on the medical (and societal) disease that is COVID-19. These are intended as Original Reports: original work with quantitative (or semiquantitative) results, with the manuscript adhering to the usual structure of Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figures.

We hope to receive your submissions across a variety of topics, such as:

- Operational changes to labs and health systems to accommodate Covid testing (PCR, antigen, serology), transfusion medicine, convalescent plasma, coagulation, biomarkers, etc.
- Testing and patient triage algorithms
- Test Utilization
- Effective communication, both within the lab and beyond, including Public Relations
- Systems for virtual teaching of residents, fellows, medical student and graduate students
- Use of Digital Pathology
- Redeployment of staff to meet changing clinical needs and volumes (during and after shutdown)
- Investigative science
- Financial impact of the shutdown and recovery; adaptations and solutions
- Faculty, staff and student wellness

…and more!

ARTICLE PROCESSING FEE (APF) COMPETITION:
Please submit an abstract of your proposed manuscript to journal@apcprods.org by October 15, 2020, for your manuscript to be considered in the APF Competition! Editors will select 5 abstracts from proposed manuscripts to receive APF waivers. You will be notified of our decision by October 31, 2020.* This APF Competition is in addition to any abstract submissions that might fall under the “Society of ’67 Open Access Award”. *Please note: APF Competition Winners must submit their manuscripts for peer review by December 1, 2020.

With-or-without notification of such a waiver of APF, we encourage submission of manuscripts describing your challenges, innovations and solutions, with emphasis on outcomes, productivity, quality, and financial impact. Submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis, but ideally manuscripts will be received by December 1st, so that we can cluster the publication of this work in early 2021.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication—I have never been more proud to be a laboratorian!

Karen Kaul MD, PhD
Deputy Editor of Academic Pathology
Chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Duckworth Family Chair, NorthShore University HealthSystem
Clinical Professor of Pathology, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine