



2026 AAPath ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Practice & Management:

1. Advocate for appropriate and effective regulation that ensures that clinical laboratories are able to provide high quality, efficient, accessible, and timely care for patients.
 - a. Continue to vigorously advocate for the regulation of laboratory developed tests/procedures that appropriately balances innovation, access, and quality.
2. Advocate against current and future legislative efforts that allow the patenting of products of nature.
3. Work with other pathology and healthcare organizations to address pathologist and laboratory professional workforce supply issues.
4. Partner with CAP, ASCP, and other stakeholders to support pathology services reimbursement that is aligned with academic missions.
 - a. Advocate against arbitrary and retroactive insurance practices that lead to decreased access for patients and erode the financial sustainability of academic laboratory and pathology practices.
5. Promote stewardship efforts to ensure appropriate, timely, efficient, safe, and financially sustainable laboratory services in academic medical centers.
6. Seek to engage policymakers to educate them on the role of academic laboratories as a critical part of the national laboratory infrastructure (e.g., in frontline care, rapid response in public health crises, and emergency surge capacity).

Research:

1. Partner with the ASIP, AAMC, AACR, FASEB, and other organizations to advocate for increasing overall federal funding for research.
2. Support ongoing efforts to raise the profile of pathology at the National Institutes of Health.
3. Work with AAMC, the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), American Physician Scientists Association (APSA), and other organizations to increase, diversify, and sustain the pipeline of physician-scientists.
4. Advocate for the value of basic, translational, and clinical scientific discovery, in elevating human health and well-being.

Undergraduate Medical Education (medical school):

1. Advocate through the AAMC and the AMA (LCME Co-Secretariats), and AOA, for ensuring that medical students achieve competency in appropriate ordering and interpretation of laboratory tests.
2. Develop programs to educate and mentor a diverse group of medical students about careers in pathology and the practice of pathology, to broaden their understanding of the role of pathologists and develop our future workforce.
3. Increase pathology's representation on national and institutional committees that are engaged in curricular development.

Graduate Medical Education (residency and fellowship):

1. Support efforts by CAP, AAMC, AMA, and ABPath to develop accurate data on the numbers and diversity of currently practicing pathologists.
2. Work with AAMC, CAP, HRSA, and other organizations to encourage health system leaders to increase the number of CMS-funded pathology residency positions, and assist our member departments in their local advocacy for this.
3. Support and disseminate information on the development of novel mechanisms for funding additional pathology GME positions.
4. Continue to advance efforts to rationalize the fellowship recruitment process.
5. Continue working with ABPath around evolving training issues, such as competency-based medical education.

Cross-Cutting:

1. Advocate for rational immigration policies that enable and encourage foreign nationals to:
 - a. seek residency training in U.S. programs with minimal barriers to access;
 - b. remain in the U.S. for practice without undue administrative burdens; and
 - c. fill faculty and staff positions in U.S. research and clinical laboratories.
2. Support safe and effective uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning in education, research and practice.
3. Support and uphold principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our association, our member institutions, and in society at large.
4. Advocate for the continuation of evidence-based HHS-led communications and interactions with the academic and practice communities, such as NIH study sections and CDC weekly reporting on public health matters.