



# Association of Pathology Chairs, Inc.

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## Dates to Remember:

- **ACLPS 39th Annual Meeting**  
June 3-5, 2004  
Denver, CO
- **APC/PRODS/PDAS/GRIPE**  
July 20-24, 2004  
Mont-Tremblant, Quebec
- **CAP '04**  
September 19-22, 2004  
Phoenix, AZ
- **ASCP 2004 Annual Meeting**  
October 7-10, 2004  
San Antonio, TX
- **USCAP Annual Meeting**  
February 26—March 4, 2005  
San Antonio, TX
- **EB '05**  
**(ASIP Annual Meeting)**  
April 2-6, 2005  
San Diego, CA

## APC/PRODS/PDAS/ GRIPE

### Annual Meeting

Deadline for Discounted  
Registration  
**June 22, 2004**

For more information  
and to register online  
Go to

[apcprods.org](http://apcprods.org)

## President's Message **Mary F. Lipscomb, MD**

My service as your APC president will end at the close of this summer's meeting in Mont Tremblant, and I must say that I have had a wonderful time! I believe that we have an important organization that works primarily because we all care about "excellence in pathology" and supporting one another in our roles as chairs, residency program directors, educators and department administrators. I found it exciting working with PDAS, PRODS and the Council to plan a very full program for the coming meeting, and I believe you will be happy with the result. I am particularly pleased to be co-hosting several aspects of the meeting with our colleagues in GRIPE, who have scheduled their own events as well as collaborating with APC on organizing the Thursday morning thematic session and the Thursday afternoon workshops. You should find this meeting full of good ideas to consider in your department's mission to educate future physicians.

As part of the meeting, the APC Council would like for you to consider two issues that we have discussed in our winter council meeting and then participate in further dialogue. The first issue is whether we should provide an opportunity for course directors to organize a section of APC, similar to PDAS for department administrators and PRODS for program directors. To that end, we are planning an informal session for Course Directors and chairs on Thursday evening at 5PM with the Council to discuss the feasibility. PLEASE encourage YOUR department's course director to attend not only the entire summer meeting, including GRIPE sessions, but this planning meeting as well.

A second thing that we'd like you to consider is whether APC should form a committee of interested and experienced medical student educators to develop a comprehensive list of learning objectives that would become a guide for pathology course directors. This "Pathology Objectives" list would serve those departments that have their own course as well as those that teach in schools with integrated curricula. Indeed, this listing will assist medical students in their study for USMLE Part I, those who write pathology questions for the USLME Part I, and perhaps even those who write textbooks of pathology. Obviously, the Pathology Objectives Writing Committee would have to review and revise the list on a regular basis. The APC Council proposes that this project could be funded through resources provided by income from our invested reserves with oversight by the Education Committee and the Research in Education Group (REG). We have set aside time to discuss this proposal on Thursday morning toward the end of our plenary session.

## Message from the President-Elect **David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD**

Your APC Council has planned another exciting annual meeting. The theme of this summer's meeting is Undergraduate Pathology Education and we will be meeting in conjunction with the Group for Research In Pathology Education (GRIPE). The GRIPE meeting will convene on Tuesday, July 20, and GRIPE attendees will participate with APC, PDAS and PRODS members in the plenary sessions and workshops. Separate workshops on "Financial Management for Departments of Pathology" are planned for APC and PDAS members on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, respectively. David Young from the Boston University School of Management will lead these workshops.

The Welcome Reception, Keynote Address and Opening Dinner will be held on Wednesday evening, July 21. Vinay Kumar will recall "Memories of Two Giants in Pathology: Stanley

**Message from the President-Elect (Cont.)**

Robbins and Ramzi Cotran and the Evolution of a Textbook.” Vinay’s unique relationship with these two great men and the most widely studied textbook of pathology in the world should make his Keynote Address a highlight of this year’s meeting. Capping the opening night’s festivities will be the presentation of the 2004 APC Distinguished Service Award to our esteemed colleague, Peter Ward, a distinguished chair for many years at the University of Connecticut and then at the University of Michigan.

The plenary sessions will include Teaching Pathology to Medical Students, Pathology as the Enabler of Human Research, and Challenges to the Future of Academic Pathology and Academic Medical Centers. A great mix of APC members and invited speakers will excite and inform you about important issues facing academic pathology today. Fourteen workshops will give all attendees an opportunity to participate in the discussion of issues related to pathology education in small group sessions led by APC, PRODS and GRIPE leaders.

We will once again host a New Chairs Luncheon where the APC Council will meet with new chairs and provide current information on APC history, by-laws and regional meetings.

Any preview of the annual meeting would be incomplete without pointing out the wonderful venue of the Mont-Tremblant resort. The Fairmont Tremblant sits on a mountainside, atop a quaint, European-style village full of shopping and dining delights. Just above the hotel is world-class mountain hiking. Just below is a beautiful lake. Attendees at last year’s meeting uniformly agreed that this was one of our most pleasant locations. I hope to see all of you there.

**News From PDAS Donald P. Highfield, MS, MBA**

This is just a short note to inform the membership that the planning for the Summer 2004 annual PDAS meeting, again to be held at Mont-Tremblant, is progressing very well. This year, as a first, we will actually have three guest speakers. In particular will be the budgeting workshop to be given by Dr. David Young. Since the attendance to his session will be limited, at his request, you will want to sign up early when registration materials arrive. His workshop will require 4-6 hours of preparation prior to the conference.

On another note, the final Phase II Stark Law was published March 26<sup>th</sup> in the Federal Register. There will be some important clarifications of exceptions that may possibly affect Academic Medical Centers and their relationships with affiliated hospitals and faculty practice plans.

**News From (SEAPC)**

Southeastern Association of Pathology Chairs and Administrators

**Meeting Summary**

The Southeastern Association of Pathology Chairs (SEAPC) and administrators met at Amelia Island, Florida on January 28-31, 2004. The meeting was co-hosted by the departments of Pathology at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. There was an excellent turnout of Chairs and Administrators who participated in joint and separate meetings. The program for the Chairs included a delightful talk by Merle Olson, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at San Antonio, on new directions in basic science departments. His talk emphasized the importance of being aware of being a Chair and the tasks associated with achieving excellence and effectiveness. The essentials of academic leadership according to Dean Olson included being a quick study, be able to sense change, tolerate ambiguity and to be able to make decisions decisively. New and recurring challenges that academic departments of pathology will have to face include recruiting and retaining faculty, ensuring financial survival, student recruitment, and organizational issues related to institutes, centers and laboratories. James Jorgensen, Ph.D., provided the Chairs with new and updated information on the role of the laboratory in emerging antibiotic resistance. Steve Peiper's talk on developing and maintaining tissue banks was further highlighted in the presentation by Maria Arnold, Certified IRB Professional and Director of Human Subjects Research Office at the University of Miami. A morning session on changes in sponsored research was led by Jane A. Youngers from UTHSCSA who is the Director of Grants Management and Reports at San Antonio. During this session, Jay McDonald gave a personal reflection on the NIH highway and the impact on academic departments of pathology. A highlight of the meeting was the presentations provided by Abraham Verghese, M.D., who spoke on humanism and the human condition. Abraham used stories as a backdrop to discuss issues of interpersonal relationships and the human condition. His presentations generated considerable enthusiasm and discussion among the Chairs and Administrators. The program on the final day consisted of talks by Fred Silva on American Medicine, Pathology, & CPD in AP, Jay McDonald on Health Care and the Trip to Mars (the science and hazards), and from the editors of the American Journal of Pathology (McDonald) and Laboratory Investigation (James Crawford). Both talks provided up to date information on journal statistics and the directions that the editors would like to take in the future. In summary, the meeting provided the attendees with current and up to date information on science, practice issues, and also provided the opportunity to look introspectively into our roles as Chairs of pathology and the importance of stories that guide our daily lives.

Robert L. Reddick, M.D.  
SEAPC

**“Promoting Excellence in Academic Pathology”**

**News From PRODS J.J. Steinberg, MD**

The Program Directors Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) met on March 7, 2004 at the Vancouver Convention Center in Vancouver BC, Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to receive reports from key Pathology organizations. Approximately thirty-six members of PRODS attended the meeting which was chaired by JJ Steinberg, Chair of PRODS.

Reports were provided by members of the group which included W. Stephen Black-Schaffer, PRODS director at MGH, and Doug Miller, PRODS Curriculum Committee. Doug reported on the effect of turnaround times on resident education and the desire to have shorter turnaround time by our clinical colleagues. An important question that arose from the discussion of this topic was whether PRODS, the ABP, RCC or anyone else should set minimum standards of time for residents to review a case, or how many slides in how many hours. Stephen Black-Schaffer discussed the pros and cons of the method used at MGH for sign-out where subspecialists are responsible for all signouts. Additional reports were provided by representatives from pathology organizations and included Betsy Bennett (APB), Bruce Alexander (RRC of ACGME), David Keren (ASCP), Mary Kass (CAP), Fred Silva (USCAP), Richard Zarbo (USCAP Publication Committee), Barbara McKenna and Laura Edgar (RISE Exams, ASCP), and Margaret Grimes (RCC of ACGME). The presentations were informational sessions on issues important to residents and faculty members of departments of Pathology. The recent changes in immigration requirements were discussed briefly and members were informed that updates would be provided on the PRODS listserv. Additionally, the topic would be discussed at the Summer meeting. Dr. Steinberg ended the meeting with a general comment reflecting on the year's activities, an extraordinary good resident match, and special thanks to the APC, especially Drs. Mary Lipscomb, Ralph Green, and Dave Wilkinson. Thanks were also given to the personnel of the APC/ASIP office, and others for their considerable support over the year.

JJ Steinberg, M.D., Chair, PRODS  
 Richard Sobonya, M.D., Secretary -Treasurer, PRODS

**Western and Midwestern Regional Meeting—2004**

The Western and Midwestern APC held its regional meeting at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on the Big Island, Hawaii from February 11-14, 2004. Co-hosted by Chairs Clive Taylor (USC) and Mary Ann Sens (North Dakota) and their able management team Denise Matthews and Pamela Doty (USC) and Cathy Perry (ND), the meeting began with a sunset reception on the hotel grounds under waving palms overlooking the crashing Pacific surf. The tone was set for three days of meetings, mirth and Mai Tais. Attended by 19 chairs and 15 PDAS, the meeting covered a wide range of topics that engendered much discussion. Attendance at sessions was consistently high, remarkable considering that so many recreational distractions were at hand. Following a welcome by the hosts, Ralph Green gave a report from Council and this generated animated discussion. One of the "hot" topics was the issue of undergraduate pathology education with the GRIPE/UME relationship and the need for a group within APC similar to PRODS and PDAS that will be more representative of mainstream pathology leadership. There was a broad consensus that this would be desirable. Another topic was the dwindling financial reserve of the APC and here the general sentiment expressed was that the organization should seek to generate more revenues through increasing annual membership and registration fees for the annual meeting as well as by attempting to attract more vendors at the meeting. Expense reduction, while important, was not deemed paramount by the majority of opinions expressed.

The morning session on day one continued with discussions on Regional Based Pathology Groups lead by the Ohio PDAS contingent representing Ohio State (Harry Pukay- Martin) and Cincinnati (Michael Dixon) followed by a status update on the University of California Reference laboratory Consortium by Ralph Green (UC Davis). Then Michael Selsted UC Irvine and Harry Pukay- Martin spoke on Direct Access Testing giving perspectives from two states. Darrell O'Sullivan and Sharon Schauer from UC Davis ended the morning with an analysis of Faculty Productivity and Time Studies, demonstrating a template for negotiating a Part A hospital contract. After lunch, Mary Ann Sens spoke on new models for Medical Technology

**APC Council  
 2003-2004**

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Mary F. Lipscomb, MD, New Mexico School of Medicine

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David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD

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 2003-2005**

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**Chair, Undergraduate Medical  
 Education Committee 2003-2005**

Carole L. Pillinger, MD, University of South Carolina School of Medicine

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**What's New:**

- APC Plan of Action 2003
- APC Plan of Action 2004
- APC Committee Descriptions

**Western and Midwestern Regional Meeting (Cont.)**

Programs followed by a dessert titled "Bread Pudding: Recipes for success in Non-Medicare Part A" describing a "how-to" for component billing – food for some but not for all, depending on payer mix. All were ready for the Sunset Sail , more Mai Tais and a "whale" of a time.

Day two and a brief combined Chairs and PDAS session with Leo Furcht first on the U of Minnesota model for Departmental Structures, describing the interesting and highly successful Medical Group Structure spearheaded by Pathology. After that, Henry Powell spoke on the UCSD experience with Comparative Pathology, an interesting potpourri of beasts displaying disease models. The Chairs then split off to hear Mary Ann Sens again, this time on the Patient Centered Curriculum and Ron Weinstein gave his latest tour de force rendition on Pathologists as Information Specialists. Meanwhile, the PDAS heard a quartet from California on "Best Practices" followed by "Management Models", "Organizational Structure" and a roundtable discussion on the APC survey over lunch.

On the last day, discussion began with selection of sites and hosts for the next meeting (fall of 2004, U of New Mexico with Mary Lipscomb and Ron Weinstein co-hosts) followed by a return to Hawaii (Kauai) in '06 with Oregon and UC Davis co-hosting. An animated discussion concluded the half day for the Chairs on the "Hot Topics" session selected by Clive Taylor: Departmental Reserves, Cost of Education and Residency Training (The new Four Year Program). Meanwhile, the PDAS spoke about Research Administration and their own far-ranging list of "Hot Topics" that included counting of FTEs, Billing Costs, Tax Structures, Malpractice Insurance and IRB/HIPAA.

Once again, the West proved that a joint Chairs PDAS meeting is a highly successful forum for discussion and debate of the issues of the day besetting pathology departments and that it helps immensely to meet in pleasant surrounds.

Ralph Green M.D.  
UC Davis

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