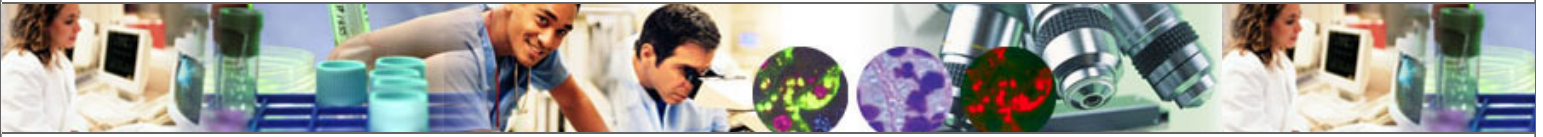




APC Newsletter

Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter
March 2012, Vol 4, No. 1



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Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter

Editor: Tristram Parslow, MD, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer (Chair, Emory University)

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9650 Rockville Pike, Suite E133, Bethesda, MD 20814-3993, USA, Tel: 301-634-7880, Fax: 301-634-7990, Email: apc@asip.org

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

The APC continues to gain momentum as a year-round organization that aims to be responsive to the needs of academic pathology departments in a rapidly changing environment. Our collective expertise is wide-ranging and impressively deep. We continue to look for ways to facilitate the sharing of experience and resources across our community, and to provide tools to help member departments face the challenges of funding and driving our missions. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to get involved with committee and section activities, and to become involved with leadership in the APC.

Don Karcher, Ann Thor, committee chairs, section leaders, and many others have put together a very exciting program for the upcoming APC annual meeting to be held for a second time in Monterey, CA, July 10-13. Health information technology (HIT) will be the central theme for the meeting, with a focus on the role of informatics in maximizing pathology's value in practice, research, and education. You will have the option to register for a special pre-meeting Primer on HIT to be held from 3-6 PM on Tuesday July 10. This should be an outstanding introduction to the daunting world of informatics for non-experts. The regular meeting will begin on Wednesday, with a joint Chairs/PDAS session covering laboratory information systems, the role of pathology in electronic health records, as well as topics such as "meaningful use", ACO's, and decision support. The day will continue with presentations on the role of informatics and digital imaging in education, a research session focused on exciting advances in the area of pathology informatics, and an HIT-focused advocacy session featuring Claudia Williams, Director of the State Health Information Exchange Program in the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT, and S. Laurence Kocot, Deputy Director for the Engelberg Center for Health Reform at the Brookings Institution. The quality of the speakers who have agreed to participate in the HIT program is truly impressive.

The meeting will continue on Thursday and Friday with sessions on undergraduate and graduate training in molecular and genomic pathology, committee meetings, and discussion groups focused on timely topics. A forum is also planned to discuss training in laboratory medicine and management. The program committee has made a strong effort to build in time for networking, recognizing that this is one of the most valuable aspects of APC participation. The sections have also organized exciting programs that complement the HIT theme, including joint sessions with the chair members and activities targeted to important issues facing program directors, undergraduate educators, and department administrators. I look forward to seeing you in Monterey!

The UME, GME, Research, and P&M committee have been active in helping to plan the summer program. Additional ongoing activities include efforts to develop a way to help organize pathology fellowship directors and establish a formal relationship with the APC. ADASP leadership has developed a very interesting proposal to establish a fellowship director's section in APC. The APC Council has approved the formation of an *ad hoc* committee representing fellowship directors that would meet annually in conjunction with the APC Summer meeting as an initial step towards adopting the proposal from ADASP. Efforts also continue to establish a fellowship match in pathology. The current plan is to implement a match for pediatric pathology and molecular genetic pathology beginning in 2014. Council recommends that department chairs and fellowship directors work towards implementing a match in hematopathology and cytopathology in 2015. The APC practice and management survey data are being analyzed for presentation to the membership. Efforts are underway to make further improvements to the survey to make it easier to complete while providing the benchmark data that we need to manage our departments.

The Advocacy Committee has continued to hold monthly conference calls to discuss a multitude of important issues impacting academic pathology, ranging from GME funding cuts, regulatory and payment issues, to NIH funding and research with human subjects. The HIT Subcommittee has been a primary driver in developing the program for the annual meeting. Members of the Advocacy Committee has multiple interfaces with multiple pathology organizations, as well as the AAMC and AMA. The Academic Caucus has also held monthly conference calls to discuss progress made in the CAP transformation initiative, as well as activities of the ACO Steering Committee and the Personal Healthcare Committee. I am delighted that there has been tremendous interest in participating in the recently formed Ad Hoc Committee for Leadership Development and Diversity, chaired by Ann Thor, which currently includes approximately 20 active members. This committee plans to develop subgroups to work on specific issues, including establishing benchmarks for gender and minority representation in departments, leadership development, and mentorship.

APC will again be hosting luncheons at the upcoming USCAP (Monday, March 19), and ASIP (Monday, April 23)

meetings. These chair luncheons have proved to be quite valuable as an opportunity to discuss key issues and to further network. It continues to be a privilege for me to have the opportunity to learn from each of you through various APC activities. Thank you for all that you are doing for this organization, and for the advancement of pathology and our missions.

Sincerely,
Peter E. Jensen, MD
President, APC

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee was formed as an ad hoc committee in 2006 by APC members, from all sections, who had an interest in sharing information on a regular basis across departments and pathology organizations. Their objective was to help improve the academic pathology presence and give voice to our unique perspectives and concerns in the national pathology agenda. This motivated group of members has continued to meet for the past 5 years by conference call monthly and face-to-face yearly at the annual meeting. The Advocacy Committee achieved standing committee status in early 2010, when a bylaws change reflecting this was approved by the Chair members of APC. The Advocacy Committee has representation from PRODS, UMEDS and PDAS, which makes it a valuable forum for cross-talk on critical issues affecting practice, research and education.

The Advocacy Committee's communications efforts extended in recent years to arranging advocacy programming as part of the APC annual meetings. Prior year's speakers included Dora Hughes, MD, MPA, Special Counsel to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Atul Grover, MD, Chief Advocacy Officer of the American Association of Medical Colleges. Representatives of all Cooperating Societies of the American Board of Pathology are invited to provide commentary and perspectives from their association's point of view. In 2012, the Advocacy Committee targeted two outstanding speakers with particular relevancy to the programmatic theme of ***The HIT and Informatics Superhighway: Maximizing Pathology's Value in Practice, Research, and Education***. Claudia Williams, Director of the State Health Information Exchange Program in the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology (HHS) is confirmed to speak on Wednesday, July 11th as part the advocacy session. Additionally, we are confirming S. Lawrence Kocot, JD, MPA, Deputy Director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution. Both individuals will provide their views on how pathology and health information technology will impact the future of care delivery. Perhaps, more importantly, our members and society representatives will have the opportunity to exchange information and provide valuable insights about pathology to these speakers, which can influence and be incorporated into their nationally-recognized positions.

In addition to extensive participation in and tracking of national HIT initiatives, members of the Advocacy Committee follow and support a variety of important issues throughout the year. Among these are regulatory affairs and payment issues, such as molecular test coding and RUC valuation of pathology-centric codes. We also maintain close contact with the AAMC, and communicate with other national pathology organizations, to sustain Federal funding for graduate medical education, with emphasis on subspecialty training of residents. Finally, as academic departments, the committee has particular interest in NIH research funding and cooperates with FASEB to alert the membership when pending appropriations require rapid input to our Congressional leaders.

The Advocacy Committee routinely holds monthly conference calls on the third Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Eastern. All members in good standing of the APC are invited to join the calls and contribute their ideas and resources on behalf of academic pathology. Interested members should contact Priscilla Markwood at pmarkwood@asip.org to be included in e-mail notifications about upcoming calls and issues.

Submitted by Daniel Remick, MD, Chair, Advocacy Committee

Graduate Medical Education Committee

Much of the focus of the Graduate Medical Education Committee has been on the issue of a fellowship match. After trying to reach out to as many subspecialty areas as possible and to encourage discussion in subspecialty societies and within departments, a survey with a fairly detailed attached list of FAQ's went out to all fellowship directors who could be identified, and copies were sent to chairs and residency program directors. The survey revealed five areas with a sufficient interest to warrant further immediate consideration (ultimately, 75 percent of applicants and accredited programs in an area need to participate to utilize the match, with a little wiggle room for the initial year or two). So a second survey was completed, and 74 percent of molecular genetic pathology and 81 percent of pediatric pathology programs favored a match, though telephone contacts indicated that too many commitments were already made to consider 2013, so these areas have elected to begin a match for the applicants who will enroll in July, 2014.

Further, 50 percent of cytopathology programs favored a match and 56 percent of hematopathology programs favored a match. The Graduate Medical Education Committee will work to renew discussion in these areas, and these areas can look not only to the fact that most of the house of medicine uses a match for fellowships, but can specifically look to the experience in allergy/immunology (which had been very divided, finally implemented the match, and the result has been very favorable) rather than awaiting the experience in molecular genetic pathology and pediatric pathology, which would delay the possibility of implementing any additional areas for the match until probably 2017. In the area of the match alone, then, the Graduate Medical Education Committee continues to have its work cut out for it! In addition, the committee has established a liaison with the corresponding committee of the College of American Pathologists, working together on a number of issues, including surveys on topics of mutual interest. At the upcoming summer meeting, instead of the usual Wednesday morning combined session with PRODS, we are experimenting with a combined PRODS/UMEDS/chairs session on genomics, which will feature Harry Ostrer from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Karen Kaul from NorthShore University HealthSystem/University of Chicago, and John Pfeifer from Washington University in St. Louis, who will cover genomics from undergraduate medical education through resident/fellow education to current practice aspects. Hope you will be able to attend what promises to be a highly enlightening session.

Chairs interested in graduate medical education issues are encouraged to attend the Graduate Medical Education Committee meeting at this summer's annual meeting, Thursday, July 12, at 2:00 p.m. in Monterey, California.

Submitted by Allan Tucker, MD, Chair, Graduate Medical Education Committee

Practice & Management Committee

The APC Annual Meeting will include specific content related to the Practice & Management Committee on Thursday, July 12, 2012:

10:30am-12:30pm General Practice & Management Session:

- **10:30am-11:00am** Introduction and Review of Survey, Barbara Ducatman, MD, West Virginia University
- **11:00am-11:15am** Value of Survey Data for Departments, Martha Miers, MS, Vanderbilt University
- **11:15am-11:30am** Discussion
- **11:30am-11:45am** Resident and Fellowship Funding Issues, Suzanne Powell, MD, The Methodist Hospital System
- **11:45am-12:00pm** Pathology Departments and ACOs, James Crawford, MD, PhD, Hofstra-North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System
- **12:00pm-12:15pm** Academic Health Center Integration and Pathology Funding Models, A. Julian Garvin, MD, PhD, Wake Forest University
- **12:15pm-12:30pm** Discussion

There are several **Discussion Groups on Thursday at lunchtime** of interest to the Practice & Management Committee:

- Part A Transfer – Professional Component Billing
- Benchmarking
- New Roles for Pathologists and New Payment Models

Also, for interested chairs, **the P&M Committee will meet from 2:00pm-3:00pm on Thursday** and the main topic will be continuous improvement of the APC Practice Survey.

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In accordance with APC's Operating Procedures, the goals of the Practice & Management Committee are to:

- Facilitate networking among chairs and administrators of academic pathology departments to deal with problems related to the clinical and administrative missions.
- Provide chairs and administrators of academic pathology departments with data that is useful to address clinical and administrative problems of pathology, including: defining areas of most concern to the membership, developing survey questions that produce optimal data that is applicable to the concerns of academic pathology, conducting surveys and analyzing and distributing data; and writing white papers to assist pathology departments in dealing with practice management concerns as needed.
- Support department administrators in PDAS activities.
- Keep the membership apprised of the activities of pathology organizations, particularly the College of American Pathologists, the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the American Medical Association, that affect the clinical missions of academic pathology departments and to provide a forum for expression of the concerns of academic pathology.

Chair - Gregory Threatte, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Vice Chair - Barbara Ducatman, West Virginia University

Research Committee

The Research Committee has assembled a group of superb speakers in the broad area of 'research informatics' for the summer APC meeting. The topics will cover digital pathology, genomics, in vivo microscopy, and the microbiome.

View the APC Program Information page (<http://www.apcprods.org/mtg/2012/program.cfm>) for more details.

Submitted by Brian Smith, MD, Chair, Research Committee

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

The Undergraduate Medical Education Committee has focused on programming for the Summer meeting. There will be a joint session with GME on Genomic Pathology. Following the Summer meeting, the UME Committee will initiate a project on pathology competencies in undergraduate medical education.

Submitted by Michael Prystowsky, MD, PhD, Chair, Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Pathology Department Administrators Section (PDAS)

Please see the following link to [specific PDAS programming](#) at the 2012 APC Annual Meeting.

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The Pathology Department Administrators Section (PDAS) of the Association of Pathology Chairs provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas to make recommendations concerning the business and administrative aspects of running an academic Pathology department.

Chair, Martha Miers

Program Directors Section (PRODS)

Please see the following link to [specific PRODS programming](#) at the 2012 APC Annual Meeting.

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The Program Directors Section (PRODS) of APC provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, make recommendations concerning rules governing content and management of resident training to the Residency Review Committee and American Board of Pathology, and participate in programs that would facilitate the continued development and enhancement of training programs in Pathology. Training programs are those approved by the Residency Review Committee for Pathology or by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education or by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and which lead to eligibility for primary certification by the American Board of Pathology or the Canadian Board of Pathology.

Chair, Suzanne Powell, MD

Undergraduate Medical Educators Section (UMEDS)

UMEDS has been actively planning its content for the July 2012 meeting in Monterey. The theme is "Pathology in an Integrated Medical School Curriculum." Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Barzansky, senior secretary at LCME. We have had monthly UMEDS council conference calls which have included the active participation of the new chair of UME, Dr. Michael Prystowsky (Albert Einstein). The section chair, Dr. Regina Gandour-Edwards (UC Davis) attended the APC Council meeting in Puerto Vallarta and has been participating in APC Council, HIT planning and advocacy conference calls.

Please see the following link to [specific UMEDS programming](#) at the 2012 APC Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Regina Gandour-Edwards, MD, Chair, Undergraduate Medical Educators Section