

THE ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGY CHAIRS

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Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council

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Governance: The Association of Pathology Chairs has sections for the Chairs of LCME-accredited institutions, and their residency program directors (PRODS), pathology department administrators (PDAS) and undergraduate medical educators (UMEDS, formerly CDS). In addition, Chairs of hospital departments and affiliates of LCME-accredited institutions participate.

Leadership: APC's President is Dr. Charles Jennette. Dr. Tristram Parslow is the Secretary-Treasurer. APC is managed in the ASIP office.

Meetings: The APC annual meeting is held each July. In addition, regional meetings are held each year in the Fall/Winter for the Northeast, Southeast, and West/Mid-West groups. In 2010, APC's annual meeting will be in Seattle, Washington from July 14-16. Previously, APC rotated three themes triennially (practice and management, graduate and undergraduate medical education). This year, APC's annual meeting is restructured to allow simultaneous programming of all professional sections (PRODS, UMEDS and PDAS) and all thematic areas – practice and management, graduate and undergraduate medical education, research, and advocacy.

APCREG: In 2003, APC established the Research and Education Group (APCREG). In 2009, as part of a new 5-year strategic plan, APC re-evaluated how it can best meet the mission of APCREG and proposed re-drafting the bylaws to, among other objectives, call APCREG the Academic Mission Group (AMG). The primary goal of reformulating AMG is to create funding opportunities for each Standing Committee to develop materials of benefit and interest to the broader academic pathology community.

Pathology Fellowship Guidelines: In 2008, with the cooperation of residency groups within ASCP and CAP, as well as a leadership group within APC, APC created a consensus set of guidelines for accepting pathology fellowship applications and making candidate offers using a standard application and schedule of events. Fellowship directors advertising in the ICPI Directory of Pathology Training Programs were asked to indicate whether they would use the guidelines in their 2010/2011 application process. There were varying degrees of acceptance of the voluntary guidelines and the experiment to adopt voluntary guidelines was deemed unsuccessful. In January 2010, APC Council voted to move toward a formal NRMP fellowship match, using three Pathology subspecialties as 'test' cases – cytopathology, hematopathology, and transfusion medicine. Assuming questions and concerns can be addressed, APC aims to sponsor all Pathology fellowship matches through NRMP, and will complete a match for 2012 training in January 2011.

Public Advocacy: In 2006, APC launched a public advocacy program and established a committee, which meets monthly to discuss issues of importance within their departments and among other Pathology societies on whose committees they serve. The APC Advocacy Committee views its role as bridging interests throughout the Pathology community and providing academic expertise and leadership to issues, particularly when it is strategically useful to academic Pathology and to Pathology as a whole. Several of the issues currently active on the Committee's agenda include: developing Pathology's role in the newly legislated health information technology agenda and in health care reform (medical homes and other models); monitoring regulatory affairs and payment issues (in concert with CAP's Economic Affairs Committee and AMP's Professional Relations and Coding Committees); standing in support of other organizations against gene patenting; and surveying the APC membership on general practice management and research standards biennially.