

THE ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGY CHAIRS

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Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council

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Submitted by Peter Jensen, MD, President

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. Peter E. Jensen. 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 was held in Seattle, Washington from July 14-16. The next annual meeting will be in Monterey, CA, July 13-15, 2011. The APC's annual meetings have been 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. The upcoming meeting will have a major focus on personalized and genomic medicine.

AMG: 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 was to create funding opportunities for each Standing Committee to work with academic departments to develop materials of benefit and interest to the broader academic pathology community.

Pathology Fellowship Guidelines or Match: The goal of creating and instituting uniform guidelines for accepting pathology fellowship applications and making candidate offers using a standard application and schedule of events remains an important work-in-progress. In 2010, APC Council moved forward with a planning process directed toward establishing a formal NRMP fellowship match for pathology subspecialties with an initial matriculation year of 2013. However, considerable ongoing efforts are being made to engage all stakeholders in the discussion to find an effective consensus path to improve the process for filling fellowship positions.

Public Advocacy: The APC Advocacy Committee continues to be very active, meeting monthly to discuss issues of importance to pathology and the academic community. The committee has broad cross-representation in various pathology organizations, and it continues to work towards bridging interests throughout the Pathology community, while providing academic expertise and leadership to issues, particularly when it is strategically important for academic Pathology and Pathology as a whole. Issues currently active on the Committee's agenda include: enhancing Pathology's role in the mass-implementation of health information technology resulting from the Affordable Healthcare Act, developing formal opportunities for pathology subspecialty training in informatics, staying up-to-date on the impact of evolving health care delivery and payment models on academic Pathology practice, assessing the status of funding for research and education, and monitoring regulatory and payment concerns in molecular pathology.