AMERICAN SOCIETY OF Cytopathology

Saving Lives One Cell at a Time™

ANNUAL REPORT
February 2018

The ASC, founded in 1951, is a distinguished national professional society of physicians, cytotechnologists and scientists who are dedicated to the cytologic method of screening and diagnosis of pre-invasive lesions and cancer. The ASC's diverse membership of more than 3000 physicians, cytotechnologists and scientists includes representatives from other countries who share a vision of education, research and continuous improvement in the standards and quality of patient care.

ASC Vision Statement:
Saving Lives One Cell at a Time through: • *Education* • *Advocacy* • *Research* • *Teamwork*

ASC Mission Statement:
The ASC promotes education, research advocacy, and ethics by the cytopathology professionals to achieve the best healthcare worldwide.

The ***new ASC Officers*** were installed on November 12, 2017 during the ASC's 65th Annual Business Meeting as follows, Dr. Barbara Crothers, President, Joint Pathology Center, Washington, DC, Dr. Syed Ali, President-Elect, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Daniel Kurtycz, Vice President, Wisconsin State Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin and Dr. Michael Henry, Secretary-Treasurer, Mayo Clinic and Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota.

Foundation Young Investigator Grant – Cytology Shark Tank
The ASC will be offering again this year the ASC Foundation Young Investigator Grant. The Grant consists of $50,000 and is designed to fund investigators in the discovery of new knowledge related to the advancement of cytopathology.

Grant Objectives
- To stimulate innovative research relevant to the field of cytopathology
- To impact academic and career development of all investigators and to attract them to contribute to the field of cytopathology
- To provide preliminary data for future funds from NIH and other funding sources.

The top three proposals will be asked to present their proposals to three judges during the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC. Each finalist will present a three minute "pitch" on their research proposal. At the end of the pitch, the judges will have an opportunity to ask questions. The Researchers who dare to enter the Tank must try to convince the "Sharks" to give them funding for their research. The 2017 recipient was **Dr. Vivian Weiss** from Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville on *The Use of Next Generation Sequencing to Identify the Molecular and Immunologic Mechanisms of Thyroid Cancer Invasion to Develop Improved FNA-based Testing.*

The Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Cytopathology - The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) and the International Academy of Cytology (IAC) initiated the development of a standardized terminology for reporting salivary gland cytopathology. The goal of this project is to propose an international classification scheme for reporting salivary gland (fine needle aspiration) FNA samples. The new reporting system will be based upon evidence from the literature as well as upon the experience of a multi-disciplinary group of experts involved in the field of salivary gland cytopathology, and importantly, from input by the cytopathology community. The publication is now available.

Cytopathology Education and Technology Consortium (CETC)

The CETC is an independent consortium of professional organizations involved in diagnostic cytopathology. The member organizations are the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT), the International Academy of Cytology (IAC) and the Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology (PSC). The representatives from each of the organizations are nationally recognized members of the cytopathology community.

The CETC developed a response to the **New USPSTF Draft Guidelines for Cervical Cancer Screening.**

The comments from the CETC recommend that:

1. Cytology and high risk HPV co-testing be retained as a screening strategy for women aged 30-65 years.
2. Primary HPV only screening should be utilized only with testing platform(s) validated for that purpose and approved by the FDA.
3. Any Primary HPV screening method should be applied every three years until there is more longitudinal data applicable to the U.S. screening population.

CMS proposal for restrictions to reimbursement for Next-Generation Sequencing

Collaboration with AMP on response to CMS regarding proposed decision on Next Gen Sequencing and companion diagnostics.

ISSUES:

- Reimbursement for NGS linked to a companion therapeutic drug
- Discourages research and development at academic hospitals/ laboratories working closely with clinical colleagues to develop new clinically-relevant testing
- Restricts testing to advanced disease stages (recurrent, metastatic or Stage IV) when earlier intervention might be curable with targeted therapy based on NGS
- May force laboratories to purchase multiple platforms for companion diagnostic/therapeutics due to requirement for FDA-approved platforms
- Requires “an FDA-approved report of test results” that “specifies FDA-indicated treatment options”; the FDA does not regulate clinical practice of medicine, and a pathology report/ decision regarding treatment options fall under the practice of medicine and may not be regulated by the FDA
- Requires patient enrollment into a national registry- a potential invasion of privacy and choice as well as coercive to a vulnerable population (sick people)

- Who is interpreting the results? Pathologists generally interpret the results for clinicians, who have no understanding of the results of NGS. This is the most time intensive part of NGS and must be reimbursable as a professional component.
- This restriction encourages corporate laboratory monopolies and consolidated testing without personalization necessary to patient care

FDA Public Workshop on Self-collected Paps.

The FDA sponsored a public workshop entitled "Self-Collection Devices for Pap Test" on January 11, 2018 and invited the ASC to contribute speakers and panelists to address issues around cervical cancer screening. Drs. Barbara Crothers, Paul Staats and Dorothy Rosenthal represented the ASC and gave short presentations on the "Current State of Cervical Cancer Screening: Impact of Self-Collection Devices". While the introduction of self-collection devices for Pap tests has the potential of improving screening among underserved and unscreened women, the primary concern of the ASC is that women who are currently visiting clinicians for screening will "opt in" to self-screening with the unintended outcome of increased cervical cancer rates. Other issues with self-collection devices are:

- Poor representation of cervical-endocervical junction for cytology interpretation
- Chemical hazards of preservation media for patients and shipping restrictions
- Reporting- to the patient? Duty to follow up abnormals by laboratories? Patient comprehension of report results?
- Requires a system of care (national registry) to ensure treatment and reimbursement for treatment- US is an opportunistic screening environment
- False negatives/ false positives with HPV tests

CLIA '88.

CMS is requesting information related to CLIA. Our Government Affairs Committee will be developing a list of five to ten issues to submit for the public comment period.

ASC/ASCP Workgroup: *Emerging Roles in Cytopathology*

ASC/ASCP Workgroup: *Emerging Roles in Cytopathology* was created in 2014 through the ASC/ASCP MOU to identify professional trends and develop concrete goals to support the cytotechnology profession's longevity. The ASC/ASCP Workgroup hosted a QA session during the annual meeting for participants to ask questions about changing scope of practice, the proposed Mid-Level Pathology Practitioner (MLPP) and the change to transition all Cytotechnology Training Programs to master's degree level. Publications will be forthcoming in both ASC and ASCP publications to inform and update on three domains, education, practice and trending data. The Workgroup is publishing data found through conducting Focus Groups, a Delphi Study, researching existing publications, and ASCP BOC Practice Analysis data.

The Workgroup is developing educational models hosted by ASC to provide resources for current cytotechnologists in the field. The first module is on Rapid On-site Evaluation (ROSE).

Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

The Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC) reviews Cytotechnology Training Programs and makes accreditation recommendations to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education

Programs (CAAHEP). The CPRC is sponsored by the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT), and the College of American Pathologists (CAP). At present, there are 24 accredited Cytotechnology training programs in the United States and Puerto Rico. There are 8 certificate-only Programs, 8 degree-only Programs, and 9 certificate and degree Programs. As of 2017, there are 5 Masters Programs with another to begin in 2018. Information submitted by the 24 Programs for the most recent graduating class (2016-2017) is as follows:

- Total # of Student Places Available 180
- Total # of Student Places Filled 122 (67.8%)
- Total # of Student Places NOT Filled 58 (32.2%)

While the number of programs has decreased, satellite sites and distant learning/online education have become more prevalent. The Cytotechnology Program at the University of Nebraska has 5 satellite sites with plans for 6 more satellite sites in the near future. Additionally, this program has developed an "anytime/ anywhere" education option, which is a distant learning program. The CPRC continues to focus on "phase II entry-level competencies" and collecting data as part of the process of moving 3 different levels of education to a Masters level curriculum. Fitting the current robust curriculum into the current academic structure is difficult; realistically, most programs are educating their students at Masters level in bachelor and certificate programs. With the requirement to begin revision of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology* in 2018, the CPRC expects an active year with significant feedback from communities of interest.

Guideline on Collection and Test Prioritization in Pulmonary Cytology Specimens

The Appropriate Collection and Handling of Thoracic Specimens for Laboratory Testing (Thoracic Handling Guideline) is a project involving eight collaborating societies: the American College of Chest Physicians, Association for Molecular Pathology, American Society of Cytopathology, American Thoracic Society, Pulmonary Society, Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology, Society of Interventional Radiology, and the Society for Thoracic Radiology. Each society is providing representatives for the expert and advisory panels. The guideline will focus on proper specimen collection, processing, and appropriate selection of immunohistochemical, microbiologic, and molecular tests in thoracic specimens under specific circumstances.

EDUCATION

Celebrating "65 years of quality education," the ASC conducts its education programs through national annual conferences, supplemented by a distance learning webinar series and enduring materials. The programmatic format has provided for scientific sessions, special lectures, cytology workshops, panel luncheon seminars, and platform and poster sessions.

CytoCE Center

The **CytoCE Center**, introduced in 2017, is an exciting new tool to access ASC educational activities. A variety of course topics and formats are searchable via the **CytoCE Center** Course Catalog and are available to both members and non-members.

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66th Annual Scientific Meeting

The 66th Annual Scientific Meeting is being held November 10-13, 2018 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The Scientific Program Committee is currently putting together a program that includes the popular Diagnostic Cytology Seminar moderated by Dr. Charles Sturgis; the Current Issues in Cytology; the State of the Art Symposium, and much more. Call for abstracts in now open. More information on our Meeting can be viewed on the ASC Website www.cytopathology.org .

Advanced Cytopathology Education: Personalized for Your Future

The 2018 Advanced Cytopathology Education (ACE) meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Society for Cytotechnology meeting in Salt Lake City, May 5-6, 2018.

ACE, at its core, is structured to bring advanced cytopathology topics to regional areas based on current and emerging needs. The two-day educational program, designed by the ASC-ASCP Workgroup, was created to assist cytotechnologists in transitioning into other practice areas by refining, expanding and strengthening their skills.

Cyto-econference Series

New Series starts April 26th with *NIFTP: Key Concepts Regarding Cytology, Surgical Pathology, Molecular Testing and Clinical Practice,* by *Dr. Paul Ohori, UPMC – Presbyterin, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* More information can be found on the ASC Website, www.cytopathology.org

eJournal Club

The ASC offers at online pathology journal club. This is a great educational tool that highlights a recent article from a respected peer-reviewed journal. The *eJournal Club* is free educational activity to all ASC members. More information can be found on the ASC Web site, www.cytopathology.org

Case Studies

Case Studies provide an opportunity to make diagnostic decisions and compare them with nationally known experts. More information can be found on the ASC Web site, www.cytopathology.org

Progressive Evaluation of Competency (PEC)

PEC is a highly successful ASC product that tracks the progress of pathology residents and cytopathology fellows and their overall competency as they begin their cytopathology careers. More information can be found on the ASC Web site, www.cytopathology.org

Cytology Education Learning Lab (CELL Web site) (http://cytologyedlab.org/)

The Cytology Education Learning Lab (CELL) Web site was originally developed as a "one-stop shop" for Cytotechnology Program Directors looking for ideas, activities, and other resources to help with implementation of the 22 new entry-level competencies (ELCs) into their curricula, the interest in the site has been much wider than anticipated. A significant percentage of CELL registrants are international users. With international education as well as national consortium module building and scope of

practice changes in mind, the CELL Resource Committee is considering an expanded vision for the future of the site including more resources for a wider audience, well beyond the original 22 ELCs.

Cell Talks

The ACGME Milestones are a set of competency-based developmental outcomes to be progressively demonstrated by residents and fellows throughout their training. The Cytopathology Program Directors Committee (CPDC) initiated a series of online learning modules to help residents and fellows achieve Milestones within cytopathology. These online learning modules, known as “Cell Talks,” teach residents and fellows about topics in cytopathology and are used to document progression in achieving competency. Similar learning modules have already been proven effective for communicating morphologic and diagnostic information to pathology trainees (Mills, 2014).