



CAP President Gene N. Herbek, MD, FCAP | March 2015

The College of American Pathologists (CAP), the leading organization of board-certified pathologists, serves patients, pathologists, and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide.

LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

The CAP provides meaningful connections for better patient care. We partner with laboratories to provide a comprehensive view of the laboratory quality process with insight, knowledge, and peer-based educational coaching. Our resources include proven quality management solutions that guide laboratories through every step in their quality improvement journey. Backed by the scientific expertise and commitment of the world's largest board-certified pathologist organization, the CAP partnership fosters collaboration and builds confidence that laboratories deliver the most reliable test results to ensure accurate patient diagnoses and treatment.

Now there is a performance monitoring program for all instruments. CAP Quality Cross Check is a new quality assurance program that helps laboratories to verify the performance of their instruments. Designed by experts, this program serves as a comprehensive solution for monitoring all instruments on a more routine basis. CAP Quality Cross Check is an easy-to-use program that offers a turnkey solution for support and assurance about the accuracy of patient testing.

CAP Accreditation

Worldwide the CAP accredits more than 7,600 laboratories, including hospitals as well as commercial laboratories, contract research organizations, and biorepositories, with growth outside of the United States accelerating.

The goal of the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is to improve patient safety by advancing the quality of pathology and laboratory services through education, standard setting, and ensuring laboratories meet or exceed regulatory requirements. The program incorporates the most stringent requirements while also providing laboratories the road map and tools to achieve these requirements, bringing value to patients, physicians, and providers.

The CAP's Laboratory Accreditation Program is more than 50 years old, and its other laboratory improvement programs have diversified over the years to include:

- Biorepositories
- Forensic drug testing
- Reproductive laboratories (in partnership with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine)
- International Organizations for Standardization (ISO) 15189SM

Proficiency Testing (Surveys and EXCEL®)

The CAP provides comprehensive programs and services to help laboratories consistently deliver accurate test results, monitor overall performance, and increase and sharpen staff skills with 41 new Surveys programs. The CAP's Surveys are the collective of PT and quality assurance programs designed for laboratories to meet regulatory compliance and provide a comprehensive view of their laboratory quality process. Through these programs, the CAP provides insight, knowledge, and peer-based educational coaching to assist in the detection and mitigation of performance issues before impacting patient care. These cutting-edge programs are built and supported by the scientific expertise and commitment of the world's largest board-certified pathologist organization. Laboratories leverage this global collaboration and partnership to ensure delivery of the most reliable test results to ensure accurate patient diagnoses.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET EXPANSION

International laboratories pursue CAP accreditation to be globally recognized and regionally differentiated—and, most importantly, to improve the quality of results they provide to the ordering physicians/caregivers and the quality of care they provide to their patients. The CAP is the laboratory's partner in quality and an expert resource for those laboratories seeking a ranking among the best—both from an institution level as well as from individuals who are leading quality in their communities.

The CAP accredits more than 360 international laboratories in more than 50 countries. More than 2,800 laboratories in more than 100 countries beyond the United States participate in the CAP's proficiency testing (PT)/external quality assurance programs.

As the CAP grows internationally, it takes seriously and has heightened the importance of ensuring ongoing compliance to quality requirements. For laboratories pursuing CAP accreditation, use of CAP PT is the first step in the journey to improve and sustain laboratory quality.

CAP LEARNING

As an internationally recognized leader in laboratory and quality improvement, the CAP offers pathologists and laboratory professionals around the globe convenient, online learning opportunities. Most of the CAP's online courses carry *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Many international credentialing and accrediting bodies recognize these credits.

Some of the CAP's most popular online learning courses are:

- Virtual Biopsy Program (VBP) Online Education
- Factors of Breast Conservation
- Digital Slide Program in Dermatopathology (DPATH) Online Education
- Lobular Carcinoma in Situ Variants in Breast Cores
- Diagnosing and Classifying Hyperplasia, Atypical Hyperplasia & Low-Grade DCIS
- Understanding Breast Imaging Terminology

The CAP online inspector training program helps pathologists across the globe stay current on updates to the CAP's accreditation programs and gain the most from CAP inspections. The College also offers online biorepository inspection training.

Learning in Genomics and Informatics

The Practical Genomics for the Practicing Pathologist Webinar Series heightens pathologists' awareness of emerging professional opportunities and provides them with the means to address workplace challenges by incorporating critical elements of genomic analysis and testing into routine clinical procedures.

Through online courses and interactive CME webinars on the topic of informatics, the College provides pathologists with the opportunity to learn new skills and increase knowledge in informatics and to recognize the utility of informatics in clinical practice.

Personalized Health Care Webinars

To help pathologists across the globe prepare for new roles and emerging technologies, the CAP offers a series of webinars on personalized health care. The webinars provide pathologists the opportunity to learn from the leading experts on cutting-edge topics, such as genomic analysis, next-generation sequencing, and pediatric genomics. The on-demand webinars offer pathologists the convenience to listen to the webinars live or as a recording. A schedule of upcoming webinars is available on cap.org.

CAP '15 – THE Pathologists' Meeting™

CAP Learning also develops and coordinates the education program at the College's annual meeting. The College's annual meeting, CAP '15 – THE Pathologists' Meeting™, will be held on October 4–7, 2015, at the Gaylord Opryland, in Nashville, Tennessee. The CAP Abstracts Program kicked off on February 9, 2015.

CAP POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The College's high-level strategic policy and advocacy priorities are:

- Mitigate cuts to pathology payments
- Ensure pathologists can comply with the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) value-based payment models
- Ensure a level playing field against unfair competition
- Protect pathologists scope of practice
- Protect funding for GME
- Sustain a favorable laboratory regulatory environment
- Conduct socioeconomic research to inform our public policy agenda
- Mobilize CAP members for grassroots action

In summary, the College works to sustain and advance the specialty by influencing public policy.

State Affairs

On the state level, the CAP represents the interests of pathologists by actively working with state pathology societies. Over the last several years, the CAP has undertaken substantial legislative and regulatory advocacy in more than three dozen states, helping craft laws and regulations that help protect the profession against economic and practice challenges. In addition, the CAP, partnering with state pathology societies, has been successful in advocating enactment of direct billing/anti-markup /disclosure laws that now regulate anatomic pathology billing for more than 75% of the United States population.

PathPAC and PathNET

PathPAC, the CAP's political action committee, pools voluntary contributions of pathologists across the country to support candidates for elected office who demonstrate their responsiveness to the concerns of our profession. The Pathology Advocacy Network (PathNET), the College's grassroots program for members, facilitates the building of personal relationships between pathologists and Congress.

The College's Advocacy office—by making the voices of members and the profession heard—continues to build new relationships and strengthen existing partnerships in the public and private sectors, on both the state and national level, with the key decision makers to shape the present and future of pathology.

CAP Policy Meeting

The CAP's annual policy meeting and national lobby day in the spring has become a premier event for CAP members to actively participate in grassroots advocacy efforts and speak directly with top policymakers, including their Congressional representatives. The 2015 CAP Policy Meeting will be held May 4–6, in Washington, DC.

CAP GUIDELINES

The CAP develops evidence-based guidelines to improve and standardize laboratory practices that ultimately affect patients' outcomes positively. The CAP partners with other organizations, such as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), and others to achieve these outcomes. The CAP is committed to updating guidelines as new evidence becomes available, as is the case with the current revision of Molecular Testing Guidelines for the Selection of Lung Cancer Patients, which was originally developed with partners AMP and IASLC in 2013 and endorsed by ASCO in 2014.

To date, the CAP has published seven evidence-based guidelines, and the upcoming joint guideline with National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) on Uniform Labeling of Blocks and Slides in Surgical Pathology is currently in press with *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*.

The CAP continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on its collaborative agreement grant to improve the adoption of evidence-based laboratory practice guidelines over the next four years. Pathologists can take the lead by integrating these evidence-based guidelines into their practices, according to their country's regulations.

MEMBERSHIP AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The CAP serves more than 18,000 board-certified pathologist members. Recent offerings include:

Value Based Business Center

The CAP offers the Value Based Business Center, the first business management solution designed to help pathology practices as health care transitions to a new value-based payment system. Easy-to-use guides, surveys, and workbooks are available to leverage internal data and market

research to plan for and implement this shift. The toolkit is divided into three sections:

- Gather Data
- Make Decisions
- Pursue Opportunities

Practices that adapt early will reap the greatest rewards. All of the toolkits in the Value-Based Business Center are available free of charge to all CAP members at cap.org/practice management.

CAPconnect

CAPconnect is the College's members-only, online community that serves as a source for connecting and sharing knowledge with peers. Members can discuss and collaborate in a secure online environment on topics such as diagnostics, practice management, emerging technologies, and health care trends. By joining the discussion, members can stay informed on professional issues using real-time tools, including online groups, blogs, and discussion forums.

CAPconnect provides members an opportunity to network and get feedback on difficult cases or professional challenges. The CAP encourages participants to share and contribute their point of view in this safe environment by joining at community.cap.org.

CAP BRAND REINVIGORATION

In January 2015, the CAP introduced a fresh, contemporary new look that positions the CAP, its members, customers, and employees as an integral part of the health care community to advance pathology. It's dynamic while representing the promise that a combined strength benefits patients, physicians, health care systems, and the public because people are healthier when cared for by pathology and laboratory medicine. The CAP's reinvigorated brand can be seen on the CAP's new website at cap.org.

CAP FOUNDATION

The CAP Foundation is the CAP's philanthropic, humanitarian arm. Uniquely, it brings the pathologist's expertise to patients in need, and it funds grants and awards that help ensure pathologists are prepared to meet the specialty's challenges.

See, Test & Treat® is the Foundation's flagship humanitarian program. Through the program's grants, CAP member pathologists lead coordination and delivery of free, same-day cervical and breast cancer screening for vulnerable women across the US, women with limited or no access to preventive health care. The CAP Foundation is scheduled to fund 10 or more of these screenings in 2015. Ongoing CAP Foundation support and donations are essential now to ensure that we can connect more pathologists to patients in need. Donating online is easy at cap.org, under the Get Involved tab.

OFFICIAL CAP PUBLICATIONS

CAP TODAY, the College's monthly news magazine, enjoys the highest readership among all laboratory publications. Each issue reports medical, industry, and business news to more than 50,000 laboratory professionals. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine* is the College's award-winning, peer-reviewed, scientific journal giving editorial focus to the introduction and evaluation of new knowledge and technology. *STATLINE* is a weekly electronic newsletter designed to keep members informed of new legislative and regulatory developments as they happen, serving as the first word on the public policy issues facing CAP members.

FUTURE MEETINGS—SAVE THE DATE

- 2015 CAP Policy Meeting: May 4–6, Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC
- CAP '15 – THE Pathologists' Meeting™: October 4–7, Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, Tennessee