

**Canadian Association of Pathologists –
Association canadienne des pathologistes**

2015 Annual Progress Report to Intersociety Pathology Council

March 13, 2016, USCAP, Seattle, WA

Founded in 1949, the Canadian Association of Pathologists – Association canadienne des pathologistes (CAP-ACP) is the voice of pathology and laboratory medicine in Canada, advancing the interests of laboratory physicians across the country.

In 2015 our four major areas of focus were again continuing education programs; national guideline development; collaboration and partnership; and advocacy on behalf of Canadian pathologists and the profession.

Education

- Our 2015 [Annual Meeting](#) the Canadian Laboratory Medicinal Congress on June 20-24 was held at the Westin Montreal Hotel in Montreal, Canada. This was a joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) (Historically, we meet jointly every 4 years). The congress featured a multi-disciplinary scientific program, renowned guest speakers, an extensive two-day trade show and a great social program. It was a unique opportunity to update skills and knowledge and to network with medical laboratory professionals from a variety of disciplines. The Annual General Meeting for each of the two participating associations was also held during this Congress. The congress was a great success with over 700 registrants. In addition to scientific symposia and meetings of special interest groups, we had specialty workshops, platform presentations, and a large poster session. Corporate support was very generous for this meeting resulting in a net surplus.
- **CPD & SAMs.** The CAP-ACP has a small selection of online CPD courses and in partnership with the College of American Pathologists and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, provides access to over 60 self-assessment modules (SAMs).
- Our [2015 Resident Review Course](#) was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Toronto Airport West in Mississauga, January 15-17. This is a three-day practical review course for Residents; in preparation for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification examinations in Anatomic Pathology, General Pathology, and Hematological Pathology.
- [The Canadian Journal of Pathology](#) appointed a new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. George Yousef, of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto and is managed by our Executive Director, Heather Dow.
- **Webinars.** In collaboration with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Cancer Care Ontario, the CAP-ACP will present a new series of cancer checklist education sessions by webinar starting in 2016.

- [ExpertPath](#) The CAP-ACP is offering its Resident and PA members a discounted license to ExpertPath.
- [Case of the Month](#). The Pathologists' Assistants Continuing Education Committee (PA CEC) posts "Case of the Month" presentations and invites section members to download and review the cases. The Education Committee is responsible to look into continuing education requirements for section members, to obtain information on existing and developing PA programs in Canada and to make the arrangements for the annual general meeting conference.

Guideline Development

- The [Guidelines page](#) on our website continues to be reviewed and updated. Guidelines can also be found on the Patient Safety and Quality Assurance and on the Cytopathology section pages.
- [Position Statement on Pathologists' Assistants](#). The CAP-ACP recognizes that there is a role and a need for appropriately trained and certified non-medical personnel (Pathologists' Assistants (PAs) to assist pathologists in the preparation and examination of tissues in the setting of surgical and autopsy pathology. This delegation of responsibilities is similar to that given to other physician extenders, such as physician assistants.
- [Bylaws](#). The CAP-ACP Bylaws were revised to add a third member-at-large to the Executive, inclusion of the Pathologists' Assistants Section in article 19, addition of three new voting members to the Executive in article 44 and 46, renaming "Association Manager" to "Executive Director" in article 53, quorum in article 63, electronic vote in articles 64, 69 and 73 and standing Committee in article 76
- **Certification of Pathologists Assistants**. The Pathologists' Assistants Section of the CAP-ACP has requested that CAP-ACP certify Pathologists' Assistants who meet certain criteria. We are working through the ISO standards application process and fully support this initiative.

Collaboration and Partnership

- **Choosing Wisely Canada:** The CAP-ACP was one of twelve specialty societies participating in the Wave 2 release of Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations on October 29, 2014. After careful consideration of the latest evidence, expert opinions and research, our list of recommendations was developed in conjunction with the Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine Laboratory (CLCLM) Utilization Subcommittee, under the joint leadership of the President of the CAP-ACP and the President of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC). The joint committee solicited review and input on these recommendations from the various subspecialty groups in laboratory medicine. The CAP-ACP recommendations can be found on the website.
- **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer:** Collaboration continues on two national initiatives (1) Electronic Synoptic Pathology Reporting Initiative (ESPRI) and (2) Quality Initiative in Interpretative Pathology (QIIP)-

development of guidelines for interpretative pathology and second opinion.

- **International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR):** CAP-ACP is a founding member of this collaboration along with RCPA, RCPATH, CAP, and ESP. ICCR was legally incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in September 2014.
- **International Liaison of Pathology Presidents.** The International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (ILPP) brings together Presidents, Presidents-Elect and Chief Executive Officers (or their representative) of Pathology Colleges or Associations worldwide to meet face to face annually to exchange information and discuss common issues related to pathology. The ILPP met with the British Division of the IAP in Dublin, Ireland on Thursday, June 25 to Saturday, June 27, 2015. Present were 16 Presidents, Vice Presidents, Executive Directors or CEOs from pathology associations around the globe.
- **Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine (CLCLM).** The CLCLM met during Annual Meeting in Montreal on June 22, 2015. They now have a forward reaching goal of being in alignment and/or harmonizing the CLCLM membership with the CAP-ACP Council. Efforts will be made to reach out to the member organizations, who do not currently have a representative on the Council, in order to make the Council more robust. In light of the recent discussions in the Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC) projects on how residents better choose their specialty, Dr. Ken Harris Executive Director, Specialty Education has agreed to contact the Chairs of the six pathology Royal College specialty committees to discuss a potential for a common entry pathway.
- **College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).** Dr. Gene Herbek, President of the CAP (now past president) and Dr. William Schreiber, Vice-President of the ASCP were our guests during the Annual Meeting in Montreal. Both joined our business meetings, (Council and Executive) offering their perspectives on the agenda items. We appreciate and value the collaborative efforts among our partner associations.

Advocacy/Public Relations

- **MyPathologist.ca.** MyPathologist.ca, our public relations website, launched on August 12, 2014. The goal of MyPathologist.ca is to identify and personalize pathologists and to elevate our role as an important member of a patient's health care team. CAP-ACP has committed \$75,000 to MyPathologist.ca over three years, but we continue to pursue support from corporate partners so that we can take this initiative to the next level.
- **Website.** Our new website at www.cap-acp.org launched on November 13, 2014. The new site is much easier to navigate and we updated information and links on almost all website pages. The Members Only section of the site, contains archival material, CPD modules, recent journal publications, member registration systems and discussion boards.

- **Social Media.** CAP-ACP and the CAPACP President have active engagement on the social media platforms LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter
- **International Pathology Day.** The CAP-ACP participated, primarily through social media channels, in International Pathology Day on November 18, 2015.
- **[Newsletter](#).** We continue to publish a Newsletter every 2 months highlighting our four major areas of focus.

*Victor Tron MD, FRCPC
President, Canadian Association of
Pathologists March 4, 2016*