Association for Academic Pathology

Improving Health through Diagnosis, Education & Discovery

AAPath E-News: September 2026

Important Updates from the AAPath...

- Winter Executive Leadership Meeting for Chairs and Administrators – *Register by Dec. 1*
- AAPath Compensation Benchmarking – *See What's New and Learn How to Access*
- Membership Renewal Season Underway – *Renew by Dec. 31*
- Get the Latest Advocacy Update from the Deputy Director
- AAPath Member Recognition
- Nominate a Deserving Colleague for a 2027 Member Award – *Nominations Due Dec. 31*
- Fundamentals of Effective Health Science Education – *Apply by Oct. 19*
- Society of '67 Trainee Project Grants – *Letters of Intent Due Oct. 12*
- Support the Society of '67 – *Donate Today!*
- Connect Your Chief Residents with Peers Nationwide
- What's New in *Academic Pathology*?
- Join Upcoming Virtual Events & Access Past Recordings
- Thanks to the AAPath 2026 Sponsor!

AAPath 2027 Winter Executive Leadership Meeting

WINTER EXECUTIVE
LEADERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 15–18, 2027
TERRANEA RESORT
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA

AAPath 2027 Winter Executive Leadership Meeting

For Department Chairs and Administrators

January 15-18, 2027 | Terranea Resort, Palos Verdes, CA

Registration is NOW OPEN through Dec. 1, and space is limited!

Formerly known as the "Consolidated Regional Meeting" of AAPath's four regions (West, Midwest, South, and Northeast), the AAPath is pleased to debut the **AAPath 2027 Winter Executive Leadership Meeting for Department Chairs and Administrators on January 15-18, 2027.** We are returning to the Terranea Resort in Palos Verdes, California (southwest of Los Angeles and west of Long Beach)!

The AAPath Winter Executive Leadership Meeting brings together pathology Chairs, Administrators, and one designated departmental representative (Vice Chair or another APEX member) for a weekend of networking and strategic discussion. This in-person meeting features both large and small group discussions, along with optional recreational and wellness activities, to foster a dynamic, engaging environment for strategic and productive conversations.

The theme for this meeting is Workforce Development as it relates to the core mission areas of academic departments: practice, research, and education. Topics and speakers/moderators are crowd-sourced from registrant input.

Registration is **$1,150** per attendee, with a **$500** guest option, and **closes December 1, 2026**. Seating is limited, and a waitlist will open once the **first 100 seats** are filled. For eligibility, the full schedule, and registration and cancellation details, visit: www.academicpathology.org/WELM

Register Today

AAPath Compensation Benchmarking Survey

AAPath Compensation Benchmarking Survey

See What's New and Learn How to Access

As a member-only benefit, this study is designed to produce comparative regional and national data to assist members in recruitment, retention, and discussions with institutional leadership.

There are many ways to customize interrogation of the data (i.e., year-over-year or by region or faculty type), using the system's reporting and selection features. Also, in the "Key Stats" tab, located at the entry point of both the Faculty and Administrator surveys, there are several graphics depicting sample comparisons of data shifts from 2022 to 2025.

Discover a completely upgraded benchmarking experience that's both more visual and accessible, while still powered by our automated reporting tools. The survey has been fully redesigned with a modern user interface, delivering clearer, more actionable insights that are easier to understand, interpret, and put into practice.
See what's new and access 2025 data at: apc.dynamicbenchmarking.com

Not a 2025 participant? Your department can purchase access to four years of aggregate benchmarking data for **$500**, valid through March 31, 2027. We kindly ask that you please complete this brief online form so that we may process your request: www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAPathBenchmarking-purchase-access

Coming soon: The next data collection period runs November 2026 through March 2027. To prepare, watch our past webinars (Note: past virtual events require member-login to access):

- **Tips & Tricks on Using the Platform from the AAPath 2025 Compensation Benchmarking Survey (9/1/2026)**
- **AAPath Compensation Survey – How does it help me? Insights and Leverage (10/30/2025)**

Questions? Contact us at info@academicpathology.org

AAPath Membership Renewals

2027 AAPath Membership Renewals

Renew your membership by December 31, 2026!

The 2027 AAPath membership renewal season is now underway! Designated department representatives have been emailed renewal instructions – please review your dues invoice and ensure your membership roster is up to date. You can update your roster any time of year using the instructions and FAQs at: www.academicpathology.org/membership-updates.

Thank you for being valued members of AAPath! Departmental dues provide access to education, training, resources, networking, and members-only Section listservs for:

- Chairs and chiefs (through the Chairs Section)
- Residency program directors (through PRODS)
- Medical student educators (through UMEDS)
- Department executive administrators (through APEX)
- GME program coordinators and administrators (through GMEAS)
- Other professionals in our academic affinity groups

Faculty and staff not currently part of an AAPath Section or Affinity Group may be eligible for General Membership, renewable annually on their membership anniversary.

To learn more about the important work of AAPath's Sections, Committees, Working Groups, Editors of AAPath's journal Academic Pathology, the Society of '67, and the Academy of Distinguished Pathology Educators, please visit our website: www.academicpathology.org

Questions about renewals, rosters, or General Membership?
Please contact: info@academicpathology.org

We hope you enjoy the community and the other benefits of AAPath membership, as we strive to better serve and represent you each year!

Advocacy Update

Advocacy Update

From the desk of AAPath's Deputy Director, Lydia P. Howell, MD

Over the past several months, there has been a marked increase in the use of Requests for Information (RFI) by the federal **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).**

In September, the **Association of Academic Pathology (AAPath) provided responses to RFIs pertinent to our membership,** including those impacting clinical lab standards, physician fee schedules and coding processes. Highlights of our responses are listed below:

Clinical Laboratory Regulations & CLIA (CMS/CDC): This RFI has a broad scope and solicits technical and operational feedback which may eventually be used to inform updates to the **Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)**. Input was requested on emergency preparedness, clinical cybersecurity, breath testing, and post-analytic Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration. AAPath provided responses on many standard lab practices as well as the following core recommendations:

- **Leverage Professional Guidelines:** Guidelines may be more appropriate for addressing specialized operational topics than rigid federal mandates.
- **Maintain Technological Agnosticism:** CLIA regulations should remain independent of specific technologies since the laboratory ecosystem is rapidly evolving.
- **Adopt an Iterative AI Strategy:** Artificial intelligence is changing too quickly for static regulation. AAPath encourages on-going monitoring of AI advances and applications with flexible regulations and recommendations that can be easily updated in an iterative fashion.

CPT Coding & Value-Based Care: In mid-September, AAPath submitted a response to a RFI from CMS exploring **systemic alternative approaches to valuing the AMA's CPT coding system**. This RFI was prompted in part by a state-level report from the **Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)** which drew attention to CPT codes which they deemed potentially misvalued based on analysis of their large database. Maryland and others have argued that the current CPT structure handles bundled payments and regional value-based care poorly.

- AAPath's response recommended caution in creating change and encouraged following established trusted methods via AMA-RUC. Our response emphasized the importance of stable academic pathology reimbursement and ensuring quality metrics reflect complex institutional care models. These views align closely with those of the College of American Pathologists.

Follow-up on previous Advocacy topics:

- **Immigration and Visas - Fixed-Term Policy Halted:** On September 14, 2026, the government's proposed fixed-term visa policy was placed on hold by the **U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts**. The injunction preserves the original **"duration of status"** pending further review or a final judgment on the merits of the proposed policy.
- **H-1B Fees and Fixed-Term Policies and H-1B Fee Extension:** On Friday, September 18, 2026, the administration issued a 12-month extension for the **$100,000 H-1B application fee** which had been mandated in Presidential Proclamation 10973. This extension will not take effect until the courts issue a final ruling regarding the fee itself.
- **"Politicizing" review of NIH grants:** New uniform guidelines for review of NIH grants have been proposed by the Office of Management and Budget and is widely opposed by the scientific community – including AAPath – because of involvement of political appointees in the decision process which could potentially override expert review. A court order has blocked this proposal.
- Two recent articles share interesting updates and ideas on next steps for federal grant award process:
  - A New York Times article published on September 20, 2026, describes a controversial new approach using an Executive Order that would establish an external committee for federal grant approval. Read the article at: www.nytimes.com/2026/09/20/science/nih-omb-grants-bhattacharya-vought.html
  - An excellent Perspectives article was published in JAMA on September 21, 2026, sharing views on appropriate roles of government versus scientific experts in review and includes suggestions on how to achieve patient-centeredness, accountability, trust, and performance. View the article at: jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2854263

We appreciate our members' interest and engagement with these important issues. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director Lydia Howell (lphowell@academicpathology.org) regarding any of the activities above or with ideas for new areas for the AAPath Advocacy Committee to consider.
We look forward to hearing from you!

AAPath Member Recognition

AAPath Member Recognition

AAPath seeks to highlight major member accomplishments in this Member Recognition section of the e-News, where we spotlight special announcements, such as advancement to national leadership positions, inductions into national academies, national and international awards, national press coverage, Chair retirements, new Chair appointments, and more! If you have an announcement that you would like to share, please contact the AAPath Office at info@academicpathology.org to let us know!

Chair Transitions – AAPath Welcomes New Chair Members!

For a complete listing of new Chair members, visit the AAPath website at:
www.academicpathology.org/new-chairs

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

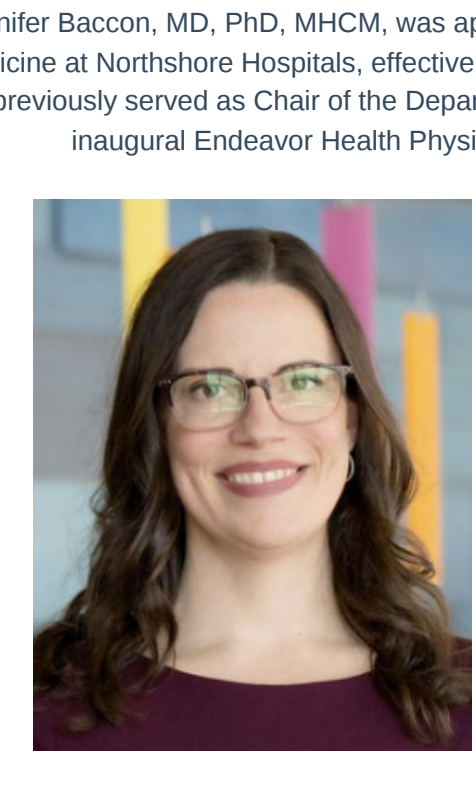
Aaron Tobian, MD, PhD, was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Pathology, effective September 1, 2026, succeeding Ralph Hruban, MD, who previously served as Chair of the Department since 2015.

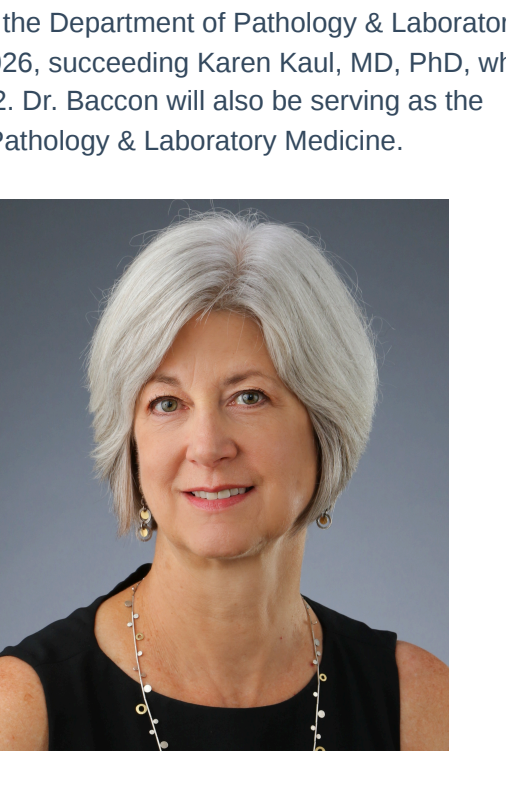
Aaron Tobian, MD, PhD

Ralph Hruban, MD

Endeavor Health / NorthShore Hospitals

Jennifer Baccon, MD, PhD, MHCM, was appointed Chair of the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at Northshore Hospitals, effective September 2, 2026, succeeding Karen Kaul, MD, PhD, who previously served as Chair of the Department since 2012. Dr. Baccon will also be serving as the inaugural Endeavor Health Physician Executive, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.


Jennifer Baccon, MD, PhD, MHCM


Karen Kaul, MD, PhD

Member Honors & Awards – Congratulations to our Members!

Robert Christian, MD, MS

Congratulations to **Robert Christian, MD, MS**, Assistant Professor and Associate Program Director at Oregon Health & Science University and a **Society of '67 Kinney Scholar Class of 2020** highlighted in our **Society of '67 Programs section** of this month's e-News, who is being **sponsored by the ABPath as a 2026-2027 American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Scholar**. Dr. Christian's research will examine the feasibility and effectiveness of a competency-based assessment tool designed to evaluate pathology resident performance across the full spectrum of hospital-based autopsy tasks and training milestones. Click here to view the full announcement.

Member Awards

Call for AAPath Member Award Nominations

Nominations are **NOW OPEN** for AAPath's 2027 Service Awards — help us recognize outstanding leaders and colleagues who make a difference in academic pathology. **Submit a nomination** by **December 31, 2026**.

AAPath annually honors leaders in academic pathology, past and present, through the following awards:

- Association for Academic Pathology Distinguished Service Award
- Margaret Grimes Distinguished Achievement Award in Graduate Medical Education
- Michele Raible Distinguished Achievement Award in Undergraduate Medical Education
- Academic Pathology Executives Section Distinguished Service Award
- Graduate Medical Education Administrators Section Distinguished Service Award

Visit the links above for eligibility criteria, past recipients, and the online nomination form. 2027 Award recipients will be honored at the **AAPath 2027 Annual Meeting**, July 18-21, 2027, in San Francisco, CA!

Considering a Chair, Program Director, Medical Educator, Department Administrator, or Program Coordinator? Email: awards@academicpathology.org — we're happy to answer questions and send reminders to help you meet the deadline.

Fundamentals Program

The AAPath Fundamentals of Effective Health Science Education Program Returns

The AAPath's Academy of Distinguished Pathology Educators is pleased to welcome applications for the **2027-2028 Class of Fundamentals of Effective Health Science Education Program**. The Fundamentals Program provides participants with a certificate-eligible program that enhances educator effectiveness and professional opportunities by providing focused essential knowledge and skills. This program is suitable for health science faculty at all levels of experience who seek professional development to enhance their effectiveness, enrich their knowledge and experience, and develop their career as a health science educator. AAPath membership is not a requirement to participate in this program. This program will admit a limited number of participants, so the application process is expected to be competitive.

Fundamentals of Effective Health Science Education Program elements include:

- Registration for two AAPath Annual Meetings, featuring an in-person interactive session at each Annual Meeting, exclusive to Academy Fundamentals participants.
- Bi-monthly (total eight) interactive sessions delivered remotely by Zoom and in-person covering various educational based topics
- Feedback through evaluations on written reflections for each session, helping participants deepen their understanding, reflect on their growth as educators, and translate new knowledge into meaningful practice.

The 2027-2028 Fundamentals Program participants will be selected from applications received by October 19, 2026. Please note, we have moved the application period to ensure all those who are accepted are notified before the 2027 Annual Meeting registration launches.

For further information about the program and how to apply, visit:
www.academicpathology.org/fundamentals-program

Society of '67 Programs

Society of '67

Society of '67 Trainee Project Grants

2027 Program Now Accepting Applications!

The Society of '67 Pathology Trainee Project Grants in Health Services Research and Education 2027 Program funds innovative research or education projects relevant to health services in pathology, including healthcare quality, cost, and access. Awards provide up to **$5,000** for one calendar year.
Grants are awarded for the following categories:

- **Research Project Grants** — To investigate a question and/or to develop a technology in pathology/lab medicine services that improves healthcare quality, cost, or access.
- **Education Project Grants** — To develop an educational program or offering in pathology/lab medicine services focused on improving healthcare quality, cost, or access.

Eligibility: Open to medical students and trainees at AAPath member institutions. Applicants must be listed as the principal investigator and have a faculty sponsor/advisor who is a full-time faculty member in an AAPath member department. If invited to submit a full proposal, a letter of sponsorship from the Department Chair (for medical students) or Program Director (for residents/fellows) is required.

Deadlines: Letters of intent are due October 12, 2026; invited full proposals are due November 19, 2026.

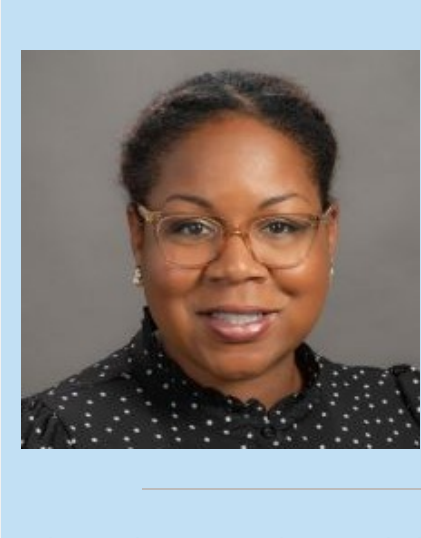
Full program details, review criteria, past recipients, and the application process are available at www.academicpathology.org/societyof67-grant-trainee.

Support the Society of '67

Programs of the Society of '67, named for AAPath's founding year, 1967, are made possible by donor generosity. Donations made this calendar year directly fund next year's programs, helping cultivate the future leadership of academic pathology.

Kinney Scholars Spotlight

We asked former Society of '67 Kinney Scholars how the program shaped their careers. Here's what a few of them shared. Watch for more alumni stories in the coming months!



"To the donors who have created this opportunity for me and others to explore what careers in academic pathology can look like, I thank you for your generosity and support. I don't think I would have circled back around to this fulfilling career I have found in academic medicine without this exposure several years ago that really planted the seed that I could succeed in academia."

–Nicole R. Jackson, MD, MPH (University of Washington) | Kinney Scholar Class of 2017

"The Society of '67 Kinney Scholars Program gives residents the ability to get involved in academic pathology in ways that may otherwise not be available. The generosity of the donors supported my ability to be at the conference, to make relationships, and give me the confidence I needed to pursue a career in academic pathology. Without their support, I may not be where I am today. So I would give a big thank you to everyone who has ever supported the Society of '67 program, and would encourage others to do the same."
–Robert Christian, MD, MS, (Oregon Health & Science University) | Kinney Scholar Class of 2020

Programs your gift supports:

- **Trainee Project Grants:** Fund research and education projects by medical students and trainees. 2027 Program application period now open through October 12!
- **Open Access Publication Awards:** Cover the article processing fee for a student or trainee research article or educational case published in *Academic Pathology*. Applications accepted year-round.
- **Kinney Scholars Program:** Helps bring medical students and pathology residents to the AAPath Annual Meeting. 2027 Program application period opens later this fall.
- **APEX Fellowship Program:** Supports career development for emerging pathology administrators (Affiliate APEX Members) through networking at the AAPath Annual Meeting and beyond. 2027 Program application period opens later this fall.

Sponsorship opportunities:

- Donate **$5,000+** to be a named sponsor of the 2027 Trainee Project Grants.
- Donate **$2,500+** to be a named sponsor of a medical student or pathology resident in the Kinney Scholars Program to attend the AAPath 2027 Annual Meeting.

Give before the end of 2026 to support next year's programs. Learn more at:
www.academicpathology.org/societyof67

Donate Today

Chief Residents Group

Chief Residents Group

Get Your Chief Residents Connected!

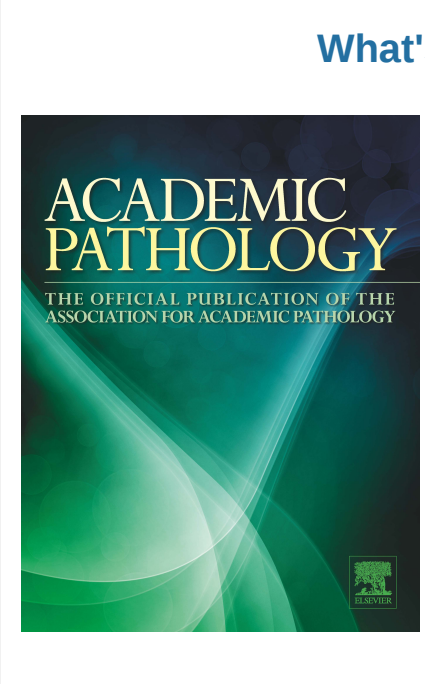
AAPath's Chief Residents Group helps Pathology Chief Residents build connections, network with peers, and share experiences across programs with colleagues in similar roles.

Help your Chief Residents join the conversation! If your program has a current Chief Resident who is not yet part of the group, please work with your program coordinator in the GMEAS section to have them added.

Learn more about the Chief Residents Group and get your Chief Residents connected by going to: www.academicpathology.org/chief-residents

Publications

What's NEW in *Academic Pathology*


ACADEMIC
PATHOLOGY
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR ACADEMIC PATHOLOGY

***Academic Pathology*, AAPath's official journal, is fully open-access, peer-reviewed, and PubMed-indexed — part of Elsevier's world-class journal collection, with visibility to a global audience of academic leaders through ScienceDirect and ClinicalKey.**

The journal's **2025 Journal Impact Factor rose to 2.0** (up from 1.3 in 2024), moving it to **50th of 89 journals** in the Pathology category (from 61/90 in 2024). One more reason to **submit your manuscript** to AAPath's official journal!

Learn more at: www.academicpathologyjournal.org

Recently Published Articles

- *Impact of the hidden curriculum and unprofessionalism on medical student specialty choice* — M. George, et al. Regular Article Published September 10, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100294
- *Approaching microaggressions toward a career in pathology: A potential path to a respectful culture* — L. Howell. Editorial Article Published September 11, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100295
- *The pathology trope: How television undermines the diagnostic infrastructure of modern medicine* — A. Menon. Commentary Published September 11, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100297
- *Landscape of approaches for streamlining pre-analytical and early analytical variables for solid tumor next-generation sequencing: A Genomics Organization for Academic Laboratories consortium report* — M. David, et al. Regular Article Published September 16, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100299
- *Incorporating coaching in the moment and coaching over time to support entrustable professional activity-based assessment in pathology residency training* — L. Schiffhauer, et al. Brief Report Published September 22, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100298
- *A strategic framework for pathology faculty onboarding* — A. Mahajan, et al. Review Article Published September 23, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100293
- *Closing the gap: A workflow-based analysis of postconsent failure to restore hospital autopsy utilization* — A. Contreras, et al. Regular Article Published September 23, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100300
- *Fostering belonging and advancing engagement: The impact of the Employee and Community Engagement Committee at the University of California, Los Angeles Immunogenetics Center* — K. Kendall, et al. Regular Article Published September 23, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100301
- *Development and validation of a peripheral blood smear assessment tool using cloud-based full-field digital microscopy* — M. Chase, et al. Regular Article Published September 25, 2026: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acpath.2026.100296

"The Editor Is In" — Office Hours with the Editor-in-Chief

Meet directly with Editor-in-Chief James Crawford, MD, PhD, and Executive Editor Priscilla Markwood, each with decades of editorial experience, to discuss anything related to journal publishing during upcoming virtual office hours. See upcoming session dates and details on AAPath's Virtual Events page.

Virtual Events

Upcoming Virtual Events

Friday, October 9th

11:00am-12:00pm ET (10:00am CT/9:00am MT/8:00am PT)

Q&A Town Hall on CP Subspecialty cFTE Data Collection

Please join the Practice & Management Committee's effort by contributing cFTE data from your department. More information and the collection instrument will be shared shortly with Chairs, APEX, and CSLC members!

Registration: Click Here to Register Now!

Tuesday, November 3rd

4:00-5:00pm ET (3:00pm CT/2:00pm MT/1:00pm PT)

"The Editor is In" Session for *Academic Pathology*

Considering submitting a manuscript, but not sure you have enough data for acceptance? Wondering if your manuscript fits the scope of *Academic Pathology*? Want to talk through an idea for an article? Interested in becoming a reviewer, advisor or editor? Meet with Editor-in-Chief James Crawford, MD, PhD and Executive Editor Priscilla Markwood, each with decades of editorial experience, to discuss anything of interest related to journal publishing.

Click Here to Join the Session!

Past Virtual Events

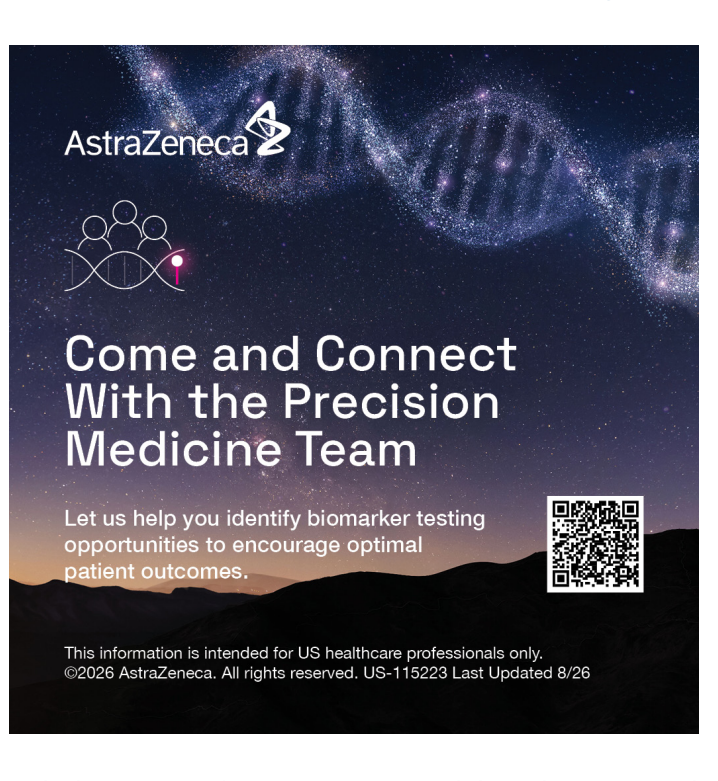
Stay current with AAPath's latest virtual programming! If you were unable to attend, recordings of this past month's exclusive member events are now available at: www.academicpathology.org/past-virtual-events. **Highlights include:**

The **Tips & Tricks on Using the Platform from the AAPath 2025 Compensation Benchmarking Survey**, held on Tuesday, September 1st from 2:00–3:00pm ET, provided an overview of the AAPath Faculty and Administrator Compensation Benchmarking data. The session featured tips for navigating the platform and customizing reports, an example of how one department has leveraged the data, and a preview of upcoming user interface updates.

Click Here to View Past Recordings

AAPath 2026 Sponsor

Thank you to AstraZeneca for their generous support of the AAPath 2026 Annual Meeting!


AstraZeneca
Come and Connect With the Precision Medicine Team
Let us help you identify biomarker testing opportunities to encourage optimal patient outcomes.
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AAPath does not endorse any commercial products or services.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Please contact the AAPath Office at info@academicpathology.org if you have any questions about AAPath membership eligibility or resources.

Member Directory

Only members in good standing have access to AAPath member resources, including the exclusive online member directory. AAPath's member list is always live and searchable. Click here to search the directory today!

Member Profile

Each AAPath Member has a profile that allows you to post information and even upload a photo to let others know who you are and what you do! Your member profile is searchable in the AAPath Member Directory. Update your information today by logging in to the AAPath website.

Job Postings

Do you have a job opening at your institution? Members can share openings with their section listserv network for free as a member benefit. Job openings can also be posted directly to the AAPath Career Center (Job Board), which has broad national visibility. Post or Search for Jobs at: careers.apcprods.org/

Listserv Networks

Guidelines: Members are expected to abide by the AAPath listserv policies. For more information on AAPath's listservs, visit the AAPath website at: www.academicpathology.org/m-lists

Best Practices: When sending messages to the listserv, **please always include your email address in the content of your email message or signature line**, so you can receive direct messages that are not necessary nor informative for the whole listserv membership.

Archives: To view the archive of listserv messages, log in to your member profile and access the E-lists under **My Features**.

Membership Updates

New Members who serve in a role aligned to one of AAPath's membership Sections, i.e., Chairs, Vice Chairs, Executive Administrators, Residency Program Directors, Medical School Educators, or GME Coordinators, should complete a New Member Inquiry Form. *Departments with AAPath membership may add eligible members at any time of the year with no additional cost.*

New Members who are **not** currently members of an AAPath Section or Affinity Group are now invited to join in the new General Membership category! **Click here to complete the online enrollment form today!**

Need to remove a member from your roster? Please submit a Member Removal Request.

Monthly e-News Archive

Find all previous issues of AAPath's Monthly e-News at: www.academicpathology.org/e-news

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