

A Brief UAREP History from 1987-2004

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Executive Summary

A comprehensive history of Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology (UAREP) was written in 1987 (see apcprods.org/history/UAREP/UAREP_1964-1987.pdf) and several short synopses were periodically written about events after that time, but a complete compilation was not developed to cover the years from 1987-2002 after which UAREP was merged into Association of Pathology Chairs (APC). Therefore, in 2013, the minutes of Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings together with relevant letters and notes from UAREP officers were gathered, and a history was created to summarize this 15-year period. A major theme during this time was to define new goals for the organization, because there was lessened responsibility for the Atlas of Tumor Pathology and less apparent need for collaborative research particularly in the area of environmental pathology. A number of new ideas were proposed, but the major successes for UAREP related to the education of the Pathology community about molecular diagnostics and informatics as well as support for the development of two new Pathology organizations focused on these two emerging disciplines.

1987-1997: Seeking a revitalized mission and support for the organization of AMP

On July 16, **1987**, UAREP's long-time Executive Officer Kenneth M. Endicott passed away. Senior staff member Thomas A. Hill was appointed as the Acting Executive Officer, not only to manage the additional administrative functions of the Executive Office, but also to continue his ongoing responsibilities collaborating with Dr. John Higgins on environmental pathology issues. By this time, UAREP had invited four additional Pathology departments--Harvard Medical School, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Washington--to join the Board. By the fall of 1987, a search committee had been formed to hire an Executive Officer to represent the interests of UAREP, American Association of Pathologists (AAP) and APC. Frances Pitlick, PhD, was appointed Executive Officer of UAREP, in conjunction with the AAP, during the summer of 1988.

The Executive Committee, Board, and Staff spent the summer and fall of 1987 reviewing ongoing and potential projects, some of which are listed below.

- Atlas of Tumor Pathology - The 2nd series was in its final stages. The editor for the 3rd series was selected, and it was determined that this series would focus on state-of-the-art techniques useful in making diagnoses. UAREP's role in this arena was largely to edit the fascicles, while the American Registry of Pathology (ARP) and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) were mainly responsible for the development and final publishing of the Atlas.
- Teaching conferences in conjunction with FASEB's Life Sciences Research Office:
 - A conference on mechanisms of carcinogenesis was held.

- Planning began for a second conference to be held in the summer of 1988. The initial topic was entitled “Molecular Genetics,” later revised to “Molecular Biology and Pathology.” However, the conference was cancelled in the late spring of 1988 because of poor enrollment.
- Handbook of Comparative Atherosclerosis – The handbook was envisioned as multiple monographs, one per animal model. A National Library of Medicine grant support for planning lasted over several years, but the grant expired before the publications were fully developed.
- A formaldehyde report for the American Formaldehyde Institute was completed in draft form.
- A dioxin project for the American Paper Institute was in progress.
- Administrative support for the APC continued, primarily by facilitating the publication of their newsletters.
- Dr. Robert Wissler completed the 1964-1987 UAREP History.

Early in **1988**, a committee was formed to plan future conferences and monographs, but met with disappointment with the cancellation of the Molecular Biology and Pathology conference listed above. Various ideas were entertained about future projects and programs. Suggestions included surveying members on the relevance of teaching conferences and monographs; soliciting suggestions for workshop topics or interest in given topics, such as on transgenic animals or environmental pathology; establishing a database of expertise represented by the various universities; and developing a clearing-house of vacancies for pathologists. In the fall of 1988, the Executive Committee met at Yale to discuss the current status of using electronic media, especially video-discs, as possible teaching tools. By this time, the formaldehyde project was completed and the dioxin project was near completion. UAREP invited University of California – San Francisco, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, and Rutgers University to join the Board.

In **1989**, a proposal to produce a video-disc (using UAREP funds) as an adjunct to the thyroid fascicle in the 3rd Series was discussed; however, the necessary equipment to capture the images was deemed unsatisfactory to deliver the quality and quantity needed, and the equipment was returned. Subsequently, this project was discussed with AFIP and ARP as a joint venture. Although the feasibility of capturing and processing appropriate images was demonstrable by **1990**, it was appreciated that the project would not be feasible if the high-resolution images produced could not be copyright-protected. It was clear that if this project was incorporated as part of the Atlas of Tumor Pathology, the images would be government property and could not be copyright-protected. This was a significant negative, if not insurmountable, factor in the decision to proceed. In addition, the government ownership of the property would not provide any additional funds to UAREP to the same extent were UAREP the sole producer. Therefore, by 1990, plans for this activity as a UAREP stand-alone project were abandoned. However, because images for the thyroid fascicle had already been captured as part of the demonstration of feasibility, they were published in 1995 by AFIP as an electronic supplement to that fascicle. Meanwhile, various Board members were assembling information for public

relations initiatives about UAREP's strengths and expertise, in the hope of eventually generating new projects.

An Environmental and Occupational Disease Conference convened in October of **1991** with over 100 participants. The workshop featured breakout groups to discuss effective educational methods to teach the topic and received support from National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), as well as several pharmaceutical companies. In **1992**, UAREP's Environmental Pathology Task Force, headed by Jack Craighead, generated plans for several additional conferences. A conference on Implant Retrieval (related to silicone breast implants) was planned for the fall of 1993 with Dr. Robert Trelstad as convener. Another workshop, Environmental Bone-seeking Agents with Dr. Clarke Anderson as convener, was planned for spring 1995. However, the Implant Retrieval Workshop concept was abandoned; and although the Environmental Bone-seeking Agents workshop was scheduled and advertised, it was cancelled for lack of registrants. There was a lack of interest among the UAREP membership to pursue initiatives in environmental pathology, and a plan to distribute a brochure promoting UAREP's capability in this regard was discarded. It had become apparent that UAREP's long-standing principal focus on environmental pathology was no longer tenable.

In September **1992**, a Long Range Planning Committee was convened to explore strategies and, in essence, to re-define UAREP's mission. This committee identified several key issues to consider: the contributions of individual members to the organization's activities; communication with other organizations; and improved coordination among UAREP member institutions. The committee largely reflected on the need to prioritize activities and bring them into focus. The Executive Committee supported the recommendations of the Planning Committee and concluded that UAREP should involve itself in projects that clearly engaged the interests of "academic Pathology". The Executive Committee further concluded that they should choose partners in achieving its objectives, and those partnerships would vary depending on the venture--namely, UAREP should fashion itself as a facilitator to meet the needs of academic Pathology.

In parallel, strong interests had grown in both molecular pathology and informatics. In a UAREP Board meeting in the summer of **1991**, Drs. George Michalopoulos, Dorothy Bainton, and Peter Ward proposed a series of consensus workshops on clinical applications of new molecular probes for the future. There was an enthusiastic response to a UAREP-sponsored workshop in molecular diagnostics in the fall of 1992, which quickly led to the establishment of a nucleus of molecular pathologists that could further define the field. Participants were eager to foster interest groups in four major areas of molecular diagnostics: hematopathology, solid tumors, infectious diseases, and genetic diseases. The strong interest in molecular pathology among the membership, and additional UAREP-sponsored workshops on molecular pathology in 1993 and 1994, led to the establishment of the **Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP)**. UAREP provided initial executive and staff support, use of space and equipment, financial

management, and the scientific organizational expertise, with additional financial support from ASIP. The Association for Molecular Pathology was incorporated as a separate non-profit organization in 1995. AMP membership increased and, within a few years, the organization quickly became independent and developed a highly organized subspecialty structure. In 1997, AMP sought to publish a society-sponsored journal; Dr. Sandra Wolman, Chair of the ASIP publications Committee, in cooperation with Dr. Nelson Fausto and Priscilla Markwood (*American J. of Pathology* Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, respectively) drafted a proposal whereby AMP would publish ***The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*** (JMD) as a companion journal to ASIP's *American Journal of Pathology*. Following several months of negotiations involving ASIP and AMP leadership, including Dr. Jeff Kant from AMP, a contract was finally signed by Dr. Vinay Kumar, ASIP president, and Dr. Mark Sobel, AMP president. The first issue of JMD was published in November 1999, with Dr. Nelson Fausto as Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Karen Kaul as Senior Editor.

By **1994**, UAREP had agreed to promote interest in informatics as well as molecular diagnostics to the American Board of Pathology. A core working group focusing on informatics was established to discuss UAREP initiatives in this area in concert with existing efforts to develop telepathology. The UAREP Executive Committee proposed membership expansion to include some of these areas' most active Pathology departments: University of Washington, Johns Hopkins, University of Iowa, Baylor University, and University of Texas (Southwestern), bringing the total membership in UAREP to 28 universities by **1995**. In **1996** UAREP held an "Informatics in Pathology" planning meeting convened by Dr. Leo Furcht to consider several related areas of interest, including education in information technology (for residents, fellows, etc.); imaging, dynamic vs. static; databases for Pathology practice and education; world-wide web/internet utilization; interdepartmental communication; internet applications in Pathology; consultation via telepathology; and ABP certification in informatics.

UAREP continued its oversight of the Registry of Comparative Pathology (RCP) and regularly appointed the Advisory Committee to the Registry, including its Chairman, who served as the director of the RCP. In **1995**, the role and future of the RCP was assessed by UAREP. In the previous 25 years, the RCP had managed a very active program that included the sponsorship of symposia on many topics, including Animal Models of Inherited Metabolic Diseases, Comparative Pathobiology of Major Age-Related Diseases, Transplacental Effects on Fetal Health, and Transgenic Animal Models in Biomedical Research. A Symposium on Guidelines for Scientific Response to Environmental Disasters was held and led to the development of a CD-ROM on Animal Models of Disease. Establishing a registry of animal tumors that would include transgenic animals was considered, but ultimately was not undertaken.

1997-2002: Integration of UAREP into APC and support for the organization of API and ISBER

By **1997**, an idea began to emerge about "restructuring" the relationship between APC and UAREP because of the overlap of membership and the similarity of their respective

missions. In a letter dated March 31, **1998**, Drs. George Michalopoulos and Fred Sanfilippo suggested ways to strengthen UAREP to UAREP Board Members, including forming a closer alliance with APC. An important practical consideration was that UAREP was composed entirely of Pathology Department Chairs. While APC focused on professional development, education and administrative issues, UAREP focused on education and research; both organizations could benefit from working together to support academic Pathology's various missions. The letter suggested opening the membership to all departments of Pathology with approved training programs, and indicated that this proposal would be brought to the annual UAREP Board meeting held during the annual summer APC meeting. In the July 1998 Board meeting, amendments to the Bylaws were approved allowing a wider membership and stipulating that maintaining membership required regular payment of dues and participation in the organization's activities, specifically attending Board meetings on a regular basis.

UAREP's contractual role with the **American Registry of Pathology (ARP)** continued, facilitating the development of concepts and bringing the text of the manuscripts to camera-ready copy. The 3rd series of the Atlas of Tumor Pathology was being completed, and the 4th series was initiated with its first Editorial Advisory Board meeting on September 11, 1998. At its meeting on October 16, 1998, the UAREP Executive Committee recommended that ARP begin to provide financial support to the author of each fascicle during the preparation stage, and they further recommended to the Editorial Advisory Board that molecular and genetic descriptions of topics be included in the manuscripts. At this meeting, there were also two in-depth discussions: one on the need for Pathology outcome studies relative to the value of second opinions, the other on including teaching and cost-effective patient care rewards. The discussions related to the benefits of UAREP playing a larger role in publishing educational tools and thus assuring greater financial and control benefits to academic Pathology departments and their faculties.

During the summer of **1999**, UAREP presented a program at the summer APC meeting for the third time; the 1999 program was titled "Pathology Information Systems Databases and Publication Trends." Later in the year, a request for proposals was generated for "Web-based Tools for Pathology Education" to be awarded by UAREP in 2000. The recipients of the awards would present their projects on completion during the 2001 APC meeting. In its fall 1999 meeting, the Executive Committee once again took up the discussions of becoming more involved in facilitating publication of educational tools and developing a contract format that would give copyright flexibility to authors so that they could hold it jointly with UAREP or later request sole rights. Examples of such electronic publications might be from the projects generated by the "Web-based Tools for Pathology Education" initiative. However, it was conceded that the cost of publication by UAREP might be high, because of the relatively small size of the operation.

During **1999-2000**, UAREP helped facilitate the development of the **Association for Pathology Informatics (API)**. Discussions began in 1999 with Drs. Michael Becich, Bruce Friedman and Ronald Weinstein, who were interested in the development of a society for Pathology informatics that could engage the many participants of their

national conferences on “Advancing Pathology Informatics, Imaging, Internet.” On January 31, 2000, UAREP sponsored a planning meeting convened by Dr. Sanfilippo where the name of API was agreed upon, and an initial slate of officers was selected. Simultaneously, Dr. Robert Aamodt (of the National Cancer Institute) proposed that the UAREP office provide the framework to help organize the **International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)** on a fee-for-service basis.

During this period, UAREP, APC, and the Intersociety Pathology Council (IPC) discussed the concept of a central Internet portal for all Pathology organizations. Because APC did not have a dedicated website, a menu of options and cost estimates were considered for both a UAREP and an APC webpage, and to determine whether APC would share the cost. UAREP would continue to further examine the feasibility and expense of developing a “Path Net,” including surveying existing sites of academic institutions and organizations.

As a follow-up to UAREP discussions, in **2000**, the IPC explored the notion of whether a Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Network (PLMNet) was a viable idea. The PLMNet would link information on Pathology and laboratory medicine services, research, and education at levels appropriate for providers, trainees, students, and the general public, and would be structured similarly to a Web-based collaborative effort of the major societies of cardiothoracic surgery in the US called CTSNet. CTSNet gave a presentation to IPC on March 26th, 2000; this was followed by Dr. Sanfilippo, then president of the IPC and UAREP, and president-elect of APC, inviting representatives from CAP, ASCP, USCAP, APC, ASIP, ACLPS, ASASP, AMP to meet in the DC area in May to further discuss the concept. The outcome of the meeting was a survey, sent in August 2000, to canvass potential members as to what they would like to see on the PLMNet. Over time, the proposal for a PLMNet did not receive sufficient support from potential participants to be implemented in its entirety. However, until its dissolution, UAREP undertook the development of a less extensive concept, using its staff and seeking support from ASIP and APC. IPC has since developed a web page with links to all of its constituent organizations.

At the fall 2000 Executive Committee meeting, the ARP and the editor of the 4th series of Atlas of Tumor Pathology, Dr. Steven Silverberg, reported that the CD-ROM’s would be switched to a web-based platform along with the print version. It was also announced at this meeting that after a nation-wide search, Dr. Mark Sobel had been chosen to succeed Dr. Pitlick as the new Executive Officer for the Pathology societies based in the FASEB offices; this included ASIP, AMP, UAREP, APC, and under the umbrella of UAREP: ICPI, ISBER and API. During this period, Dr. Sandra Wolman served as UAREP Educational Projects Coordinator. Finally, it was announced that API was planning to have its first meeting, scheduled one week after the Executive Committee meeting, and that UAREP agreed to fund expenses for one year to help the organization get started.

In **2001**, progress continued to be slow in regard to publication initiatives, although UAREP reached out to a new organization led by Dr. Leonard Koss called the Pathology Writers Guild to discuss common interests. Furthermore, five applications were funded to

develop new educational tools, and planning began to seek proposals for awards to be given the following year. A Long Range Planning Committee was convened in the fall of 2001 that included Drs. Michalopoulos, Sanfilippo, Jerry Garvin, Vinay Kumar, Richard Lynch, and Steven Spitalnik, which would substitute for the regular Executive Committee Meeting. The goal was to thoroughly evaluate the mission of UAREP; this evaluation included a discussion of whether integration with another Pathology organization might help UAREP further its missions in research and education. At this meeting, the issue was raised about the possibility that ARP might not renew its contract with UAREP to edit the Atlas, and that this might occur about the time that Dr. Don King, then Director of ARP, retired in the spring of 2002. Furthermore, the RCP had lost its NIH funding, and UAREP was no longer needed to oversee it. Dr. Sobel presented a draft proposal in which UAREP might affiliate with ASIP, citing common missions and changes in ASIP educational activities with an increasing interest in nurturing new disciplines of Pathology, as well as several additional financial factors. Dr. Pitlick discussed the alternative of an affiliation between UAREP and APC, stressing that UAREP and APC are both based on departmental rather than individual membership. A final recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee emerged that UAREP should merge with ASIP, but this recommendation was contingent upon ASIP broadening its mission to accommodate clinical education. Dr. Sobel was charged with addressing these issues with the ASIP Council and its newly formed Long Range Planning Committee.

On April 30, **2002**, Dr. King announced that the UAREP Memorandum of Agreement with ARP, which would expire on September 30, 2002, would not be renewed as a cost-saving strategy. At the summer UAREP Board meeting, a consensus emerged from those present that APC would be a more suitable organization to accept UAREP's resources and mission. At the prior winter APC council meeting, the council had unanimously agreed that they would approve this action if the UAREP made the recommendation. Still, it was essential to poll the entire UAREP membership to ascertain whether or not they believed the organization should be integrated into APC. Meanwhile, at the summer APC members meeting, the membership approved accepting the UAREP mission and resources if the UAREP membership (also called the "Board") approved of the formal dissolution of UAREP with its activities being integrated into APC. In a letter to the UAREP Board of Directors dated October 1, 2002, UAREP President Kumar wrote:

"In July 2002, twenty-two members of the UAREP Board of Directors met in Park City, Utah to discuss the future of UAREP and charged the Executive Committee with making a recommendation to the Board of Directors to dissolve UAREP and to transfer its assets to a suitable non profit organization with similar goals that could effectively promote the mission of UAREP. Various options were considered, including the transfer of financial assets to the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) or other worthy pathology organizations. However, the overwhelming sentiment was in favor of transferring the mission and assets of UAREP to the APC, noting in particular that the Chairs of Departments of Pathology constitute the membership of both organizations."

He then urged a vote--in person at a meeting in his office on November 15, 2002, or by a mail or FAX proxy vote--to approve the resolution to dissolve UAREP into APC. Final

approval of this resolution occurred in December 2002. Meanwhile ASIP proceeded to formalize management agreements with APC, AMP, API, ISBER, and ICPI. In the spring of 2003, UAREP reserve funds were transferred to APC reserve funds.

The first initiative of the APC Council regarding the UAREP merger was to appoint a Research and Education Group (REG). REG was charged to develop innovative proposals that would enhance Pathology education at the medical school level, and the first chair was Dr. Kumar, long noted for his leadership in Pathology education. The concept was to fund two \$25,000 proposals every two years with the winners being designed as APC-REG scholars. The first request for proposals was announced in **2004**.