



Association of Pathology Chairs

Association of Pathology Chairs, Inc.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

ASIP Annual Meeting at
 Experimental Biology 2006
 Apr 1-5, San Francisco, CA

ISBER 2006
 Apr 30-May 3, Bethesda, MD

41st Annual ACLPS
 Meeting
 Jun 1-3, Chicago, IL

ASIP 2006 Summer Course
 Jul 11-16, San Diego, CA

CAP '06
 Sep 10-13, San Diego, CA

XXIV Congress of the IAP
 Sep 16-21, Montreal, PQ, Canada

2006 ASCP Annual
 Meeting
 Oct 19-22, Las Vegas, NV

AMP 2006
 Nov 16-19, Orlando, FL

President's Message David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD

Subspecialty Training in Molecular Pathology. The following document gives the latest update on the issue of subspecialty training in Molecular Pathology. It is the result of extensive debate amongst us, the American Board of Pathology and the ACGME. Your Council urges those interested in having an ACGME-accredited program in molecular pathology to pursue one of the two courses outlined in this communication.

APC Council Message to the Membership Re: Accreditation in Molecular Pathology, September 2005. The debate over the role of 'Genetics' in the accreditation of pathology training programs in 'Molecular Pathology' has been energetic and sustained. Extensive statements and communiqués have been written previously, and will not be repeated here. The core issue is whether training programs in pathology departments should be subjected to the requirements that: (a) clinical genetics be included; and (b) an accredited training program in clinical genetics should be present at the applicant institution (either as a separate department of clinical genetics or within a pathology department accredited to provide genetics training).

At the 2004 Summer Business Meeting of the APC, a resolution was passed that Molecular Pathology fellowships should be accredited independent of the requirement that the institution hosting the program have a Medical Genetics Department and an accredited Medical Genetics residency program. Furthermore the accrediting process should be independent of an RRC on which representatives of the American Board of Medical Genetics are involved. In the intervening year, members of the APC have solicited the support of the American Board of Pathology (ABP) for this position. The feedback to the APC membership and the APC Council from the ABP was articulated by Dr. Betsy Bennett, Executive Director of the ABP, at the 2005 Summer Business Meeting of the APC. It is as follows:

(a) The ABP is not the agency through which changes in the accreditation of Molecular Pathology fellowship training programs should occur. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the overarching agency for declaration of new subspecialties. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is the overarching agency for accreditation of specific post-graduate training programs.

(b) That being said, the position of the ABP is that at this time neither a new specialty needs to be created, nor a new subspecialty training accreditation. Rather, pathology departments should be able to establish 'Molecular Genetic Pathology' fellowship programs in the absence of a standing Department of Medical Genetics and accredited training program in Medical Genetics at the applicant institution by requesting an exception from the MGP Residency Review Committee (RRC), which will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the RRC. The RRC for the MGP recently granted two exceptions to the 'clinical genetics training' and 'department of clinical genetics' requirements. Participants in such programs will still need to pass the cognitive MGP exam that includes a substantial amount of genetics questions. However, it is anticipated that in the very near future, the clinical practice in genetics requirement of the MGP program will be liberalized to allow the requirement to be met by attending conferences and meetings, rather than direct patient contact and genetic counseling.

(c) Alternatively, pathology departments may request, under the selective pathology accreditation option of the ACGME, approval of a Molecular Pathology fellowship program (without clinical genetics) from the pathology RRC.

Visit
www.apcprods.org

- 2006 Annual Meeting Preliminary Program
- Library and Resource Links
- Members-Only Section with Searchable Online Directory
- APC, PRODS, CDS, PDAS Council Lists, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures
- APC Honor Society Information

Message from the President (Cont.)

The APC Council provides this information to the APC membership with two editorial comments. First, although fellows completing Molecular Pathology programs as defined in (c) above will not be eligible for certification by the American Board of Pathology, the APC Council feels that should a sufficient grassroots growth of such programs occur, then there will be sufficient impetus for the ABP (and the ABMS) to allow the evolution of a Molecular Pathology accreditation program (with its own certification exam) that is free of a clinical genetics requirement. Second, to the concern that 'Molecular Pathology' fellowship programs with selective accreditation status will be viewed in the marketplace (i.e., by both applicants and future employers) as inferior to fully accredited 'Molecular Genetic Pathology' fellowship programs, the corollary of the ABP position is that the marketplace will determine the value of 'Molecular Pathology' fellowships. The APC Council considers that there is a major demand for 'Molecular Pathologists', and is optimistic that the marketplace will welcome such trainees. Second, an avenue has been presented for what might be rapid growth of selective 'Molecular Pathology' programs. Absent changes in protocol by the ABP and the ABMS (and none are expected), the APC Council recommends that academic pathology seize upon this opportunity.

News From PDAS Harry Pukay-Martin

APC/PDAS Annual Meeting 2005. For the Pathology Departments Administrators Section of APC, we had an insightful and enlightening meeting in July in the beautiful setting of Mont Tremblant in Quebec, Canada. The pre-conference activities, hosted by Susan McCarthy of UC Irvine, Barb Peterson of University of Washington, and Eric Johnson of University of Oklahoma were well received and well attended. They explored the rivers, lakes, mountains, and wild animal parks in the surrounding area over a two day period.

On Thursday, we commenced the formal program with an outstanding one day session by Jeff Turner of Praxis HR on leadership. The feedback from the group was very positive and we hope to continue this format in future meetings. On Friday, Marcia McCall reviewed the results of the Practice and Management Survey of 2004 with us and Joe Rondinelli reviewed his experience with renegotiating a Part A contract with his Medical Center, an insightful and humorous rendition of the proceedings. I, then, discussed the newly completed PDAS billing survey with the group and Eugene Napolitan discussed the lessons learned from his experience with University of Michigan's reference lab, a very germane topic to many of us. In the afternoon, Don Highfield presented Gail Barker's presentation on Teaching in Pathology, Barb Peterson discussed with us some of her challenges in opening a new research campus and Paul Henderson shared his experience with the automation and changes in Clinical Pathology over the last several years. Saturday, I presented a discussion of independence through wealth creation entitled *Doing Well While Doing Good For Our Institutions*. I was heartened by the many questions and positive interactions of the group during the discussion. We ended our meeting with the popular Hot Topics in Pathology. Marjel Hamlin led the session and brought us through the numerous questions and concerns of the group provided to her over the last 2 days. In my mind, besides the networking that goes on informally during the conference, this is a key time when we can have our top issues with discussed in an open forum with our colleagues as experts providing their insights. That ended our formal session.

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News From PRODS Larry J. Fowler, MD

The pathology Program Directors' subsection of the APC (PRODS) had a successful summer meeting in conjunction with the APC meeting in Mont Tremblant in July. New members-at-large as well as Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer Elect were chosen.

New PRODS Council 2005-2006:

Chair: Larry J. Fowler, MD, UTHSC at San Antonio

Vice Chair: Robert D. Hoffman, MD, Case/University Hospitals of Cleveland

Sec-Treas: Stephen Black-Schaffer, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital

Sec-Treas. Elect: V.O. Speights, DO, Scott & White, Temple, TX

Past Chair: J.J. Steinberg, MD, Albert Einstein, New York

Members-at-large:

David Lewin, MD, Medical University of South Carolina

Gayle L. Winters, MD, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Wesley Naritoku, MD, PhD, USC at Los Angeles

Suzanne Powell, MD, Methodist Hospital

We wish to offer many thanks to former Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Richard Sobonya from University of Arizona for his past service on PRODS-Council as well as to Dr. Margaret Grimes from Medical College of Virginia who has remained active as advisor to PRODS Council as a Past-President of PRODS now that she has resigned her position at MCV as Program Director.

We chose to initiate PRODS Council suggestions to split the former Curriculum Committee into two portions, one looking at actual goals, objectives and course material, with the other discussing outcomes and assessment issues. The new committee structure & Co-Chairs are as follows:

Curriculum Committee/Goals and Objectives: Ken Haines, David Lewin

Curriculum Committee/Outcomes and Assessment: V.O. Speights, Gayle Winters

Ethics Committee: JJ Steinberg, Bob Hoffman

Long Range Planning Committee and Membership: Bruce Alexander, Stephen Black-Schaffer

Bylaws Committee (Ad Hoc): Bruce Alexander, Mark Sobel

No specific items came out of PRODS Committees or PRODS Council for action items that would necessitate any increase in budget. Travel budget currently contains ability to send one Council representative to the yearly ACGME meeting, and to support Ken Haines to continue to represent PRODS at the Organization of Program Directors' Associations (OPDA).

This year at the summer meeting we saw our registered PRODS increase from 60 last year to 82 this year along with at least 6 program coordinators. A Wednesday afternoon PRODS session appeared to be very successful and we await the results of the attendee's evaluations. The welcome lunch for new PRODS with PRODS Council on that same day had 21 new PRODS in attendance. This appeared to have a positive impact on PRODS participation during our committee meetings. The Membership and Long Range Planning Committee along with the entire PRODS Council wish to continue this indefinitely.

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report: 2005 Annual Meeting

Robert L. Reddick, MD

The APC is in good financial shape as reserves are sufficient to meet ongoing costs. We should end FY2005 with a projected deficit of approximately \$12,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$18,460. Significant progress has been made in curbing expenses in both the management office and annual program. The Council is planning strategies to continue to meet budget and are working in several areas such as recruitment of new paying members, reduction of expenses associated with the annual meeting, and monitoring management costs. APCREG has maintained a positive financial balance and there should be sufficient investment funds to permit withdrawals for grants or similar programs in 2007.

The 2005 Annual Meeting was held on July 27-30, 2005 at the Fairmont Tremblant Hotel in Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada. The total attendance for the meeting was 263 and included 50 Chairs, 83 PRODS, 30 PDAS, and 18 Course Directors. The meeting was on Graduate Medical Education and included updates on ACGME and RRC residency training requirements and discussions of common problem areas for PRODS. Henry Pitot and Jack Strong received the Distinguished Service Awards for 2005. The Keynote Address was delivered by Jordan Cohen, M.D. who gave a very thoughtful presentation on "Resident Training as the Future of American Medicine."

This was followed by a plenary session on the future of Pathology that focused on present and future issues related to residency training. The new section of Course Directors, organized by Carole Pillinger, focused on issues related to the teaching of Pathology in various types of medical student courses in which Pathology was taught. Thirty-five participants attended the full day opening meeting. In this session, the use of new technology was stressed as a vital part of the new innovations in pathology teaching. virtual microscopy, study and learning outcomes, and integration of pathology in an "integrated curriculum" were discussed.

The Saturday program was on "Women in Pathology" and was lead by Mary Lipscomb. The presentations centered on acknowledging that the issue of diversity exists, achieving diversity in leadership positions, nominating women for national leadership positions, and strengthening institutional processes that support diversity and career development for women. It was recognized that this is a complex issue and suggestions were made to facilitate a greater incorporation of women in leadership positions.

Overall, the meeting evaluations were positive. The most consistent negative was the location of the meeting in Mont Tremblant. The 2006 annual summer meeting will be held in Colorado Springs, CO. The theme of the 2006 meeting will be on Practice Management and the APC Council met in January to initiate planning for the July 2006 program. Your participation in the Summer meeting is strongly encouraged.

Northeast Regional Meeting September 22-25, 2005

Michael B. Prystowsky, MD, PhD

The Northeast Association of Pathology Chairs met in Bermuda on September 22-25, 2005 to discuss residency training. Alan Wells and Brian Smith presented the ACLPS recommendations for core CP training; Christopher Otis presented the ADASP recommendations for AP training. Lively discussion ensued regarding the need for 18 month core curricula in AP and CP that could be augmented by elective time during the 48 month AP/CP program. Fred Silva led a discussion on market forces affecting our training programs. The NE-APC resolved that ACLPS and ADASP should recommend guidelines for 18 month cores in CP and AP respectively.



**"Promoting Excellence in
Academic Pathology"**

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News from PDAS (Cont.)

Barb Peterson and I attended the APC Council meeting that Saturday afternoon to understand the direction and emphasis of our parent organization.

PDAS objectives for 2005-06. My hope is to achieve the following objectives in 2005-06 related to governance and leadership, education, data gathering, membership and membership services, APC finances, and outreach.

In terms of governance and leadership, Barb Peterson has picked up that challenge. She has already held the elections for this year's new officers and will convene another election for next year's in the Spring of 2006. She is in the process of pulling together and distributing the current by-laws assisted by Marcia McCall, our corporate memory and unofficial historian. Barb will then, through the PDAS Council and list serve, receive proposals for change. Those will be presented to the membership in July 2006 at the annual meeting for review and disposition.

From an education perspective, I have taken on that challenge along with the PDAS Council. I will be publishing my suggestions for the summer meeting to the PDAS Council and then to the membership in December 2005 asking for your input and advice. That APC meeting this summer will concentrate on the Business of Pathology, our time in the sun. I had the pleasure of sharing our collective thoughts with the APC Council in Puerto Vallarta in January 2006 where near final planning for the meeting was done.

From a data gathering perspective, I have taken on the challenge of the Survey along with the PDAS Council and Bob Hunter and the Business Practices Committee of APC. The survey from last year, after review and revision by many of us, was published and distributed to all members in November. Gretchen Harvey has graciously agreed to host that survey on her institutions web and do the data analysis. I would like to thank Sandi Jaros and her colleagues at the University of Kentucky for their help this year and their immense efforts in the past years for bringing the survey and our data gathering to its present state. Truly a remarkable accomplishment! We hope to have you all participate this year and the following years. The PDAS Council and Tom Dilts of Virginia Commonwealth will be following up with you weekly to insure you have the survey itself, answer any questions, etc. until all surveys are in. The challenge of membership and membership services has been taken up by Doug Karsch, the PDAS Vice President and Chair elect. The survey calls will be our first step in contacting our membership and insuring the APC Directory is up to date. He will put a process together for supporting new members including identification, greeting, mentorship, introduction to PDAS and its list serve, etc. He will also be putting together a process for making the organization more vital and inviting for less active members.

As masters of finance and accounting, we do offer our collective services and insights to the challenge of APC finances if the APC Council has a need for those insights and services.

Finally we have many brother and sister organizations we need to reach out to and coordinate with. These include the Pathology Management Assembly (our own Gail Barker, President and Joe Rondinelli, Secretary Treasurer), the American Pathology Foundation, and the College of American Pathologists. I look forward to a very fruitful and productive year.

News from PRODS (Cont.)

Current projects for PRODS. We plan to continue identification of nonparticipating program directors by comparing the PRODS roster with the ACGME Program roster and inviting their participation by emails from the PRODS Chair.

PRODS Council continues to work with the ASCP RISE Committee to improve program satisfaction with the in-service exam.

In the past year we were successful in communicating with the NRMP along with other program organizations so that they have backed away from plans for a mandatory second Match. We were unsuccessful in our attempts to have the ABP Board reconsider giving partial credit to Post Sophomore Fellowships performed within an accredited pathology program toward Board Certification. However we are considering asking them to consider credit for procedures such as autopsies performed during their Post sophomore Fellowships.

With presentations of Horowitz's and CAP Surveys along with accompanying confirmation by RISE data (Dr. McKenna), ABP (Dr. Bennett), and RRC Data (Dr. Grimes) that suggested possible weakening of competency in clinical pathology areas we will be proactive in the Wednesday PRODS program to do a "Best Practices" for Clinical Pathology resident training as well as encourage a workshop to seek innovative ("hands on," "consultative" and "problem solving") methods to improve the outcome of residents' training in clinical pathology.

Recent work to poll PRODS willing to review other programs as part of their internal reviews or for other self-assessment has been initiated. Dr. Robert Hoffman reported on this at the spring PRODS meeting. The spring PRODS meeting was planned in association with the spring USCAP meeting and was held Sunday, February 12, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia.

Our listserv remains heavily used by PRODS members for a variety of timely topics. Members are reminded that if they wish to conduct a formal survey they should utilize Zoomerang. Information on how to utilize this survey method, posting of reports or prior surveys on the PRODS website, or for new program directors (of active dues-paying institutions) wanting to be on the PRODS listserv should contact Andrea Jackson in the APC office at: ajackson@asip.org.

We hope to see you at the Association of Pathology Chairs Annual Meeting 2006

"The Business and Practice of Pathology"

**Cheyenne Mountain Resort
Colorado Springs, CO
July 12-15, 2006**

**For more information:
www.apcprods.org**