



Association of Pathology Chairs

# Association of Pathology Chairs, Inc.

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## 2007 DATES TO REMEMBER:

USCAP 96th Annual Meeting  
 San Diego, CA  
 March 24-30, 2007  
[www.uscap.org](http://www.uscap.org)

ASIP 2007 Annual Meeting  
 at Experimental Biology  
 April 28 - May 2, 2007  
 Washington, DC  
[www.asip.org](http://www.asip.org)

16th International Congress  
 of Cytology  
 May 13-17, 2007  
 Vancouver, BC, Canada  
[www.cytology2007.com](http://www.cytology2007.com)

42nd Annual ACLPS  
 Meeting  
 June 7-9, 2007  
 San Diego, CA  
[www.aclps.org](http://www.aclps.org)

CAP '07  
 September 30-October 3,  
 2007  
 Chicago, IL  
[www.cap.org](http://www.cap.org)

ASCP 38th Annual Meeting  
 November 14-17, 2007  
 Philadelphia, PA  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## VISIT THE APC WEBSITE AT: [www.apcprods.org](http://www.apcprods.org)

2006 Annual Meeting —  
*Links to Presentations*

Honor Society

Members-Only  
 Searchable Online  
 Directory

APC, PRODS, CDS,  
 PDAS Council &  
 Committees, Bylaws,  
 Operating Procedures,  
 and *NEW Advocacy  
 News and Resources*

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

The close of the 2006 APC Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs marked the end of my two-year term as President of APC. The two years have passed quickly and I have enjoyed serving our organization. Thanks to all of you for this opportunity to serve. We have accomplished much, and we have an ambitious and exciting agenda for the future. Summarized below are a few of the APC accomplishments over the last two years.

**National Advocacy** — Soon after taking office in the summer of 2004, academic pathology was faced with a major change in the CPT coding and reimbursement for the technical and professional services related to flow cytometry that resulted in significant revenue losses for many of our departments. My investigation of this situation led me to conclude that we were too late to mitigate the flow cytometry code changes, and that academic pathology needed to play a more substantive role in the CPT coding process in the future. At its winter meeting in 2005, your APC Council made a strategic decision to work more closely with the major pathology organizations, especially the CAP, in the area of advocacy and reimbursement. We identified APC members that were serving on CAP committees and we advocated with CAP leadership to place more academic leaders on key CAP committees. Our President, Jim Crawford, now chairs the CAP PathPAC. I am now a member of the AMA's CPT Advisory Committee, the Pathology Coding Caucus, and the CAP's Economic Affairs Committee. Allan Tucker and Stephen Black-Schaffer are also members of the CAP EAC. These relationships have facilitated APC input to the coding and reimbursement process, and the recent debate over CMS' proposed Medically Unbelievable Edits (MUEs) showed the power of the academic community to influence national reimbursement policy. APC has now established an ad hoc Advocacy Committee, chaired by Fred Gorstein, to formally monitor advocacy issues and provide guidance to Council on necessary actions.

**Course Directors Section** — The APC successfully launched a Course Directors Section (CDS), which held its second annual companion meeting during the 2006 APC Annual Meeting. Under the passionate leadership of Carole Pillinger, the CDS now takes its place alongside the other companion sections of APC, PRODS and PDAS, to better fulfill our mission to "provide education, training, information resources and networking opportunities for Chairs, residency program directors, medical school course directors, graduate student program directors and department administrators." In August, Chuck Hitchcock succeeded Carole Pillinger as the Chair of CDS.

**Molecular Genetic Pathology (MGP) Program Accreditation** — APC provided substantial input to the American Board of Pathology and the ACGME Pathology RRC regarding the program requirements in MGP. The stringent requirement that the MGP program be jointly sponsored with a formal Department of Medical Genetics has been modified so that more departments of Pathology should be able to meet the accreditation requirements.

**Ad hoc Group on the Future of Pathology** — Mary Lipscomb, Jim Crawford and I have been participating with a group convened by the CAP to identify key issues and trends that will affect the profession of pathology in the future. Ultimately, this group anticipates producing an action plan that will help us shape our future.

**APC Research and Education Group (APCREG)** — APCREG was organized and, under the leadership of Vinay Kumar, funded two innovative proposals focused on new approaches to pathology education in medical schools. The principle investigators presented the results of these projects at the 2006 APC Annual Meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank especially Mary Lipscomb, my predecessor, and the other members of the APC Council for their hard work, leadership and friendship during my term as President. I also offer my warmest wishes for success to our new President, Jim Crawford, and our new President Elect, Mark Tykocinski. With these dynamic leaders, APC will continue to provide significant value to and advocacy for the discipline of pathology.

## News From PRODS Robert Hoffman, MD, PhD

PRODS concluded a very stimulating session at Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Officers include Larry Fowler (UTHSCSA) as Past Chair, Bob Hoffman (Case) as Chair, Steve Black-Schaffer (MGH) as Chair Elect, V.O. Speights (Scott & White) as Secretary, Wes Naritoku (USC) as Secretary Elect, and Carol Farver (CCF), Dave Lewin (MUSC), Suzanne Powell (Methodist), and Gayle Winters (BWH) as Councilors at Large. Michelle Raible (UI Chicago) was appointed as the PRODS delegate to the Organization of Program Director Associations.

Enhancing interactions among program directors to improve GME was one overarching theme of this year's meeting. We look forward soon to being able to carry our committee work into cyberspace, with all four standing committees (Ethics and Professionalism, Curriculum/Goals & Objectives, Curriculum/Outcomes & Assessments and Long Range Planning/Membership) anticipating the institution of committee listservers. All PRODS members are invited to participate in any or all forums, in keeping with the open-door committee membership tradition.

A list of program directors willing to participate as consultants for program directors requesting help is being compiled; the demand for such services and a reasonable supply of willing talent having been identified by a preliminary poll. Potential participants should respond to the message posted to the PRODS listserve on 7/25/06 or contact Bob Hoffman for further details. The list will be maintained behind a password on the PRODS website.

The proposed training curriculum for anatomic pathology proposed by ADASP and the complementary training curriculum for clinical pathology recently advanced by ACLPS were warmly received and generated much discussion. Curriculum content in Laboratory Management, Molecular Pathology, Ethics and Professionalism are to be addressed in various committees. Curricular and post curricular outcome measures are being solicited and compiled from the membership.

Future plans include exploring the need for bringing the message of the Outcome Project to affiliated and unaffiliated pathology fellowship program directors, encouraging the submission at USCAP of abstracts addressing training in core competencies, and providing support for undergraduate pathology interest groups.

## News From CDS Charles Hitchcock, MD, PhD

The Course Directors Section (CDS) held its second meeting in July 2006. The scientific program was organized by Drs. Carole Pillinger (Chair) and Jeff Cao (Past-chair). By all accounts the meeting was a success and established a format by which subsequent meetings can be organized. Topics for future meetings will include dealing with technologies in medical education, course management, pedagogical issues in medical education, and resources in pathology education. Presentations in each of these areas were informative and illustrative of the quality of research and development in education that CDS members are involved in.

The 2006-2007 academic year will be one of change for the CDS. The Chairmanship was transferred from Carole Pillinger to Chuck Hitchcock (Chair-elect) in August. The goal of CDS for this year is three fold. The first is to work closely with the APC Council to develop the main theme of the 2007 APC summer meeting, whose focus is on the changing face of medical education and how that impacts the department as a whole, the individual faculty member, the residents, and medical students. The second goal for this year is to formalize the sub committee structure of CDS and to empower the chairs of committees to set their own goals. The third goal for this year is to work with the members of the CDS to set long term goals and strategies that will move the organization forward.

## News From PDAS Douglas Karsch

The members of the PDAS have been very busy during the past four months, not just helping to manage our individual departments, but participating in national and regional educational programs and lots of communication occurring on the PDAS Listserv. At the conclusion of our very successful management focused summer meeting in Colorado Springs, outgoing president Harry Pukay-Martin (Ohio State) led our business meeting and reported the following:

- Over 75 departments completed the APC/PDAS survey, a new record for responses. Prizes were awarded to those regions achieving outstanding success/growth in total responses, etc. The data gathered is a valuable tool available to all those who participated.
- Bylaws of PDAS were redrafted/amended under the direction of immediate past chair Barb Peterson (Univ. Washington), with support by the PDAS Council, and approved at the Business meeting.
- Election of officers was conducted with Douglas Karsch (Miami) elected as Chair, John Baci (Boston Children's Hospital) Chair elect, Nancy Nye (UNC at Chapel Hill) as Secretary/Treasurer, and Nancy Risenhoover (Univ of New Mexico) as Secretary/Treasurer elect. Also, elected to two-year terms as regional representatives were Steve Gudowski (Thomas Jefferson Univ) for the Northeast and Martin Lawlor (UCLA) for the West Region. Eric Johnson (Oklahoma HSC) and Eugene Napolitan (Michigan) will complete the second year of their two-year term representing the Southeast and Midwest Regions, respectively.
- Harry Pukay-Martin was applauded for his leadership the past year, for the superb program that was presented in Colorado Springs and for the excellent service he has provided the APC and PDAS section over the years.

The PDAS listserv continues to be a tremendous resource for our colleagues and helps us to stay in touch with one another. We welcome new PDAS members Raymond Franklin at the Univ. of Kansas, Gayle Petrillo at the Univ. of Arizona, and George Inman at the Medical College of Georgia. There may be others, so please let us know of any changes that occur at your institution and make sure your APC dues have been paid. Thanks to all the PDAS members for their continued involvement and support of this great organization. Without you, it just doesn't work!

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report Robert L. Reddick, MD

### 2006 APC Annual Meeting

The 2006 APC Annual Meeting was held at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 12-15. This year the total number of attendees (APC, PRODS, PDAS, CDS, guests) numbered 250. The meeting began with a welcoming reception that was followed by the annual keynote speech, delivered this year by Jack W. Smith, MD, PhD. His well-illustrated talk focused on the medical challenges faced by this country in space travel and illustrated the diverse ways that NASA is devising to put heavy payloads into space. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Richard "Dick" Lynch and Emanuel "Manny" Rubin for their seminal contributions to academic Pathology, by the President of APC, David Wilkinson, MD. Nominations for the 2007 award should be sent to Mark Tykocinski, MD. The meeting format was similar to previous years which included individual and combined section meetings and programs, workshops, and committee meetings. The program as a whole was highly rated by the participants. Concerns raised regarding site venue will be discussed at the next Council meeting in January 2007. As the APC has become more active in advocacy issues, the Council formed a new Advocacy Committee to interact with other pathology groups on issues of vital concern to the practice of pathology. The Chair of the Advocacy Committee is Fred Gorstein, MD. This Committee was established to report relevant legislative activity to APC Council; to take action on issues of interest to academic pathology, and to represent academic pathology to various pathology and non-pathology agencies. Advocacy news will appear on the APC website and the Council encourages the membership to become active participants on issues related to the practice of pathology.

### APC Financial Status

The financial picture of the APC is good as the final outcome for FY2005 showed a surplus of \$8,547. For year end 2006, a projected surplus of over \$5,000 is expected. However, this may change after the expenses related to the Annual meeting are incorporated into the FY2006 budget. Long term funds for APC and APCREG are managed by Mercantile Investment Company. The APC had a market value of \$265,474 on May 31, 2006 and represents a fund market value that is approximately 89.6% of APC's annual operating expenses for FY2006. During the same period, APCREG fund had a market value of \$1,178,530. Together, this represents long term reserves that are 468% of annual operating expenses.

### 2007 Annual Meeting

The meeting for next year will be held July 18-21, 2007 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, CO. The focus of the meeting will be Undergraduate Medical Education. Suggestions for topics to be considered are welcomed and should be referred to Patricia Thomas, MD. Please plan to attend and actively participate in meeting activities.

## West-Midwest Regional Meeting

The West and Midwest Regions held a combined conference in late October in Coronado, CA, just across the bay from San Diego. Co-hosts were Dr. Michael Selsted (APC) and Susan McCarthy (PDAS) from the Univ. of California-Irvine and Dr. Steven Gonias (APC) and Judy Tieber (PDAS) from the Univ. of California-San Diego. An outdoor reception and walk on the Bay started the event on Wednesday evening. Dr. Gonias started Thursday's meetings with a review of his two-year tenure as Chair at UCSD, and Dr. Ralph Green from UC-Davis presented some excellent insight into ways to control send-out test utilization. He also discussed the growth of their research and reference testing. Other topics included philanthropy and donor interactions, laboratory automation and increased capacity/efficiency, centralized physician billing and collection services, VA regulations and Pathology's performance in the VA system, and a presentation by renowned scientist Dr. David Cheresch discussing his translational research bringing new cancer-fighting drugs to the clinical trials stage for cancer therapy. The day ended with a roundtable discussion on Pathology's role in Medical Student Education. The group spent an enjoyable evening at the Automotive Museum in Balboa Park, with lots of photographs and reminiscing.

Friday began with a presentation by Barbara Filner from ICCR, including an interactive session on how to handle difficult people and conflict resolution in the work place. Chairs and Administrators then met in separate groups, with Chairs focusing on topics that included: the NIH Clinical Translational Science Award; Pathology's role in development, maintenance and application of tissue repositories; FDA regulation of DNA-based testing; and research training for academic pathologists. PDAS

## 2006-2007 COUNCIL

### PRESIDENT

James M. Crawford, MD, PhD, Univ. of Florida College of Medicine

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Mark Tykocinski, MD Univ. of Pennsylvania Medical Center

### PAST PRESIDENT

David Wilkinson, MD, PhD Va. Commonwealth Univ.

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Lee Reddick, MD Univ. of Texas Health Science Center

### COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

J. Charles Jennette, MD Univ. of NC - Chapel Hill

### CHAIR, Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Patricia A. Thomas, MA, MD, FCAP Univ. of Kansas School of Medicine

### CHAIR, Graduate Medical Education Committee

Ralph Green, MD, PhD Univ. of California at Davis

### CHAIR, Research Committee

Ann Thor, MD Univ. of Colorado at Denver HSC

### CHAIR, Practice and Management Committee

Robert Hunter, MD, PhD Univ. of Texas - Houston Medical School

### CHAIR, PRODS

Robert Hoffman, MD, PhD Case/University Hospitals of Cleveland

### CHAIR, CDS

Charles Hitchcock, MD, PhD Ohio State Univ.

### CHAIR, PDAS

Douglas Karsch Univ. of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

## Association of Pathology Chairs

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### FUTURE APC ANNUAL MEETINGS:

**July 18-21, 2007** — Cheyenne Mountain Resort — Colorado Springs, CO — *Theme: Undergraduate Pathology Education*

**July 16-19, 2008** — Cheyenne Mountain Resort — Colorado Springs, CO — *Theme: Graduate Medical Education*

### West-Midwest Regional Meeting (Cont.)

discussed these topics: challenges and failures of centralized clinical practice plans; outreach programs – marketing, contracting, and other legal issues; and useful IT tools to streamline financial reporting at the Departmental level. Saturday, the groups combined again for a thought provoking presentation by Dr. Lee Hilborne, ASCP President Elect, on rethinking the future of Pathology practice and Part A funding. Attendees included 15 Chairs and 16 Administrators, eligible for 15 CME credit hours. Hosts for next year's meeting will be the Univ. of Iowa and Creighton Univ, planned for somewhere along a Mexican beach.

### SEAPC Regional Meeting

The SEAPC held its annual meeting Nov. 1-4 at the beautiful Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. A total of 19 Chairs and 18 Administrators were in attendance. Co-hosted by Dr. Barbara Ducatman (APC) and Cheryl Baker-Stasiak and Doug Toothman (PDAS) of West Virginia Univ. and Dr. David Wilkinson (APC) and Tom Dilts (PDAS) from Virginia Commonwealth Univ., they could not have chosen a better venue for this meeting. A reception on Wednesday evening provided attendees and their guests a wide sampling of the delicious foods available at the Greenbrier. A creative agenda and program format allowed ample time for all to participate in the topics of discussion and kept the interest of everyone right to the final hour. Thursday, Dr. Wilkinson talked about Part A funding and solicited pearls of wisdom in negotiating/defending your Part A money. Dr. Ducatman led an active discussion on Component Billing,

and groups broke out into small discussions culminating in written summaries that will be distributed to all members. Friday, Tom Dilts and Dr. James Crawford (Univ of Florida) presented unique insights into Outreach programs and provided a different style of open discussion, which gave the audience many more perspectives on this growing trend of extending our clinical practices. Dr. Janemarie Mulvey, Dir., Economic Affairs, CAP, gave an update on physician payment issues affecting Pathology and other regulatory issues. If this news wasn't bad enough, she advised the group that the MUEs have not gone away entirely, but Pathology is not the problem here. She finished the day with insights into Pay for Performance (P4P) and the CAP's short and long range plans for dealing with this. The group met that evening for a banquet at Kate's Mountain Lodge on top of the mountain, finding they had some talented singers in the group.

On Saturday, the PDAS led most of the presentations for the combined group, starting with identifying the most important elements needed to have a successful department of Pathology and ranking these in order. All agreed that teamwork and communication between Chair, Administrator, and Faculty ranked at the top. Then, Doug Toothman and Doug Karsch presented different approaches to measuring faculty performance and described their incentive programs, with lots of discussion following their talks. Doug Karsch, Chair of PDAS, held a business meeting at the close of the day to update the SEAPC PDAS members on national events and solicit ideas for the administrative portion of next year's summer program. Co-hosts for next year's meeting will be Univ. of Mississippi and Oklahoma Univ.