



Association of Pathology Chairs

# Association of Pathology Chairs, Inc.

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## 2008 DATES TO REMEMBER:

### SEAPC Regional Meeting

January 16-19, 2008  
 San Juan, Puerto Rico  
[www.apcprods.org/regional.html](http://www.apcprods.org/regional.html)

### USCAP 97th Annual Meeting

March 1-7, 2008  
 Denver, CO  
[www.uscap.org](http://www.uscap.org)

### ADASP Annual Meeting

March 1, 2008 (at USCAP)  
[www.adasp.org](http://www.adasp.org)

### ASIP 2008 Annual Meeting at EB 2008

April 5-9, 2008  
 San Diego, CA  
[www.asip.org](http://www.asip.org)

### ACLPS Annual Meeting

June 2008  
 Philadelphia, PA  
[www.aclps.org](http://www.aclps.org)

### CAP 2008 Annual Meeting

September 25-28, 2008  
 San Diego, CA  
[www.cap.org](http://www.cap.org)

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

2007 Annual Meeting —  
[Links to Presentations](#)

[Honor Society](#)

[Members-Only  
Searchable Online  
Directory](#)

[APC, PRODS, CDS,  
PDAS Council &  
Committees, Bylaws,  
Operating Procedures,  
Advocacy News and  
Resources](#)

## President's Message James M. Crawford, MD, PhD

The agenda of Academic Pathology is robust, and spans all of our areas of endeavor. In the clinical arena, the rip tides that are present throughout the American medical scene wash upon our shores as well. These include general issues such as Medicare payments for physician services, Pay-for-Performance schemes and how they may apply to Pathology, and Quality measures in American medicine. More specific to Pathology are issues such as 'Medically Unbelievable Edits' (MUE), regulation of genetic testing, proficiency testing in cytopathology, and representation in the discussions of the American Medical Association regarding coding and payments in the various clinical specialties (a "zero sum game"). Always in mind is the challenge of gaining appropriate recognition for physician services performed under "Part A" contracting. The APC Practice and Management Committee, chaired by Robert Hunter, M.D., plays a key role in crafting the posture of the APC on these issues. In addition, the ad hoc APC Advocacy Committee was formed in March, 2006, to serve as a conduit for communication between the APC and other Pathology societies active in the advocacy arena. This is a two-way conduit: to bring information back from other societies to the APC membership, and to ensure that APC members serving in other societies are fully informed of the interests and needs of the APC member institutions. It is worth keeping in mind that the APC is not established as a lobbying organization. Rather, and in keeping with our tax-free status, the ad hoc Advocacy Committee is a means for communication. This committee is chaired by Don Karcher, MD, meets monthly by conference call, and has an annual face-to-face meeting during the summer APC meeting. Membership is open to APC member chairs who are concerned, and are willing to advocate on behalf of academic pathology in their capacity as members of other pathology societies.

In education, there are a number of ongoing concerns. As reported even in the Wall Street Journal, Pathology as a specialty has grown in attractiveness to American medical school graduates. So far, so good. However, if the discussions at the Residents Forums of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and College of American Pathologists (CAP) are any indication, the biggest concerns of Pathology trainees at the current time are: the Subspecialty Fellowship application process; and Maintenance of Certification ("MOC"). In the first instance, in July 2007 the APC Council considered the standardized Fellowship Application Form proffered by the CAP Residents Forum. Minus the proposed calendar given at the end of the form, APC Council endorsed voluntary use of this form by Fellowship programs for the coming academic year. In turn, I am aware that the CAP Residents website will be (or is) listing fellowship programs that already are using the form. Regarding the calendar dates of application/acceptance, this is the big topic of discussion over the coming year. It is my hope that each subspecialty group in turn (e.g., American Society of Cytopathology, Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology, etc.) can, at their respective annual meetings, discuss the following question: "Under what circumstances can a standardized calendar be accommodated?" There have been many objections raised by Fellowship Program directors when the discussion was initiated in June/July 2007. Please keep in mind that the current dysfunctionality of the fellowship application process is the greatest single source of anxiety amongst our Pathology Residents. It behooves us, as leaders of our field, to serve our most precious asset, and that is our future colleagues who currently are in training. It is my hope that this discussion can be driven to logical consensus and conclusion by the close of the APC summer 2008 meeting. On the second issue, Maintenance of Certification, the American Board of Pathology is well along in discussions with stakeholder Pathology societies regarding the content of MOC examinations. The final shape of MOC examinations in Pathology has not yet taken shape.

A separate "education" topic which has just recently arisen is the USMLE announcing the proposal to eliminate the Step 1 Basic Science examination, consolidating both Step 1 and Step 2 into a "preclinical competencies" examination. The Basic Sciences are reacting on an immediate - and negative - basis to this proposal. The basic issue is devaluation of education in the basic science

## President's Message (Cont.)

component of medical education. This issue is also of concern at the level of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and a AAMC "Basic Science Leadership Forum" has been formed to specifically address the status of basic science education in the rapidly changing landscape of American allopathic medical education. Dr. Mark Tykocinski (APC President-elect) and I serve on this forum. Lastly, Dr. Vinay Kumar is a key player in the ongoing discussions of the AAMC with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to examine whether the premedical curriculum should undergo evolution, so as to be part of the proposed continuum of medical education that is sought for the duration of the preclinical/clinical undergraduate medical school, graduate medical education, and "continuing medical education" years.

In the research arena, the APC stands firmly with other scientific organizations in support of the NIH and the funding resolutions that influence its future. It is encouraging that recent Congressional action is in support of a modest increase in NIH funding for the coming year. The saga over the past year of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and its component Tissue Bank archive has been most interesting. On the occasion of the April 2007 ASIP annual meeting ("Experimental Biology") in Washington, DC, a delegation from the APC presented to Sen. Edward Kennedy the first ever "Friends of Pathology Award," for his unflinching support of the AFIP through the vagaries of "Base Realignment and Closure" (BRAC) review and subsequent legislation. At the current time, there are indications of a more favorable "post-BRAC" outcome for the AFIP than earlier prospects, but the journey is far from complete.

Please be sure to put the Annual Summer Meeting of the APC, July 16-19, 2008, at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, CO. This will be our third year at the Cheyenne resort, and it is a most agreeable meeting venue. The theme this year will be Graduate Medical Education (GME). Based on the premise that the future of pathology runs through GME, there will be much to discuss at our summer meeting!

## News From PRODS Robert Hoffman, MD, PhD

PRODS has concluded a productive and very well attended Summer Meeting at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs from July 18-21, 2007.

PRODS Council had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Barbara McKenna and the staff responsible for the ASCP Resident In-Service Exam (RISE) to discuss continued efforts to improve the examination as a tool for resident evaluation in the core competency of Medical Knowledge.

The PRODS program included nearly two full days of programming including three educational sessions, an orientation lunch for new program directors, committee meetings, and the PRODS Business Meeting. Dr. Gerald Mullersman was welcomed to PRODS Council. Timely updates from all of the supporting societies, the Pathology Review Committee of the ACGME (Dr. Steven Nestler) and The American Board of Pathology (Dr. Betsy Bennett) were presented.

Special attention was given in our sessions to new topics including the growing concern among pathology resident organiza-

tions about timing of fellowship applications (Drs. Noel Brownlee, CAP Resident Forum and Dominique Coco, ASCP Resident Council), the possible institution of a national pathology fellowship match sponsored by NRMP (Dr. Laurie Curtin, NRMP), the use of the educational portfolio as a method for evaluating resident competencies (Dr. Larry Fowler), and other emerging technologies for evaluation of resident competency (Drs. Peter Kragel, Therese Bocklage and David Gardner). Special presentations about resident stressors during training (Dr. Lija Joseph) and about reaction of Massachusetts programs to new restrictions on autopsy consents (Dr. Gayle Winters) were warmly received. Dr. Jan van den Tweel, representing the newly formed European Association of Pathology Chairs and Program Directors addressed the members. Nearly all of the presentations are available on the APC website: [www.apcprods.org](http://www.apcprods.org).

PRODS will have a social meeting at USCAP where the members will be able to meet with representatives of the major supporting societies, time and place to be determined. We are looking forward to the Summer 2008 APC-PRODS meeting, again in Colorado Springs from July 16-19, 2008, where the main meeting theme will once again be Graduate Medical Education. Vice Chair Dr. Steven Black-Schaffer will assume the chair at that time for his two-year term. Other elections will be conducted by electronic balloting before the Summer meeting. Nominations will be solicited on the list server by Past Chair, Dr. Larry Fowler.

## News From CDS Peter G. Anderson, DVM, PhD

The Course Directors Section (CDS) worked closely with the APC Council to organize the APC summer meeting whose theme was New Frontiers for Pathology Education. Patricia A. Thomas, Chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee and Charles Hitchcock, Chair of the CDS were instrumental in putting on a program highlighting the many opportunities and challenges in undergraduate medical education. The plenary sessions as well as the plethora of workshops provided ample opportunities for investigating the integral role that pathology can play in medical curricula for the 21st century.

The CDS Program attracted a large number of attendees and kicked off with the Nuts and Bolts for 'New' and 'Old': Effective Course Director Workshop. The Workshop was designed to help attract new members and provide important information for course directors new and old. The themes for the workshop were leadership, research and new technology in medical education. This summer's workshop was spearheaded by Carolyn Cambor with help from Darshana Shah and Peter Anderson.

Additional sessions addressing issues such as "Surviving the Information Avalanche: Creating Pathology Content for the Modern Medical School Curriculum" provided an open forum for discussion of pedagogical approaches to teaching pathology in 21st century. This session moderated by Chuck Hitchcock spurred active discussion of these important issues.

Considerable enthusiasm was also generated by discussions promoting development of peer reviewed Pathology Learning Objectives. With the volatile state of curricula throughout the country and the growing move to integrate curricula, pathology educators are logical candidates to step-up and take leadership roles in these educational reform initiatives.

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

The 2007 APC Summer meeting was held at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, the second year for this site. The meeting was well attended by all groups – APC, PRODS, PDAS, and CDS. Meeting review comments were highly favorable and the Council is looking forward to preparing the annual meeting for 2008. Your suggestions about topics and speakers will be welcomed. The focus of the 2008 meeting will be on graduate medical education.

For the last three years the APC has ended the year with a positive year end budget. Year end excess of revenue over expenses for 2006 was \$26,346. The projected budget for 2007 shows a potential revenue excess of \$2,035. Final figures will be forthcoming for the total year but given the cost saving methods initiated a few years ago, we expect to end 2007 with a positive balance. Measures used to reduce expenses include management of meeting costs, including vendors at the Summer meeting, increase in investment income, and changes and maturation of the managing office. As of May 31, 2007, long term reserves continue to be solid and the total investment dollars for APC and APC-REG combined is currently \$1,670,587 of which \$307,131 is APC investments. This represents approximately 89% of APC's budgeted annual operating expenses. The investment categories are as follows: equities 64.7%, fixed income 31.5%, and cash 3.8%. The APC Council has worked hard to maintain a positive financial status for the group. We will continue to be vigilant and use resources to enhance the programs sponsored by the APC.

## News From PDAS John A. Baci, MBA

The primary strength of the PDAS membership continues to be our diverse pathology business experience. With 150+ members nationwide, we are proud to have experts in virtually all subspecialties of pathology administration, including management, finance, billing, clinical operations, legal services, and accounting.

The summer meeting provided the usual wonderful opportunity for attendees to present current industry challenges and learn from colleagues around the country. Outgoing PDAS Chair, Douglas Karsch (Univ. of Miami), masterfully hosted an outstanding meeting program which included partnership strategies, outsourcing, private histology operations, Part A issues, Chair transitions and HMO legal case reports along with substantial open forum discussions.

Results of the annual election are: Chair, John Baci, Children's Hosp. Boston/Harvard; Chair-Elect, Marjel Hamlin-Whitmore, Creighton Univ. Med. Center; Sec./Treas., Nancy Risenhoover, Univ. of

Continued on Page 4

## Northeast Regional Meeting Michael B. Prystowsky, MD, PhD

We have just returned from another successful Northeast APC meeting in Bermuda. The agenda, set by the attendees, was filled with timely topics. At the request of J. Crawford, D. Knowles led a spirited discussion on the application process for Pathology Fellowships. Dan is preparing a report on the group's opinions to be sent to APC Council. F. Gorstein brought us up to date on the new ACGME guidelines. The first day ended with an enlightening presentation by G. Michalopoulos on hospital consolidations from the Pitt perspective. George has a wealth of experience and the presentation generated much discussion providing help to fellow chairs.

Day 2 began with a follow-up presentation by A. Kane on the Brown University proposal for promotion criteria. The conversation touched all of us since our faculty are diverse and our institutions appear to be rigid. M. Tykocinski gave us a work-in-progress on Penn's experience in developing subspecialization services in surgical pathology. J. Morrow added his experience at Yale including his growing outreach program. Both presentations generated extensive discussion on this complex task and left the house wondering how to accomplish sub-specialization in a modern academic enterprise. A. Kane led a discussion on the problems that we all encounter in recruiting and retaining surgical pathologists. M. Sobel brought us up-to-date on opportunities for pathology departments and new guidelines for tissue banking. M. Prystowsky distributed D. Karcher's annual report for the APC Advocacy committee.

At the business meeting, the group decided to return to Bermuda. The responsibilities for the meeting were divided into three parts. G. Threatte, A. Kane and A. Schiller will be responsible for reaching out to chairs to increase attendance and participation. D. Knowles and G. Michalopoulos will be responsible for developing the agenda with input from fellow chairs. M. Prystowsky will be responsible for meeting logistics. The NEAPC salary survey was to be distributed by the end of October.

## 2007-2008 COUNCIL

### PRESIDENT

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

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Mark Tykocinski, MD, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center

### PAST PRESIDENT

David Wilkinson, MD, PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert L. Reddick, MD, University of Texas Health Science Center

### COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

J. Charles Jennette, MD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

### CHAIR, Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

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

### CHAIR, Graduate Medical Education Committee

Ralph Green, MD, PhD, University of California, Davis

### CHAIR, Research Committee

Ann Thor, MD, University of Colorado at Denver Health Science Center

### CHAIR, Practice and Management Committee

Robert Hunter, MD, PhD, University of Texas, Houston Medical School

### CHAIR, PRODS

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

### CHAIR, CDS

Peter G. Anderson, DVM, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham

### CHAIR, PDAS

John A. Baci, MBA, Children's Hospital Boston

## Association of Pathology Chairs

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### APC 2008 ANNUAL MEETING:

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

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#### News from CDS (Cont.)

Pathology is itself an integrative discipline, so it is logical that pathology educators could and should play a major role in the development of integrative medical curricula. The CDS initiative to develop pathology learning objectives that can be utilized to track topics in an integrated curriculum will serve as a useful tool during these curricular reform processes. Additional efforts spearheaded by Dr. Thomas involve a survey of pathology chairs to collect opinions on the role of pathology in undergraduate medical education. Results of this survey and additional ideas gleaned from discussions of these data will provide important new directions for pathology undergraduate education. These and other CDS initiatives will move forward during

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#### News from PDAS (Cont.)

New Mexico School of Med.; Sec./Treas. Elect, Denise Matthews, USC Keck School of Med. (Note: Denise has announced that she is retiring and we wish her much health and happiness.) Regional representatives are: Northeast, Steve Gudowski, T. Jefferson Univ. Med. Center; Southeast, Roger Searls, Duke Univ. Med. Center; Midwest, Martin Lawlor, Univ. of Michigan School of Med.; West, Mary Bunker, UCSF.

Many universal administrative challenges prevail across the nation. Part A reimbursement struggles, histology staffing and Chair recruitment concerns were among the most spirited issues. In an effort to address the escalating histologist staffing crisis, PDAS will meet with leadership and members of the National Society of Histotechnology at the symposium in Denver.

the coming year.

Additional CDS business at the APC summer included election of new officers. Chuck Hitchcock became past-chair, Peter Anderson was elected chair and Byron Crawford was selected as the chair elect. Patricia Latham is the Secretary-Treasurer and Carolyn Cambor will serve as Secretary-Treasurer-Elect. A full slate of Members-at-Large were elected including: Regina Gandour-Edwards, Roger Geiss, Darshana Shah, and Paul Strausbauch. Over the next year the CDS will continue to encourage participation by course directors around the country. Carolyn Cambor is working with other CDS members and with the ASIP web support group to develop a repository of useful information on the CDS website.

We look forward to strong participation in upcoming regional APC meetings. Marjel Hamlin-Whitmore of Creighton Univ. Med. Center established breakout PDAS sessions for the West/Midwest meeting in November 2007. Dawn Henderson of Univ. of Mississippi Med. Center will coordinate the PDAS sessions early next year at the SEAPC meeting.

The PDAS listserv prevails as the primary, most effective mode of information exchange for our membership. There is a constant stream of inquiries and responses on virtually any pathology administration subject. We encourage all PDAS members to continue to utilize this excellent resource and strengthen our communications. In closing, we extend a special thank you to Past Chair Doug Karsch, for his leadership, friendship and exemplary guidance throughout this successful year. Go 'Canes!