

APC Newsletter

Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter
December 2009, Vol 1, No. 1

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Highlights

- The APC proudly presents our first-ever, fully electronic edition of this Newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions on the new format, and hope you will find it useful and user-friendly.
- APC Council finalizes the APC 2009-2013 Strategic Plan. [More](#)
- Advocacy Committee deliberates health care and insurance reform, the role of pathology in the "patient-centered medical home" model of chronic disease management, health information technology, personalized medicine, clinical reimbursement, undergraduate medical education, medical licensure, and residency and fellowship training, Congressional budget appropriations for the NIH, pathology-related resolutions considered by the AMA, efforts to improve the recent APC Practice Management and Research departmental survey, and cytology proficiency testing. [More](#)
- UME to foster close working relationships with UMEDS, formerly CDS. [More](#)
- Research Committee reviews the APCREG Proposal that encourages committees of the APC to submit project proposals for funding, with the goal of producing scholarly projects of interest to the full membership of the APC. [More](#)
- Practice and Management Committee (P&M) together with PDAS conducts successful survey. While survey contains useful information, deans view it as biased. Many are adopting the MGMA survey as the national standard for workload. [More](#)
- APC Northeast Regional Meeting, Oct 1-4, 2009, in Cambridge Beaches, Bermuda focuses on physician organizations, faculty practice plans, and pathology departments; institutional and departmental impact and response to the current economic crisis; and institutional initiatives and pathology involvement in personalized medicine. [More](#)
- Attendees at the February 2009 meeting of the Southeast APC and Administrators welcomed from sponsoring schools Medical University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University. [More](#)
- Pathology Department Administrators (PDAS) 2009 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington provides opportunities to learn and network with colleagues and leaders from other institutions. [More](#)
- Program Directors (PRODS) report successful summer meeting, plans for the coming year, and bid farewell to individuals who have been instrumental in the success of GME in pathology. [More](#)

2010 Meetings & Events

[ASCP Annual Meeting](#)

October 28-31, 2010
San Francisco, CA

[USCAP 2010 Annual Meeting](#)

March 20-26, 2010
Washington, DC

[ASIP 2010 Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology](#)

April 24-28, 2010
Anaheim, California

[ACLPS 45th Annual Meeting](#)

June 3-5, 2010
Nashville, TN

[2010 APC/PRODS/ PDAS/UMEDS Annual Meeting](#)



July 14-16, 2010
Seattle, Washington

[CAP 2010 Annual Meeting](#)

September 26-29, 2010
Chicago, IL

[Northeast APC \(NEAPC\) 2010 Annual Meeting](#)

September 30 - October 3,
2010
Bermuda

[Southeast APC \(SEAPC\) 2010 Annual Meeting](#)

October 7-9, 2010
Asheville, North Carolina

[AMP 2010 Annual Meeting](#)

November 17-20, 2010
San Jose, CA



Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter

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President's Message

I have had the distinct honor of being President of the APC for exactly one year, having transitioned from President-Elect to President when **Mark Tykocinski** relinquished his Chair at Penn to become the Dean of Jefferson Medical College and Senior Vice President of Thomas Jefferson University in December, 2008. **Jim Crawford** has continued to serve on Council as immediate Past President and has been an invaluable and tireless leader in this role. I also would like to recognize the exceptional support and active participation of **Priscilla Markwood** (APC and ASIP Director of Scientific Affairs, Communications and Society Services) in all APC activities and accomplishments.

A number of major events have culminated, occurred or begun during 2009. An APC 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 has been finalized by Council (<http://www.apcprods.org/apc/APC2009-2013StrategicPlan.doc>), which is the culmination of work begun under the leadership of **Mark Tykocinski**. A number of the initiatives in this Plan are already well underway.

The triennial alternating emphasis of our annual national meeting on graduate medical education, undergraduate medical education, or practice and management will be changed to include all of these missions each year, as well as the overarching themes of research and advocacy. This is intended to better engage all of our Sections and standing committees in each annual meeting. To this end, the leaders of all Sections and Standing Committees will be active participants in developing the content for each Annual Meeting. The new workshop format with next day platform presentation was well received and will be continued. In addition, the mutual synergies between the National APC and the Regional Meetings will be enhanced by improved two-way communications with Council, and greater coordination and support from Council.

Ann Thor, Chair of the Research Committee has taken the initiative to arrange gatherings of chairs at the ASIP Annual Meeting, and will extend this to USCAP Meetings. These are opportunities to engage chairs in APC activities who may not be at the Annual APC Meeting. The ASIP meeting, in particular, also is an opportunity to plan and advance APC initiatives that are especially relevant to research-intensive departments.

The Advocacy Committee will become a Standing Committee rather than an *ad hoc* committee, and will continue to be proactive in identifying and addressing issues on the national scene that are important to academic pathology. As summarized elsewhere in this Newsletter, **Donald Karcher**, who also is our Councilor-at-Large, has done a stellar job leading this Committee and advancing its agenda, which has focused on a broad range of important issues including but not limited to AFIP, NIH funding, CMS policies (including MUEs), AMA, NBME USMLE policy, genetic testing, proficiency testing, CAP certification, health care reform and policy (including HIT and Medical Homes), and legislation (including the Wyden Amendment). We owe Don a debt of gratitude for the tremendously effective time and effort he has contributed to these important issues on behalf of APC. Although many chairs and others have been active participants in Advocacy Committee initiatives, **Jim Crawford, Steve Black-Schaffer** and **Priscilla Markwood** deserve special thanks for their many contributions. The year-round accomplishments of the Advocacy Committee, with regular conference calls and practical initiatives, is a model that could be followed by other standing committees to advance their goals.

In partnership with the Advocacy Committee, **Bob Hunter** (Practice & Management Committee Chair), **Marjel Whitmore** (PDAS Past-Chair) and **Nancy Risenhoover** (PDAS Chair) developed, implemented and analyzed a survey of to collect data pertaining to academic pathology department missions and operations, with the goal of continuing this process every other year to determine valid bench marks and trends. Of course, this first attempt was not perfect. Under the leadership of PDAS and the P&M Committee, but with input from all Sections and Committees, the survey tool will be refined over the coming years to produce a user-friendly and robust tool that not only will inform individual department planning and operations, but also will provide a more complete picture of national trends that warrant the attention and action of APC. **Bob Hunter** and **Nancy Risenhoover** also have advocated greater participation by APC in MGMA surveys that are often the source of benchmarks for pathology services used by the leadership of academic health care systems. Because of their efforts, preliminary estimates are that around 40 academic pathology departments completed the MGMA survey this year. PDAS and the P&M Committee will follow-up on this participation to identify issues that can be brought to the attention of MGMA to improve the effectiveness and ease of use of the tool and the validity of the data.

APC-REG (which evolved from UAREP) will be renamed the Academic Mission Group (AMG) and, under the able leadership of **Peter Jensen**, has been charged with providing resources and tools (e.g. white papers) that will enhance the ability of academic departments to perform in their clinical, research, and educational missions. AMG has

great potential of becoming an important effector arm of APC that can provide tangible benefits to our members and our discipline.

The Course Directors Section (CDS) will be renamed the Undergraduate Medical Educators Section (UMEDS) to reflect the changing nature of pathology faculty involvement in medical student education with the widespread move toward integrated curricula rather than department-based courses. **Byron Crawford** and **Michele Raible** have been instrumental in galvanizing the missions of this critically important Section.

In addition to the highlights above, APC, primarily through its constituent Sections and Committees, has had a productive year. Winter Council, which includes the APC Officers and the leaders of all Standing Committees and Sections, will meet for a week in mid January to map out plans for the coming year, including the Annual Summer Meeting. Please feel free to contact any of the participants to suggest initiatives for the coming year or content for the Annual Meeting. And please mark your calendars now to attend the Annual Meeting, July 14-16, 2010, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington.

J. Charles Jennette, MD
President

Advocacy Committee Report

In this era of health care reform, personalized medicine, and the evolution of medical education, the APC Advocacy Committee has been very busy on many fronts furthering the interests of academic pathology. The Committee, which is open to all interested APC members, consists of a core of about fifteen department chairs, along with several non-chair members. My work as Chair of the Advocacy Committee is greatly facilitated by **Barbara Ducatman**, Vice Chair of the Committee, and **Priscilla Markwood** of the ASIP. The Committee has conference calls on the third Friday of each month, during which there is spirited discussion of the advocacy issues of the day and planning of actions to be taken on behalf of the APC and its membership. The following are some of the issues addressed since the APC Summer meeting in Seattle.

Health care reform and the legislative battle to re-make the health care system – or at least re-make health care insurance – have dominated the Advocacy Committee agenda since July. We have worked closely with many other like-minded organizations, most notably the College of American Pathologists and Association of American Medical Colleges, on reform issues of common interest. Most of our efforts have been focused on advocating for a payment system that would allow pathologists and clinical laboratories to continue to be fairly compensated for the vitally important contributions they make to the health of the nation. An important example is the fight we have waged to defeat or modify the so-called Wyden Amendment to the Senate Finance Committee's health care reform Bill. The amendment, if passed unchanged, would give a select group of commercial laboratories a special and highly restricted reimbursement advantage over all other laboratories, including hospital-based and academic laboratories, in the performance of complex molecular tests. The Advocacy Committee first enlisted the active involvement of APC members in key states represented by members of the Senate Finance Committee. These targeted APC members wrote letters to and directly communicated with the Senators and their legislative assistants, resulting in the support of our position by some of these key Senators. The battle was then opened up to all APC members when a coalition of pathology and medical organizations, including the APC, solicited the signature of all academic pathology department chairs on a letter strongly opposing the proposed amendment. As of this writing, the outcome of this struggle is still not determined.

Another issue closely tied to health care reform is the role of pathology in the so-called "patient-centered medical home" model of chronic disease management and in the design and use of health information technology (HIT). **Jim Crawford**, APC Past President and active member of the Advocacy Committee, has been a very effective spokesman for the interests of pathology in these important areas. With the support and advice of the Advocacy Committee, Jim has secured a seat at the table for academic pathology, and the pathology community at-large, as these issues are debated by clinician-dominated coalitions, industry groups, and Federal advisory committees. A recent example involving the Advocacy Committee was the written testimony provided on behalf of the APC to the HHS Health Information Technology Policy Committee, on the critical role of pathologists in the design and implementation of clinical information systems displaying laboratory data and pathology reports. These issues will require close surveillance and a continuing proactive approach by the Advocacy Committee.

The Committee has worked on several initiatives related to molecular pathology and the movement toward personalized medicine. Much of this work has been done in partnership with the Association for Molecular Pathology. Earlier in the year, the Advocacy Committee developed, and the APC Council approved, a position paper strongly opposing gene patents and restrictive licensing of genomic sequences. When the committee advising the Secretary of HHS on these issues approved a set of recommendations supporting our position and industry groups began lobbying against the recommendations, the APC released a press statement strongly endorsing the committee's decision.

Our ongoing involvement in the monitoring of regulatory proceedings by CMS and other agencies related to clinical reimbursement has continued. **Steve Black-Schaffer** and **Allan Tucker**, Advocacy Committee liaisons with the CAP Economic Affairs Committee, have kept our committee members informed of current deliberations dealing with possible re-valuation by CMS of the 883•• series of CPT codes. A decision by CMS is expected in early 2010 and is anxiously awaited by the pathology community.

The Advocacy Committee has closely followed and been involved in discussions of several issues related to undergraduate medical education, medical licensure, and residency and fellowship training. The ongoing process of evolution of the USMLE, orchestrated by the National Board of Medical Examiners, has been followed closely. Re-evaluation of duty-hour regulations for residents and fellows, currently being conducted by the ACGME, has been the topic of discussion at several of our monthly conference calls. **Steve Black-Schaffer**, PRODS Chair and Advocacy Committee member, was invited by the ACGME to give live testimony at a recent stakeholder meeting and had a

chance to present a novel approach to duty-hour monitoring more appropriate for pathology training than the current “one size fits all” model. Finally, the Advocacy Committee has provided advice and support to **Jim Crawford** and the APC Council as we move toward a formal match for pathology fellowship positions.

In addition to the items outlined above, the Advocacy Committee has also monitored and/or provided input on several other issues, including Congressional budget appropriations for the NIH, pathology-related resolutions considered by the AMA at its national meeting, efforts to improve the recent APC Practice Management and Research departmental survey (done in concert with the APC Practice and Management and Research Committees and PDAS), and ongoing discussion in CMS and Congress regarding cytology proficiency testing. With these and other issues continuing to be debated at the national level, the APC Advocacy Committee is expected to keep very busy in the coming months.

Donald Karcher, MD
Chair

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee Report

The UME is under new leadership and it is **Michael Cohen's** (Chair) intent to foster close working relationships with UMEDS, formerly CDS. At the July 2009 meeting this collaborative interaction was initiated. It is UME's intent to work closely with UMEDS, including **Michele Raible** and **Carolyn Cambor**, in planning the 2010 summer program that includes 2.5 hours of joint programming.

There are a couple of things that the membership will want to closely monitor. One is the recent AAMC-HHMI report (2009), [Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians](#). **Vinay Kumar** was a member of the committee that developed this report.

The second is the proposed changes in the USMLE examinations (2008), [Comprehensive Review of USMLE](#)

Stay tuned for updates this summer.

Michael Cohen, MD

Interim Chair

Research Committee Report

Several members (8) of the 36 Research Committee members met on Oct. 28th by telephone. The two VP candidates **Stanley Cohen** and **William Muller** were recognized. **Peter Jensen** reviewed the APCREG Proposal plan currently being reviewed by Council. This plan would encourage committees of the APC to submit project proposals for funding, with the goal of producing scholarly projects of interest to the full membership of the APC. This proposal is a derivative of the efforts of the Northeast Chairs regional meeting which was held in October. We will distribute information as it becomes available regarding steps for proposal submission. Dr. Jensen discussed the new annual meeting format (which will include some activities related to education, practice and research at each meeting). The research committee will have workshop slots and one plenary session to coordinate. Committee members with ideas should submit them to Dr. Thor, so that they can be distributed for discussion prior to the next committee meeting. Dr. Cohen has suggested a potential topic "Diagnostic Translational Research: The convergence of Pathology and Radiology" for consideration. This could deal with "cutting edge technologies such as surface plasmon resonance, impedance tomography, terahertz imaging, etc.". Suggested speakers include: **Mark Tykocinski** (Jefferson), **George Michalopoulos** (Pittsburgh), **Michael Feldman** (Penn), **John Tomaszewski** (Penn), and **Ralph Garippa** (Hoffmann-LaRoche). If you have further suggestions for other topics, speakers for this or other programs please send them to **Ann Thor** for further discussion. The final program and speaker approval process will occur at council in January, hence, this topic is timely and will get further discussion prior to that time. The committee discussed and approved APC sub-meetings to be held at the ASIP (Monday noon) and USCAP (Monday noon). All APC members are encouraged to attend. Topics for discussion will be developed during the next teleconference. Suggestions should be sent to **Ann Thor**. Announcements related to the election outcomes and a discussion of the mission statement of the Research Committee was tabled to the next teleconference. Members will be contacted by email to establish a date and time, preferably late November or early December.

*Ann Thor, MD
Chair*

Practice & Management Committee (P&M) Report

The P&M Committee together with PDAS conducted a very successful survey last spring. While it contained much useful information, deans and others who manage us view it as biased. Many are adopting the MGMA survey as the national standard for workload. Consequently, it is important that it is valid. This can only be assured by participation of most of our members and by working with the MGMA to improve it. They are anxious to do so and offer several attractive incentives for participation. We think that monitoring and participating this and perhaps other national surveys in addition to our own should be a priority of the APC and PDAS.

The deadline for this year's survey was November 13th. We urged everyone to participate because many of us will be directly influenced by the results and are grateful to many APC departments that complied and completed the MGMA survey. Stating that we are all different is no longer working. We must help develop better survey tools and insure that they are used appropriately.

Robert L. Hunter, MD, PhD
Chair

Northeast APC Report

The Northeast Regional Meeting of the Association of Pathology Chairs was held in Cambridge Beaches, Bermuda on October 1 – 4, 2009. Seventeen Chairs were in attendance. Additional participants included Vice Chairs as well as **Mark E. Sobel** and **Fred Silva**. The meeting was organized around three topics of discussion. The first topic was “physician organizations, faculty practice plans, and pathology departments.” The second topic was “institutional and departmental impact and response to the current economic crisis.” The third topic was “institutional initiatives and pathology involvement in personalized medicine.” For each topic of discussion, three to four individuals, primarily Chairs, presented global summaries and institutional perspectives. In addition, a fourth session focused on newly appointed Chairs. **David Louis**, **Stephen Peiper** and **Cheryl Hanau** presented brief overviews of their departments, including their challenges and perspectives on how to overcome those challenges. Active discussion at the business meeting resulted in a resolution that was forwarded to the APC Council. Decisions were made as to the venue for future meetings, including location, meeting organization and attendance. Potential topics for the next year were also discussed.

Daniel M. Knowles, MD

Southeast APC Report

Attendees at the February 2009 meeting of the Southeast Association of Pathology Chairs and Administrators were given a chilly reception by Kiawah Island, but a warm welcome from sponsoring schools Medical University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University. The splendid Sanctuary Hotel was the setting for an engaging, friendly, instructive meeting, attended by 12 chairs/chair representatives and 14 administrators, in addition to many speakers and guests. The meeting was sponsored by three exhibitors.

Each of academic Pathology's tripartite missions was given its due during the three-day event.

On Thursday, we explored the relationships between Pathology Departments and Centers, from basic research to clinical practice. Speakers from both MUSC and Wake Forest represented a Comprehensive Cancer Center, a Digestive Disease Center, a Primate Center and a Translational Science Institute.

Friday was devoted to Pathology industry and business topics. Participants heard from a compliance expert about referring physicians developing histology laboratories; from Pathology's representative in Medicare's Physicians Quality Improvement Initiative process; from the executive director of a national private lab about market competitiveness; and from the American Society of Clinical Pathology's president regarding imminent workforce shortages.

Saturday's session was focused on clinical practice. A laboratory director examined the devil in UHC benchmarking details; a digital pathology expert showed us a vision of the future of Pathology; and a rueful section head shared what can really go wrong when Pathologists plan clinical trials.

All attendees benefited from a gastronomically fabulous Low Country Clambake on Friday evening, and entertained each other with SEAPC history, taking refuge from the chilly air around a giant fire pit on the bay.

Peter Kragel

Pathology Department Administrators (PDAS) Report

The Pathology Department Administrators group focuses on the business side of pathology – operations management. Our annual meeting in Seattle, Washington this past July was no exception to the rule in providing opportunities to learn and network with colleagues and leaders from other institutions. Outgoing PDAS Chair, the ever-charming **Marjel Whitmore** of Creighton University, led the meeting with panache. Within the theme of “Pathology Practice and Management: Sharing Successes, Avoiding Failures and Preparing for the Future,” the PDAS group enjoyed presentations on several pertinent topics. Laboratory benchmarking and strategies were discussed by representatives of Chi Solutions. The impact of the current economy and how it affects the management of our practices was presented by several representatives from Creighton University, who highlighted various perspectives. PDAS representatives also partnered with Chairs and jointly presented in panel discussions during the “Call to Action” general session. This year’s joint panel discussions were a valuable exchange of information and dialogue. We plan to include this workshop format again next year. Furthermore, over this next year the PDAS survey committee, led by **Douglas Karsch** of the University of Miami, will be focused on improving the APC/PDAS practice survey.

New officers for PDAS 2009-2010 include Chair-Elect **Thomas Dilts** of Virginia Commonwealth University, Secretary-Treasurer **Martha Miers** from Vanderbilt University, Secretary-Treasurer Elect **Joseph Rondinelli** of New Jersey Medical School, and as Chair, **Nancy Risenhoover** from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. We are joined by our regional representatives: **Robert Challender** of the University of Pennsylvania, Northeast; **Roger Searls** from Duke University Medical Center, Southeast; **July Elleson** from University of Iowa Medical Center, Midwest; and **Mary Bunker** from University of California-San Francisco, Western. We have assembled yet another talented group and plan to prepare a challenging meeting program for July 2010.

2009 Regional meetings will conclude with the upcoming West-Midwest joint meeting November 11-14, in Napa, California, hosted by Indiana University and Ohio State University. The Northeast Association of Pathology Chairs, hosted by University of Pittsburgh and Weill Medical College of Cornell University, recently met October 1-4 in Bermuda. Earlier in the year, February 4-7, the Southeast Association of Pathology Chairs and Administrators held their regional meeting at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina and University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

Nancy Risenhoover
Chair

Program Directors (PRODS) Report

The PRODS wishes to report a very successful summer meeting, plans for the coming year, and to bid most appreciative farewells to two individuals who have been instrumental in the success of GME in pathology over the past many years.

The Seattle PRODS summer meeting sessions were very well attended by program directors and several interested chairs (some of whom do double duty as both). On Wednesday afternoon, we had a plenary workshop on training pathology residents in laboratory management, jointly brought to us by the American Pathology Foundation, represented by its President, **Ron Weiss** and the American Society for Clinical Pathology, represented by its President, **Barbara McKenna**. This workshop was introduced by **Steve Black-Schaffer**, with closing remarks and a summary presentation on Friday to the APC by **Sue Roseff**. We were challenged by the success of a handful of programs whose performance on the ABP exams and in involving the faculty and trainees was exemplary, and there was considerable back-and-forth on how this topic, while clearly central to the success of trainees, was substantively different from the other educational domains through which we need to lead them. The response ranged from the very practical (how to schedule a junior laboratory directorship) to the theoretical (was this really essential to all pathologists, in particular how similar were the skills that a researcher might need to manage a research laboratory, to those a clinical pathologist would need to manage a clinical one). The interest engendered by this topic carried over unabated into the following two days.

Our first Thursday session was held jointly with the CDS, and was a fascinating review of the circumstances of two different hurricane-related disasters that affected medical schools and their associated residency programs. We had presentations by **Kevin Krane** and **Byron Crawford** of the Tulane University School of Medicine, by **Juan Olano** of the University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston, and **Suzanne Powell** of the Methodist Hospital System. Both Tulane and UT – Galveston were temporarily disabled by hurricanes, and there was much discussion of the expected and unexpected consequences of these disasters, with many lessons learned. Suzanne described the phenomenon from the other side, that of a host institution which was able to take on the continued training of the displaced residents. Though sobering, especially the parting comments about how a hurricane is, after all, a somewhat predictable event, as compared to an act of terrorism or a cataclysmic earthquake, the overall description provided reassuring examples of human resilience in the face of adversity, and was much appreciated.

Much of the remainder of the day was devoted to the following three other workshops, and our luncheon business meeting.

- **Certification, Examination and Education:** characterizing milestones for transition from time-based to competency-based training programs; synchronizing training programs' and certifying agencies' educational expectations. **Bruce Alexander** (U Alabama – Birmingham), **Betsy Bennett**(ABP) and **Wes Naritoku** (USC)
- **Adaptive Change for Emerging Practice:** assessing the qualitative and quantitative fit between training programs and the world of practice, a conversation stimulated by the APC/CAP GME Committee white paper. **Bob Hoffman** (Vanderbilt), **Suzanne Powell** (Methodist) and **Michael Talbert** (U OK)
- **Duty Hours and Taxonomy for GME:** comparing and contrasting rotations and other educational experiences in pathology GME on the macro scale (how much time) and on the micro scale (how do we structure each of these), a conversation informed by ADASP and ACLPS content and duration guidelines. **Steve Black-Schaffer** (MGH), **Becky Johnson** (Berkshire) and **Gayle Winters** (BWH)

At our luncheon business meeting, we welcomed three new members to PRODS council: **Peter Kragel** (East Carolina), **Charles Timmons** (UT Southwestern), and **Phyllis Heutner** (Wash U), and we had our initial presentation by our new OPDA representative, **Karen Kaul** (NorthShore U Health System). We were addressed by **Tom Bollinger** of the ASCP RC and **Kyle Eskue** of the CAP RF, who presented between them an interesting though in part disturbing vision of the current state of pathology from the perspective of our residents. There were two common areas of concern: 1) the job market, particularly the extent to which ubiquitous post-residency fellowship training might be obscuring an over-supply of pathologists, and 2) the fellowship application process, specifically the lack of coordination in the process of matching applicants with positions.

Lunch was followed by presentations and discussion of the workshop topics, with the usual charmingly diverse points of view clearly and emphatically expressed, often with insights of benefit to all. Our special topics included

presentations on maintenance of certification by **Betsy Bennett**, milestones by **Suzanne Powell**, and resident stress by **Lija Joseph**.

PRODS council then met with the APC GME Committee under its new leadership by **Allan Tucker**, where we discussed topics of mutual interest to PRODS and chairs, and agreed to continue to coordinate GME Committee and PRODS Council activities.

Friday morning was nominally a new PRODS session, led by **Steve Black-Schaffer** with input from all our experienced PRODS and distinguished visitors (many themselves past or present PRODS), including several previous PRODS chairs and **Betsy Bennett**, **Rebecca Johnson** and **Suzanne Powell**. It was widely observed that the session was of interest and benefit to all, not just new PRODS, and ought to be recast as a general update and moved to the beginning of our summer sessions. The morning meeting concluded with the determination of three topics for next year's meeting, as follows:

1. Remediation – of residents (and faculty)
2. How to do your PIF – Timelines and helpful hints
3. More on Milestones – a whole bunch of interesting issues

Finally, PRODS wishes most sincerely to express its gratitude to **Ralph Green**, whose uniquely long tenure as APC GME Committee chair was marked by numerous advances in mutual cordiality and utility of the ACP and the PRODS; we confidently anticipate that our relationship with the new leadership of the APC GME Committee will be similarly cordial and efficacious, as it is built on the foundation Ralph established. The other individual whom we wish to recognize is **Steve Nestler**, for many years Executive Director of the Pathology Residency Review Committee, and now Senior Executive Director for many RRCs, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Both Ralph and Steve managed always to be straightforward, sensible and reassuring. As a result, we have a generation of PRODS with the confidence to take on the weighty responsibility of leading pathology education. Through their behavior, Ralph and Steve set an example of leadership in education we will be fortunate to emulate. Our future as PRODS, working with **Allan Tucker** and **Georgia Andrianopoulos** will undoubtedly also be bright, in part due to the excellence of their predecessors.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of PRODS Council,
Steve Black-Schaffer
Chair*