

APC Newsletter

Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter
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- New APC meeting format will include sessions and related workshops addressing topics of interest related to each of the APC standing committees and associated sections. Brent James, Chief Quality Officer and Executive Director of the Institute for Health Care Delivery Research at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, Utah, will deliver the keynote address. [More](#)
- PDAS refines the APC/PDAS practice survey, announces election results. [More](#)
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- Advocacy Committee explores the efforts of health care reform legislation on pathology practice and highlights pending legislation to render gene patents illegal. [More](#)
- GME Committee and PRODS organize a joint session for the APC 2010 Meeting that will include presentations and workshops focusing on support for program directors, curricula in laboratory management, and how to prepare residents for personalized medicine. [More](#)
- UME Committee deliberates proposed changes to the USMLE and implementation of recommendations in the 2009 AAMC-HHMI report, entitled Scientific Foundations of Future Physicians. [More](#)
- Research Committee discusses federal regulatory and reimbursement issues related to new technologies, the role of pathologists in interdisciplinary team science and the shortage of MD, PhD candidates in Pathology. [More](#)
- APC/PDAS 2009 survey summaries and raw data available. Practice & Management Committee collaborates with PDAS to fine-tune survey to facilitate the identification of long-term trends in pathology practice. [More](#)

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Association of Pathology Chairs Newsletter

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President's Message

As I near the end of my term as APC President, I thank the membership and Council for your contributions to the substantial accomplishments over the past two years. I am also grateful for the expert administrative support provided by Priscilla Markwood and **Mark Sobel**.

Many of the goals established in the [2009-2013 Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) already have been accomplished or are being addressed with efforts that are well underway. The Annual Meeting format has been changed from a triennial alternating focus on graduate medical education, undergraduate medical education, or practice and management to an annual integrated meeting that addresses all of these missions as well as our research and advocacy missions. This change in the Annual Meeting, which will entail planning input from all APC segments each year, is intended to engage all of our Sections and Standing Committees in every annual meeting, and to stimulate more year-round activity. Such year-round activity has been exemplified by the robust activities of the Advocacy Committee, ably led by **Don Karcher**, which was the impetus for elevating this Committee from *ad hoc* to standing status in the recent bylaws amendments. The bylaws amendments also clarified the mechanism for election of Standing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, changed the Course Directors Section (CDS) to the Undergraduate Medical Educators Section (UMEDS) to better reflect current medical school curricula structure, and changed APC-REG from a section to a standing committee designated the Academic Mission Group (AMG) with the goal of providing resources and tools that will enhance the ability of departments to succeed in their clinical, research, and educational missions. Changes in the APC Operating Procedures include approved methods for selecting the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award and Friends of Pathology Award, and for appointment as Senior Fellow. In another effort to enhance APC year-round activities and to engage as many chairs as possible in APC activities, **Ann Thor**, Chair of the Research Committee, has arranged well attended gatherings of APC chairs at the ASIP and USCAP Annual Meetings, which are intended to become regular APC functions. A number of important APC initiatives are underway but will require substantial effort by APC members to bring to fruition. **Jim Crawford** has been leading a thus far Sisyphean effort at reform of the currently disorganized application process for subspecialty residency positions. This effort began in 2007 during Jim's APC Presidency and will continue after he completes his remarkably effective tenure on Council after the July 2010 Annual Meeting. Hopefully, Jim will continue to be a leader of this effort, along with the Chair of the GME Committee (currently **Allan Tucker**) and the Chair of the PRODS Council (currently **Stephen Black-Schaffer**). I urge all APC Chairs, PRODS and "FPRODS" members to participate in this effort to come up with reforms that will be beneficial to the overall GME mission of our discipline. Also in the GME arena, an *ad hoc* APC committee chaired by **Brian Smith** is looking into the possibility of proposing a physician-scientist residency track to the American Board of Pathology. This due diligence is in an early phase. Please contact Brian with any constructive comments. Another ongoing APC effort is to develop an effective survey tool to collect data pertaining to academic pathology department characteristics and operations, with the goal of continuing this process every other year to provide valid benchmarks. In parallel with participation in this APC survey, academic pathology departments will be strongly encouraged to participate in the MGMA surveys. This increased participation by APC members will allow APC to work with MGMA to improve the accuracy and relevance of their survey for academic pathology. The goal is to establish the least onerous mechanism that will allow ongoing collection of one set of data that will be suitable for completion of both the APC and MGMA surveys. The prime movers in this effort will be the Practice & Management Committee and PDAS. Leaders of these APC segments who have been most engaged in the process to date include **Bob Hunter** (Practice & Management Committee Chair), **Marjel Whitmore** (PDAS Past-Chair) and **Nancy Risenhoover** (PDAS Chair).

My two years as APC President have been interesting and educational. I encourage all APC members, including both chair members and members of sections, to seek leadership roles in APC.

J. Charles Jennette, President of APC

APC Program Chair's Message

I am very much looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming annual APC meeting in Seattle! In past years, the annual APC meeting has cycled with alternating themes focused on GME, undergraduate medical education, or practice and management. This will be the first time in which we will apply a new program format that will include sessions and related workshops addressing topics of interest to each of the APC standing committees and associated sections. The committee chairs and section leaders have worked together to identify topics for joint sessions between APC Chair members and PRODS, UMEDS, or PDAS section members. An outstanding slate of speakers have been identified, and we look forward to your extensive participation in discussions, workshops, and committees. Research will continue to be represented in the program with a session focused around advances in imaging technology and their application in diagnostics and teaching. We will have opportunities for face-to-face discussions on a range of topics, including the issue of implementing a matching program for pathology fellowships. Mona Signor, Executive Director of the National Resident Matching Program, will join us for a lunch session to answer questions and participate in discussion on this topic. The Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled with no competing sessions to encourage wide participation.

Brent James, Chief Quality Officer and Executive Director of the Institute for Health Care Delivery Research at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, Utah, will deliver the keynote address on the first evening of the meeting. Dr. James is involved nationally in healthcare reform, and he has been the leader in transforming healthcare delivery at Intermountain, a best practice model cited by President Obama. Dr. David Hardwick (University of British Columbia) will be honored with the 2010 APC Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his tremendous record of contributions to the field of pathology. In addition, two newly established awards for excellence in undergraduate and graduate medical education will be presented.

The APC Research and Education Group (APC-REG) has been renamed the Academic Mission Group (AMG) with the goal of providing resources for projects that will help equip academic pathology departments to facilitate their clinical, research, and education missions. Each of the standing committees in the APC (Undergraduate Medical Education, Research, Practice & Management, Graduate Medical Education, and Advocacy Committees) are encouraged to sponsor projects that will lead to tangible products (such as guidelines, data sets, other shared resources) that will be useful to the APC membership in achieving their missions. Proposals sponsored by standing committees will be given priority. I encourage you to consider ideas for projects that could be discussed with committee members during the upcoming summer meeting.

Peter E. Jensen, President-Elect of APC

APC Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee has continued to be very active over the past months speaking out in support of the interests of academic pathology. Now that health care reform legislation has been signed into law, the Committee has focused its efforts in this arena on optimizing the implementation of the new legislation, with particular attention to the effects of the new law on pathology practice and graduate medical education. We have closely monitored developments related to the critical role of pathology in health informatics, personalized medicine, and newly-emerging clinical practice models, such as the patient-centered medical home. **Dr. Jim Crawford** continues to be the Committee "champion" for these issues. Another topic of great interest is the ongoing initiative by CMS and the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) to re-value the 883XX series of CPT codes. **Drs. Steve Black-Schaffer** and **Allan Tucker** have kept the Committee well-informed on this important initiative and facilitated the inclusion of many academic pathologists in a recent CAP-sponsored survey designed to inform this process. Some months ago, the Advocacy Committee, on behalf of the APC and working with the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), had developed a position statement in strong opposition to gene patents. We were pleased to learn in March of a federal court ruling in favor of our position, in a law suit against Myriad Genetics, marketers of the *BRAC1* and *BRAC2* assays. The Committee is currently working to support pending legislation making gene patents illegal. The Committee has continued to closely monitor the ongoing ACGME effort to revise resident duty-hour rules, and we have also provided advice and support to the APC Council in its deliberations to initiate a formal match for pathology subspecialty fellowships.

In its work on these and other issues, the APC Advocacy Committee has worked closely with several organizations, including the CAP, ASCP, AMP, AAMC, and others. In the spirit of this strong sense of cooperation between APC and other like-minded societies and organizations, the Advocacy Committee will be sponsoring a session at the upcoming APC summer meeting in Seattle on the afternoon of July 16. Entitled "Synergies with Cooperating Societies: Alignment for the Future of Pathology", the session will feature a talk by Dr. Atul Grover, Chief Advocacy Officer of the AAMC, and presentations and a roundtable discussion involving representatives of eight other organizations. The thrust of the entire session will be how APC and other organizations can work together for the betterment of the pathology community.

The APC Advocacy Committee, which is open to all interested APC members, currently consists of a core of about fifteen department chairs, along with several non-chair members. The Committee has conference calls on the third Friday of each month, now at a new time (10:00 AM Eastern) to make participation more convenient for members in western time zones. Our monthly calls involve detailed discussion of the advocacy issues of the day and planning of actions to be taken on behalf of the APC and its membership. The Advocacy Committee will have its annual face-to-face meeting on the afternoon of July 15 at the APC summer meeting in Seattle, and this meeting is open to all.

Donald Karcher, Advocacy Committee Chair

APC Graduate Medical Education Committee Report

The roles of the Graduate Medical Education Committee include:

1. Support academic pathology departments in their residency and fellowship training mission as well as in the training of graduate students in pathology.
2. Work with program directors of residency training programs to help assure their success
3. Stay informed about activities of the Pathology Residency Review Committee and the American Board of Pathology and advise Council, chairs, and PRODS of activities that will impact pathology residency training programs.
4. Be informed about activities within AAMC that impact graduate medical education activities in academic departments of pathology.
5. Maintain liaison with national pathology organizations that have active and ongoing interests in the education of pathologists in training, including the College of American Pathologists, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, pathology subspecialty organizations, and the American Board of Pathology.
6. Explore and develop the role of graduate medical education in Continuing Medical Education in the emerging need for recertification.

The committee has worked with PRODS to organize a joint session for the upcoming summer meeting that will include presentations and workshops on preparing residents for personalized medicine, laboratory management curriculum, and support for program directors. A significant liaison has been established between the APC GME/PRODS and the CAP GME committee, and significant work remains in the area of a fellowship match. Other areas are ripe for consideration based on the interests of the committee. The opportunity to work closely with our active and vital PRODS group is a particularly rewarding aspect of this committee.

Submitted by Allan Tucker, Graduate Medical Education Committee Chair

APC Practice & Management Committee Report

We face many challenges with upcoming healthcare reform and continuing evolution of technology and practices of Pathology. The P&M Committee is working to collect and distribute information that will be of value in meeting our challenges. Last year's survey was highly successful and the results were summarized in two presentations at the 2009 annual meeting, which can be obtained by contacting the APC administrative office at apc@asip.org. Departments that participated in the survey can also obtain the raw data by contacting the APC administrative office.

We have an increasing need for more and better data for our negotiations and for managing our programs. The Pathology Department Administrators Section (PDAS) led by **Marjel Whitmore** of Creighton and **Nancy Risenhoover** of New Mexico have led a group of PDAS members to work with us in fine tuning the survey. It is nearly complete and will be even more valuable to many of us. One is to collect data over a period of years to facilitate following trends.

This summer's meeting features and APC/PDAS Cooperative session and two workshops devoted to the opportunities and challenges facing the practice of pathology. The speakers, **Louis Wright**, **Jane Pine Wood**, and **Jon David Kip** will help us understand national trends that effect pathology. I will speak briefly about the need for creditable data and possibilities for obtaining it ourselves or on cooperation with others. The first workshop, Challenges and opportunities in the evolving market place, is an opportunity to share experiences and learn from one another. The second workshop, Surveys, what data is needed and how do we get it?, is intended to better define our common needs and make plans to meet them. These workshops will be especially important in planning the upcoming activities of the Committee in meeting the needs of our membership.

Robert Hunter, Practice & Management Committee Chair

APC Research Committee Report

The Research Committee seeks to identify, monitor and make recommendations to the APC Council and membership regarding major national issues that impact academic pathology departments, including: extramural funding of research, intramural research initiatives, core facilities, resident, graduate and medical student training in research, resources and allocation of space, as well as political and other issues that may impact academic pathology programs. This year the Research Committee invited APC members to three face to face meetings (at the 2009 annual meeting, the USCAP and ASIP meetings) where health care and academic initiatives were discussed. Nearly 50 members attended the USCAP meeting in Washington D.C., whereas 23 members attended the forum in Anaheim). The APC Research Committee has also met monthly by telephone.

Major initiatives this year include program and speaker selection for workshops and a plenary session for the July meeting, discussion of possible pathology physician-scientist track(s), discussion of federal regulatory and reimbursement issues related to new technologies, the role of pathologists in interdisciplinary team science and the shortage of M.D., Ph.D. candidates in Pathology leading to a lack of future focus for pathology in research. There are 41 current members of the APC Research Committee.

The Research Committee will sponsor two workshops in Seattle: 1) building research in non-research intensive departments: fostering collaborative science and 2) coordinating experimental and clinical faculty. Plenary speakers sponsored by the committee include Dr. Richard Satava, Head of the Army Virtual Imaging Center and Department of Surgery, University of Washington who will speak on the technology and applications of the Virtual Autopsy. Dr. Guillermo Tearney, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University Pathologist will speak on imaging technologies for tumor identification and diagnosis and Dr. Richard Levenson of the Brighton Consulting Group and Harvard University, will discuss imaging technologies for quantitation and diagnosis related to cytology and cytogenetics. We look forward to meeting in Seattle to further our discussions on the important issue of a physician-scientist track in pathology.

Ann Thor, Research Committee Chair

APC Undergraduate Medical Education Committee Report

The UME Committee focused most of its time over the past six months on developing the 2010 Program, in conjunction with UMEDS (formerly CDS). Two issues that will continue to be deliberated by the Committee over the coming months are: 1) the proposed changes to the USMLE (for more information see http://www.usmle.org/General_Information/CRU/index.html); and 2) discussion and implementation of recommendation in the 2009 AAMC-HHMI report, Scientific Foundations of Future Physicians (for more information visit http://services.aamc.org/publications/showfile.cfm?file=version132.pdf&prd_id=262&prv_id=321&pdf_id=132). In addition, at its Winter meeting, APC Council approved the establishment of two new awards for outstanding medical educators - one each for undergraduate medical education and graduate medical education. The first awardees will be honored at the 2010 APC annual meeting.

Michael Cohen, Undergraduate Medical Education Committee Chair

Pathology Department Administrators Section (PDAS) Report

Our annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, July 14-16, 2010 is only one month away. The meeting format will provide abundant opportunities for networking with colleagues and leaders from fellow institutions. Current PDAS Chair, **Nancy Risenhoover**, University of New Mexico, will lead the meeting. "Back to Basics in the New Health Care Environment" is the theme of our full day of meetings on Wednesday. We will have presentations by and panels with many of our esteemed colleagues. In the afternoon, **Jane Pine Wood, Esquire**, will discuss the complexities of the clinical revenue stream as impacted by health care reform; recent PDAS listserv activity indicates this is a hot topic with ongoing influences on Part A agreements, as well as Part B opportunities and clinical component fee billing initiatives. On Wednesday, we will also conduct our annual business meeting and election of new officers over lunch.

On Thursday, PDAS will participate with APC for a cooperative session including the Practice and Management Workshops. We have two themes this year: "Challenges and opportunities in the evolving marketplace," and "Surveys: What data are needed and how do we get it?" Thanks to the volunteers who are co-moderating these sessions. The PDAS Plenary leadership session, "Leading Change and Transition," will be held on Thursday afternoon with our keynote speaker Jeff Turner, Praxis HR – University of Washington HR Consulting Alliance. Some of you may remember Jeff from a meeting several years ago in Mont Tremblant, Canada.

Over this past year the PDAS survey committee, led by **Marjel Whitmore** of Creighton University, has focused on refining and streamlining the APC/PDAS practice survey. The survey will not be conducted in 2010; rather our emphasis will be on reviewing and accepting the revisions and implementing next year with the approval of the APC Council. To enhance the work of the survey committee, we will spend a couple of hours Friday morning in our final PDAS-only session discussing the survey with the committee and hearing a brief presentation from Meghan McMahon, Survey Analyst, from the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). The MGMA has interest in partnering with academic pathology practices to improve the MGMA survey and increase participation. This is our opportunity to contribute to our goal of accurate data collection to improve benchmarking, particularly for subspecialties.

Upcoming 2010-2011 PDAS officers will include Chair **Thomas Dilts** of Virginia Commonwealth University, Immediate Past Chair **Nancy Risenhoover** from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Secretary-Treasurer **Joseph Rondinelli** of New Jersey Medical School, and two regional representatives, **Roger Searls** from Duke University Medical Center, Southeast, and **Judy Elleson** from University of Iowa Medical Center, Midwest. Candidates on our election slate for next year are for Chair-Elect: **Mary Bunker**, University of California, San Francisco; **Martha Miers**, Vanderbilt University; and **Marty Lawlor**, University of Michigan. For Secretary-Treasurer Elect we have: **Darrell O'Sullivan**, University of California, Davis; and **Kelley Suskie**, University of Arkansas. There are two regions needing new representatives, Northeast and Western, candidates are **David Wooster**, Yale University, and **Gary Brown**, University of Colorado, respectively. Voting will be held electronically very soon.

Nancy Risenhoover, Chair of PDAS

Residency Program Directors Section (PRODS) Report

The PRODS had a successful USCAP meeting in Washington, and have exciting plans for the coming summer meeting in Seattle. Approximately thirty-five program directors were in attendance to hear reports and presentations from eminent personages (mostly PRODS themselves) representing the ABP, ACGME, CAP, ASCP and BIDMC.

Betsy Bennett gave an update on APB activities and answered questions about examination time-lines, reporting of program-specific pass rates, and the possibility of a research track for residency. **Suzanne Powell** announced new ACGME personnel, new subspecialty program requirements, and reported on program accreditation activities from the last review cycle. **Michael Talbert** presented a brief overview of the joint APC/CAP/PRODS workgroup that has been assessing characteristics of resident preparation for work from the perspectives of 1 newly trained pathologists, 2 pathology employers, and 3 pathology program directors, specifically giving some details on the teaching of new technology. **Bruce Alexander** followed up with information about the ongoing ASCP surveys on fellowships and on the job market, and on the joint ASCP/APF/PRODS Laboratory Management Workgroup. Finally, **Jeff Saffitz** introduced **Rich Haspel**, who presented their rationale for, and preliminary observations on, an innovative program at BIDMC to introduce pathology residents to the potentials and pitfalls of personalized healthcare in the era of molecular medicine. If these topics make you wish you were there, don't worry, be happy: they will each be reprised, updated and expanded at the summer meeting!

Finally, an update on the elections for next year's PRODS officers and councilors of: **Wes Naritoku** was elected Vice Chair, **Karen Kaul** Secretary Elect, and **Leslie Bruch** to the Council as Member-at-Large. The slate of officers and councilors for the coming year will thus be as follows:

Chair - **Suzanne Powell**

Vice Chair - **Wesley Naritoku**

Secretary - **Gayle Winters**

Secretary Elect - **Karen Kaul**

Members at large - **Leslie Bruch, Phyllis Huettner, Peter Kragel, Charles Timmons**

Immediate Past Chair - **Stephen Black-Schaffer**

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

Undergraduate Medical Educators Section (UMEDS) Report

The Course Directors Section (CDS) has been very busy in the past year and a half as we continue to establish ourselves as the newest section of the APC. One change you will notice is our name which is now the "Undergraduate Medical Educators Section" (UMEDS). With the advent of integrated curricula, many schools no longer have a formal Pathology course. Our new name reflects the fact that we are not connected by virtue of a specific course, but by our role as UME educators in Pathology.

The UMEDS has had excellent leadership since our inception as we work to establish ourselves as an active and productive section of the APC. Most recently, our 2009-2010 Chair, **Michele Raible**, and our immediate Past Chair, **Byron Crawford**, worked tirelessly on revising our by-laws, developing our new name, recruiting new members and generating interest and enthusiasm for our new organization. The UMEDS membership is most grateful for their efforts.

Based on our recent elections, we wish to announce the 2010-2011 UMEDS Council Members:

Chair - **Carolyn L. Cambor**

Chair Elect - **Regina Gandour-Edwards**

Past Chair - **Byron Crawford**

Secretary - **Rich Conran**

Secretary Elect - **Elaine Bearer**

Members at large - **Mark Braun, Amy Lin, David Weissmann, John Woosley**

The UMEDS Program Committee has developed an excellent program for the 2010 APC Meeting in Seattle and some of the highlights follow below. We have 2 outside speakers presenting this year. **Tracy Bumsted** (Oregon Health Sciences University) will present a session on "Teaching the millennials: Win-win solutions for members of all generations." **Thomas Viggiano** (Mayo Clinic, Rochester) will give a presentation at the joint Chairs / UMEDS session on "Education Scholarship: Rewarding Educational Contribution of Faculty" and he will also moderate a discussion about "Developing Scholarly Educators – The Department Chairs Role."

There will be updates on the NBME, USMLE and the recent AAMC / HHMI report, "Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians (SFFP)." There will be a discussion of new uses of Virtual Slides in medical education, and a panel presentation of methods of student assessment beyond multiple choice questions. We will also have a presentation on methods of incorporating pathology into the clinical years, and the possibility of developing or even requiring a "diagnostics" rotation in the future.

Two additional joint programming events are also planned. The first is a session of the UMEDS and the PRODS where **Steven Nestler** will present "Milestones at the interface from undergraduate medical education to graduate medical education." The second is the UMEDS / APC Research Joint Session where there will be presentations about new imaging technologies, many of which are of great interest to UME educators.

The UMEDS members would like to recognize and thank **Patricia Thomas** for her help and guidance as Chair of the UME Committee during the earliest days of establishing our group. Over the past year, UMEDS continued to work with the current UME Committee Chair, **Michael Cohen**, whose support and interaction have been extremely valuable and have helped UMEDS progress in its development.

The UMEDS members would also like to recognize and thank Priscilla Markwood for her insight, advice and help to get our group up and running over the past few years. We could not have done it without her!

Carolyn Cambor, Chair of UMEDS

Regional Meetings

There are three regional meetings coming up in 2010 – attend as many as you can!

Northeast Association of Pathology Chairs (by invitation)

September 30-October 3, 2010

Location: Cambridge Beaches Resort- Bermuda

Contact: [Daniel Knowles](#), Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Southeast Association of Pathology Chairs and Administrators

October 7-9, 2010

Location: Grove Park Inn - Asheville, North Carolina

Contact: [Peter Kragel](#), East Carolina University

West and Midwest Association of Pathology Chairs and Managers

November 3-6, 2010

Location: Mauna Kea Resort - Kamuela, Hawaii

Contact: [Jay Hess](#), University of Michigan

Meetings Calendar

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

ASCP Annual Meeting

October 28-31, 2010
San Francisco, CA

West and Midwest Association of Pathology Chairs and Managers

November 3-6, 2010
Mauna Kea Resort - Kamuela, Hawaii

AMP 2010 Annual Meeting

November 17-20, 2010
San Jose, CA

USCAP 2011 Annual Meeting

February 26 - March 4, 2011
San Antonio, TX

ASIP 2011 Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology

April 9-13, 2011
Washington, DC

APC 2011 Annual Meeting

July 13-15, 2011
Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa
Monterey, CA