I am honored and delighted to become President of USCAP for the coming year. It is my opinion that USCAP is the most important and most effective organization in academic anatomic pathology and pathology education in the world. It is humbling to stand upon the shoulders of numerous impressive predecessors in this role.

I have been asked by quite a number of people what goals or initiatives I hope to pursue during this year and this newsletter provides an opportunity to summarize my thoughts - and I would welcome any feedback or additional suggestions from anyone who spares the time to read this message.

• I would like USCAP to become more directly and actively engaged in the process of mentorship, both for pathologists in training and also for junior faculty. While USCAP already provides opportunities for trainees and young faculty to develop skills and gain experience, both in presenting original work and also in providing didactic teaching in a variety of formats, I believe that USCAP can help to foster more structured relationships between mentees and mentors and to encourage the development of formal mentoring programs at institutions, both in North America and around the world. In my experience, both mentees and mentors benefit from (and feel rewarded by) this type of activity, which can help guide careers in pathology as they evolve.

• Now fully open and functioning at high capacity, the new Powers-Sanchez Interactive Center and the associated Linder Learning Center in Palm Springs are proving to be extremely popular and the opportunity for attendees at courses to interact closely and directly with the faculty, often around the microscope, provides a different style of teaching and learning which I believe to be extremely effective. I would like to see these activities in Palm Springs growing further and flourishing, setting USCAP in a league of its own with this type of interactive education.

• As part of the expanding activities in Palm Springs, I would like to see enhanced and expanded relationships with our Companion Societies. Already many of these societies view the USCAP Annual Meeting as their most important showcase, but there is now an opportunity for these Companion Societies to use the Interactive Center in Palm Springs through co-branding, thereby expanding the footprint of these valuable societies who can bring exceptional subspecialty teaching.

• As a direct product of the USCAP Annual Meeting and the courses which USCAP already organizes, both in Palm Springs and elsewhere, we are developing an ever expanding “library” of new digital educational products, enabling pathologists to access teaching materials on electronic devices at almost any location. It is the goal of USCAP to expand this activity, which is aligned with modern approaches to education and which seems to be especially favored by younger pathologists. In addition, while I may be a somewhat reluctant (perhaps too old fashioned or repressed!) user, it is clear to me that the presence of USCAP on social media is another very effective way to share educational materials, to raise the profile of pathology - and to raise the profile of USCAP! I have no doubt that this remarkable trend will continue.

• The growth of the USCAP Foundation and its role in providing support to global partners around the world, particularly those in less resourced environments, has been thrilling to observe. USCAP each year now enables increasing numbers of pathologists from underserved locations, as well as trainee pathologists, to attend the Annual Meeting and I would like to see us sharing such opportunities as much as we possibly can. These activities also help to forge new relationships and build professional networks around the world from which all of us learn,
not only with regard to geographic variations in disease but also in the fascinating cultural heterogeneity that exists in our global pathology community. Dr. Greg Fuller, current Chairman of the USCAP Foundation Committee, is a passionate and effective advocate for these initiatives and I look forward to watching the continued impact of his remarkable energy on this front.

As I embark on what I anticipate will be a stimulating (and perhaps even challenging!) year, I would like to remind all of us what an exceptional and inclusive community USCAP truly is. Many, many members of the USCAP regard the Annual Meeting as the high point of their professional year - and the visible energy, as well as pleasure, that are evident among attendees each year is truly a joy to behold. We should also remember that none of this would be possible without the exceptional efforts of our EVP, Dr. David Kaminsky and the remarkable USCAP staff in both Georgia and California. It is a true testament to the success of this organization that we are adding to the numbers of these staff as the scope and extent of our activities increase each year!

Christopher D. M. Fletcher, M.D., FRCPath
Annual Meeting 2017 – San Antonio, Texas

It was an exceptional meeting, vibrant, engaging, informative, electric. A new pervasive energy, spirit and attitude invigorated the 4,341 learners from 78 countries who came away with new knowledge, new friends, new memories and the deeply satisfying sense of renewal of existing relationships and commitment to the discipline of pathology. USCAP’s Formula guarantees success!
Mentoring and Legacy Live in the Heart of USCAP

Dr. Seymour Rosen has practiced pathology for more than fifty years and has a uniquely poignant perspective on legacy. His is familial. This is his story....

“I am old...been there at the beginning and before (USCAP-1962) and done that (Director of Surgical Pathology at Beth Israel Hospital (1982-2011)/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; President of Renal Pathology Society (1999); Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School (1994-present).

I am surrounded by my students: Stuart Schnitt, Vice Chair for Anatomic Pathology and President of USCAP (2010-2011); Laura Collins, Director of Anatomic Pathology and President of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society of Surgical Pathology (2017-2019); Lynn Uhl, Vice Chair for Laboratory and Transfusion Medicine, Division Director, Laboratory and Transfusion Medicine and President of AABB 2014-2015; Jeff Saffitz, Departmental Chief is a colleague and friend. I continue to work full time, teach and do research with collaborators locally, throughout the country, and in Germany and Israel).

I have two children, Matthew and Franklin, and 5 grandchildren. My children were primarily raised by my supportive wife, Paula (married 54 years). Matthew, a cardiologist, and his wife Tejas Mehta, a radiologist, are the parents of my three grandsons, Devin, Milan and Sunil.

My two older grandchildren have provided a chance for me to actually have real contact with my progeny. My major collaborator is Beverly Faulkner-Jones (Director of Digital Pathology) who has provided me with a dream...the ability to do computer mapping of tissues (in particular, renal biopsies)...

That dream is starting to be a reality because of my grandchildren who spent time with me (the eldest, Devin, for two summers; the second eldest, Milan, one summer. A second chance.

My progeny’s education at the Roxbury Latin School had a profound influence on our collaborative initiatives resulting in presentations at USCAP.

The Roxbury Latin School, which was founded in Roxbury, Massachusetts, by the Rev. John Eliot under a charter received from King Charles I of England is the oldest school in continuous existence in North America. Since its founding in 1645, it has educated boys on a continuous basis.
Located since 1927 at 101 St. Theresa Avenue in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, the school now serves roughly 300 boys in grades seven through twelve. Eliot founded the school “to fit [students] for public service both in church and in commonwealth in succeeding ages,” and the school still considers instilling a desire to perform public service among its principal missions. The school maintains a need-blind admissions policy, admitting boys without consideration of the ability of their families to pay the full tuition. Its previous headmaster, F. Washington Jarvis, who retired in the summer of 2004 after a 30-year tenure, published two books about Roxbury Latin: a history of the school and a collection of his speeches to boys at Roxbury Latin (With Love and Prayers). The title of the former, Schola Illustris, was the phrase Cotton Mather used to describe the school in 1690, following John Eliot’s death. Roxbury Latin continues to hold a unique place in the history of American education.”

[9] The Pathology of Eclampsia, an Autopsy Series

Authors: Jonathan Hecht, Jaume Ordi, S Ananth Karumanchi, Zsuzsanna K Zsengeller, Elizabeth Pernicone, Seymour Rosen

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - 9:30 am

Session Info: Poster Session III #14, Tuesday Morning


Authors: Jia Xu, Milan Rosen, Christina I Luffman, Beverly E Faulkner-Jones, Seymour Rosen

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - 9:30 am

Session Info: Poster Session III #227, Tuesday Morning

[1624] Renal Biopsy Data Analysis from Whole Slide Imaging: A Novel “Holistic” Approach

Authors: Beverly E Faulkner-Jones, Charles Law, Milan Rosen, Devin Rosen, Christina I Luffman, Seymour Rosen

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - 9:30 am

Session Info: Poster Session III #228, Tuesday Morning
Annual Meeting 2017 – Social Media Update

By Jerad M. Gardner, M.D.

Pathology social media is exploding, and USCAP is leading the charge in multiple ways. The USCAP Social Media Subcommittee has managed the official USCAP social media accounts and has organized live tweeting at the annual meeting for the past 2 years. The Academy now has over 8,000 followers on Facebook and over 6,000 followers on Twitter...both nearly doubled from just a year ago.

Both official USCAP journals, Laboratory Investigation and Modern Pathology, are now on Twitter and Facebook, as well. In July 2016, a Modern Pathology article on PD-L1 was featured for discussion in the first ever pathology Twitter journal club hosted by the #pathJC team. Then in December, USCAP raised the bar in online pathology education by sharing a free 90 minute transmission of one of Dr. Jason Hornick’s soft tissue pathology interactive microscopy sessions via Facebook Live, streamed live in real time from The Powers-Sanchez USCAP Interactive Center in Palm Springs. Hundreds of people watched live from around the world, and the video has now been viewed over 12,000 times (if you missed it, you can still watch it here: https://goo.gl/T0yHc6). Dr. Wendy Frankel’s liver pathology session was also successfully streamed via Facebook Live, and I am greatly looking forward to seeing more of these live videos from future #USCAPInteractive courses.

In February 2017, Modern Pathology published the story of the #InSituPathologists live tweeting movement, which was born at #USCAP2015 and grew exponentially at #USCAP2016 (Cohen et al. Modern Pathology. Feb 2017). USCAP’s crucial role in the foundation of this movement will now be clearly visible to posterity via a PubMed search. The live tweeting momentum has not abated yet: in the 2 week span overlapping #USCAP2017, 1741 participants tweeted about the Annual Meeting, generating 29,844 tweets and 57.9 million impressions (potential tweet-views)! But this year we didn't limit ourselves to Twitter alone. Our Social Media Subcommittee members interviewed several pathology “rockstars” during the Mentors at the Table sessions at #USCAP2017, including Christopher Fletcher, John Goldblum, Celeste Powers, and Rhonda Yantiss, and streamed videos of these interviews on Facebook Live for the whole pathology community worldwide to enjoy and learn from (these video interviews are still available for viewing on the USCAP Facebook page).
Our subcommittee feels that our pathology rockstar mentors need to have more of a social media presence to better influence the next generation of pathologists. So we designed a “Mentor the Mentors” program, wherein pathology social media experts will mentor our pathology mentors in the fine art and subtle skills of social media. They taught us pathology; we will teach them Twitter!

I’m so incredibly pleased that many past and present USCAP leaders have now joined Twitter, including @celestepowersmd, @CFletcherMD, @CollinsLauraC, @johnhart20, @MRNucciMD, @SchnittStuart, @SWWeissMD, @VolkanAdsay, @WendyFrankelMD, among others. My hope is that other pathology leaders will wish to follow suit and join the ranks of these illustrious colleagues on Twitter, and when they do, the Social Media Subcommittee will be here to help them.

The collective power of engaged social media savvy USCAP members seems to know no bounds, and I can’t wait to see what the future has in store for our Academy and for the entire field of pathology now that pathologists are more connected to one another than ever been before in history.

THE NUMBERS ARE IN!

Our dynamic Twitter Team united the USCAP community and celebrated its success at #USCAP2017.

Thank you for sharing the excitement and energy of the Annual Meeting in San Antonio and making this year bigger and better than ever!

Keep the buzz going.

#IAMUSCAP
USCAP and the American Medical Association

By: Nicole Riddle, M.D.

“Why do you do the AMA?!? I don’t like them / what do they do for me?” If I had a dollar for every time I heard these sentiments I could retire… or at least eat a nice meal quite regularly, LOL. But I have been active in the AMA for over 14 years and I can say that I understand why people sometimes feel frustrated with the AMA, but I will never understand why a physician would not be a member.

The AMA has numerous ‘sections’ and that is how I got started first semester of medical school (Medical Student Section-MSS), then stayed involved during GME training (Resident and Fellow Section-RFS), and thanks to USCAP have remained involved into practice (Young Physician Section – YPS). In fact, as of Annual 2016, I have a position on the YPS Governing Council…so I’m one of 5 people who plan and run a full day meeting for ~100 physicians in their first 8 years of practice. There are other sections including the Specialty Society Section where Pathology is heavily involved and we try to keep someone on their Governing Council as well.

The Pathology Section Council consists of Delegates and Alternates from USCAP (Daniel Zedek and I), as well as several other Pathology organizations. We have conference calls prior to the biannual meetings as well as get together several times while at each meeting to discuss issues pertinent to Pathology.

So, given that basic background, what does it all mean? What is the AMA? What does a Delegate do? Why should I give them money if they just supported X and I prefer Y?

Well, let me try to answer those questions.

The AMA’s main section is the House of Delegates, consisting of ~540 Delegates and Alternates who gather twice a year for 5 days to read, discuss, edit, reread, re-discuss, re-edit, and then vote on HUNDREDS of resolutions. That’s right, you read that correctly, VOTE ON. Unless a decision needs to happen quickly (ex. Re: Tom Price’s appointment – caused a ripple that one did) everything the AMA ‘says’ or supports has been voted on by 540 of your peers. Physicians from all specialties and all states/regions of the US. We gather in one really big room and discuss each item using strict parliamentary procedure, sometimes for a few minutes, and sometimes for hours. People get intense, people get passionate, and sometimes, after arguing a position for an hour, it can be frustrating when the vote doesn’t go ‘your way.’ But does that portion of the delegation quit…of course not. That would be leaving medicine to the wolves (and depending on which side you’re on, the other side is always the wolf, LOL). It can be boring, but it can also be riveting and truly uplifting when you get something passed that you know will help your patients!

An excellent example is the recent FDA deferral changes to blood donation – this is DIRECTLY related to a resolution that was put forth by the Pathology Section Council that was voted through and then acted upon by the AMA. Boom…federal policy changed. And the AMA helped with the recent ‘save’ of the laboratory systems at VA Hospitals. Not to mention having fought numerous CMS payment cuts, arguing against LCD being used universally, and other payment-related issues. And there are hundreds of other examples; I could go on and on.

So, I invite each and every one of you to contact me with questions or comments and COME TO A MEETING. It’s free, it starts on a weekend, and all are welcome. It is in Chicago every June and it rotates around the country for November…so I promise it will be fairly close at some point. Come sit in on the discussion. Come watch 1,000+ doctors discuss patients and healthcare policy. It’s an amazing sight to see. It’s worth your time, it’s worth your effort, and it’s definitely worth your membership dues ;-) 

That old adage holds true in the politics of medicine… if you’re not at the table, your ON it!
USCAP and ASCP

USCAP shares a memorandum of understanding with ASCP for Resident Engagement. A special program designed to unite members of USCAP’s Resident Advisory Subcommittee and ASCP’s Residents Council at the USCAP Interactive Learning Center on April 19, 2020 concentrated on leadership training, issues facing the profession, issues facing the generation, and a toolkit for career success. Lead by Drs. Blair Holladay and David B. Kaminsky, these discussions culminated in a brainstorming session at the San Andreas fault where participants were transposed from the conventional classroom venue by red jeeps. The discussion focused on the concept It’s our fault if……by the year 2020, organized pathology has not defined the pathway of evolution for its residents and fellows.

USCAP and Virtual Reality

The collaborative development of a 3D Virtual Reality Model (EON Reality Inc. and The United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology) for ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration biopsy of head and neck lesions provides an innovative and contemporary approach for learners to visualize normal anatomy, lesional targets, trajectories, and anatomical variants as they prepare to perform the biopsy in real time. The flexibility of positioning perspectives permits visualization of how the needle probe accesses the target, and the appearance of the needle or its tip within the lesion can be demonstrated as part of the simulated process.

The product will launch at the ICE course (Immersive Cytopathology Experience) at the USCAP Interactive Learning Center and become available from usual sources as a mobile device APP.

The project was recognized with the 2017 Laval Virtual Award in the Environment & Health category.
It was mid-July 2015 when I came across an ad in the Arch Pathol Lab Med (posted by my colleague Dr. Drucilla Roberts from Massachusetts General Hospital) looking for pathologists interested in Global Health. Four months later I was en route to Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, from Vancouver, Canada (24 hours flight time plus more). Botswana is in sub-Saharan Africa, a politically stable country with a population of two million. The country was among the hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, having the third-highest rate of HIV/AIDS worldwide.

I spent one week at the National Health Laboratory in Gaborone, which has three pathologists and four residents, providing pathology services to a large portion of the country. My daily work started with a lecture on a given subject followed by grossing sessions with the trainees and the technical staff. This was continued by clinical sign-outs with the residents in the afternoon. At the end of the day, we gathered as a “family” to review my teaching slides (which at the request of the residents) I left in the country. This was all very well coordinated by my colleague and friend, Dr. Alphonse Kayembe, the head of the Laboratory.

Botswana has many gifts including amazingly friendly people, particularly the laboratory/hospital staff. During my short stay, I was privileged to observe and honored to interact with the laboratory staff, clinical colleagues and university administrators. As expected in any under-resourced country, the practice of pathology in Botswana faces its own challenges. Primarily, the so-called Second Wave of AIDS threatens the country’s public health by a surge in number of cancers related to immune suppression populations. This, in combination with shortage of pathologists and other medical laboratory professionals, has resulted in a backlog of cases. The need for education and training along with lack of necessary infrastructure and resourcing has also unfavourably impacted pathology services in the country. Quality and practice standards are other areas that need attention and improvement.

It is important to recognize that there are not simple solutions to these issues or that only providing funding would make them disappear. As a surgical pathologist and a clinical epidemiologist, I believe that knowing...
“the problem and its scope” would be the first step in addressing the issue. Collecting epidemiologic data along with developing locally sounded building-capacity modules are of paramount importance. Demonstrating unity and empathy along with the ability to understand and share the feelings of others would certainly be fundamental to building-capacity and creating motivation. On my last day lecture, after answering all the questions, one of the technical staff from the audience raised his hand and said “I have a question! When are you coming back?” That was then when I realized that my presence, no matter how small or how seemingly insignificant it may have been, made a difference to my fellow colleagues in Botswana. I was followed by one of my colleagues, Dr. Peter Zetler (retired) from Vancouver, who spent 4 weeks in Gaborone providing clinical services and training to the National Health Laboratory.

Pathology is global, and philanthropy is the essence of “Pathology Global Health” programs. We as pathologists, along with other medical disciplines, should play a major role in leading the humanitarian sectors. As a USCAP member, who was privileged enough to independently take a “baby step” in this direction, I would encourage all my fellow USCAP members to support Global Health through philanthropy. And this reminds me of one of the most beautiful poems by William Shakespeare:

“The quality of mercy is not strain’d,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
It blesseth him.

Teaching residents in Gaborone.
UPCOMING

Diagnostic Pathology Update
JULY 16-21, 2017
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

2018 Annual Meeting
MARCH 17-23
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Diagnostic Pathology Update
JULY 8-13, 2018
Santa Apollonia, Via San Gallo, 25;
Florence, Italy

COURSES AT THE INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER
Palm Springs, CA

RECURRING PROBLEMS IN BREAST PATHOLOGY AND HOW TO RESOLVE THEM
MAY 5 - 7, 2017

DERMATOPATHOLOGY IN THE DESERT
MAY 11 - 14, 2017

UROLOGIC PATHOLOGY IN 2017: EMERGING CONCEPTS, WHO CLASSIFICATION AND AJCC UPDATED
MAY 19 - 21, 2017

HEAD AND NECK SURGICAL/CYTOPATHOLOGY
JUNE 3 - 4, 2017

HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY: START TO FINISH
JUNE 23 - 25, 2017

ICE: IMMERSIVE CYTOPATHOLOGY EXPERIENCE
SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2017

Visit www.USCAPinteractivecenter.org for a complete listing of upcoming meetings