

October 2, 2008

Dr. Mark E. Sobel
The Intersociety Council for Pathology Information, Inc.
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3993

Dear Dr. Sobel,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ICPI Board for providing me with the invaluable opportunity to attend CAP'08 and the accompanying Resident's Forum. I thoroughly enjoyed the ambience of the Manchester Hyatt in San Diego, as it formed a spectacular backdrop for the activities of RF and the CAP'08 meeting. This was my first CAP resident's forum, and it was indeed a well-organized event offering tremendous potential to congregate with fellow residents and to compare notes on our residency training experiences. The experience was truly rewarding and I regret not having made a greater effort to attend prior RF meetings earlier in residency.

Likewise the CAP'08 conference was an exceptional event, offering great insight into the state-of-the art pathology as well as foreshadowing the future of pathology. I was fortunate to attend a broad range of educational sessions covering topics ranging from pitfalls of common laboratory tests to informatics and personalized medicine. In line with my personal interest, sessions dealing with current paradigms in coagulation and transfusion therapies were of tremendous value and interest. I was privileged to attend two round-table discussions on timely topics with eminent pathologists. Moreover, I was mesmerized by the keynote address by Dr. St. Leger, showcasing pathology at SeaWorld and underscoring the incredible challenges and rewards of pathology for marine animals in captivity and environment. From her presentation, I gleaned a take-home message for my personal life: I was unaware of the very real dangers of Toxoplasmosis to sea otters and other marine life from introducing cat feces into the public sewage system.

Without exception, all participants with whom I was privileged to interact were genial, whether they were, like me, residents-in-training, or established expert pathologists. I was also pleased at the opportunity to share our report on high-grade meningioma in the poster session. The exhibit hall was inviting and well worth the visit. Overall, the atmosphere was one of common purpose and collegiality, and reinforces that my decision to specialize in this field was indeed the correct one.

Sincerely,

Roni J. Bollag, MD/PhD
Fellow, Transfusion Medicine
Department of Pathology
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA 30912
E-mail: rbollag@mcg.edu