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Mark E. Sobel, MD, PhD
Executive Officer
The Intersociety Council for Pathology Information
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Sobel,

I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information for the Trainee Travel Award funding that assisted my attendance to the 2008 College of American Pathologists (CAP) Meeting in San Diego, CA.

As a first time attendee, I have gained a new appreciation for the support the CAP provides pathologists and residents. Participating in the Resident Forum was a great experience which has made me more aware of the various networking and advocacy positions available to residents. There are numerous committees in which to get involved, opportunities for travel abroad, as well as spokesperson and advocacy conferences to attend. As pathology can often feel like an isolated specialty within the hospital and community, the CAP has created a great opportunity to network with fellow residents as well as practicing pathologists.

This year's Forum had yet another record breaking attendance, and I find it encouraging seeing so many of us getting involved within leadership of the profession so early in our careers. One of the repeating themes of the meeting was the transformation of the specialty, in training and practice. Discussion within breakout groups on this topic was energetic, with many innovative ideas and solutions proffered. Some action items discussed were ways to improve clinical pathology training, providing educational material for board review, and further resolutions for fellowship application.

Other highlights of the Resident Forum included a luncheon with advisors from the Obama and McCain campaigns discussing candidate views on health care reform, a panel of experienced pathologists discussing "what I wish I had known," and resident elections.

In addition to attending the Resident Forum, I was able to attend several presentations and courses which were of great academic value. Thank you again for your support. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in such a conference of education and leadership within pathology. I will definitely be attending the next CAP Resident Forum at the 2009 meeting.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Hamler, DO
University of Tennessee, Knoxville