

Michael H. A. Roehrl, M.D., Ph.D.  
MGH Pathology  
Warren 2  
55 Fruit Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Boston, 09/29/2008

michael\_roehrl@hms.harvard.edu

## **Meeting Report - College of American Pathologists (CAP) Meeting 2008, San Diego**

I would like to thank the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information for a generous Trainee Travel Award that allowed me to participate in this year's meeting in San Diego.

As a CAP Residents' Forum Delegate for Massachusetts, I participated in a full-day symposium of the Residents' Forum. In breakout sessions, we discussed many issues relevant to the future of our specialty and how the future of pathology training will need to be evolving to meet the needs of future challenges, such as implementation and interpretation of molecular testing or the implementation of virtual microscopy and informatics tools. With the next presidential elections nearing in November, health care advisors from both Obama's and McCain's campaigns had been invited to present each candidate's health care policy plans for the future - a very interesting event that went far beyond the typical media coverage allotted to these important issues.

I had submitted an abstract of my experimental work on the proteomic discovery of novel cancer biomarkers for colorectal carcinomas using heparin affinity fractionation enrichment, two-dimensional gel electrophoresis, and tandem mass spectrometry. It was very rewarding to present the poster and to be able to view and discuss a large number of other scientific posters presented during the CAP meeting. Selected highlights of the scientific presentations and courses were talks on challenging liver pathology, recent advances in esophageal pathology, an overview of surface epithelial neoplasms of the ovary, common pitfalls in laboratory testing, improving microbiology laboratory reporting, and numerous lab management topics such as pathology practice contracting, etc. All these events were of extremely high academic and didactic value, and I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to attend. Another highlight was the keynote address by Dr. Judy St. Leger, chief pathologist at SeaWorld San Diego, which beautifully made connections between human and animal diseases (e.g., pneumonia in sea turtles, viral diseases in dolphins, etc.) and the underlying pathogenetics and environmental conditions that influence disease in a broad ecosystem. In summary, the CAP 2008 meeting in San Diego was a wonderful, educational, and scientifically highly stimulating event!