

Intersociety Council for Pathology Information
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3993

Dear Dr. Sobel and Members of the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information:

First of all, I'd like to thank you for extending to me an ICPI travel award to attend the 2008 College of American Pathologists meeting in San Diego, California. I just returned from the meeting and would like to tell you a little bit about my experience.

The CAP meeting was preceded by the Resident Forum, a meeting that is held twice a year and offers the opportunity for residents from pathology training programs across the country to gather and discuss the future of our profession as well as current issues faced by residents still in training and recent graduates. This was my second opportunity to attend the Resident Forum, and, like the first time, I found the experience exhilarating and inspiring. It was at this meeting that I first learned about the College of American Pathologists (CAP)'s new initiative to "transform" the specialty of pathology. This effort will attempt to expand pathologists' expertise in various sub-specialties, encourage pathologists to assert and insert themselves at the forefront of emerging techniques and prognostic and predictive diagnostics. Moreover, CAP is hoping to increase patient awareness about the important role their pathologist plays in their diagnosis. The Resident Forum also gave us an opportunity to visit with residents in other training programs; to compare programs and to brainstorm and discuss ways in which our training could be improved to better reflect the evolving field of pathology. Lastly, we were able to network with other leaders in the field, which is simply a fabulous opportunity.

The CAP meeting began the following day (Thursday) and lasted through Sunday. The meeting was structured with numerous short courses (half day) on various topics within the field of pathology. I really took advantage of my time there and signed up for a variety of courses. My favorite courses included a session on the nuances of inflammation within the GI tract, and a session on pustular and ulcerating skin disorders. That said, I learned something from every course I attended (seven in all). The best ones, for me as a resident, were those that expanded on a topic I was generally familiar with but gave me a new way to think about and categorize what I look at frequently under the microscope. Many of the courses also taught me subtle differences between conditions that will allow me to generate a clinical differential for the clinician reading the report, rather than just giving a descriptive diagnosis.

In summary, I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this meeting. I was able to bring back information to my fellow residents about the "transformation" of our chosen field of pathology, and I was able to educate myself on topics of interest to me as I continue my training. I'd like to thank you again for your support in attending the meeting.

Sincerely,

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