

March 4, 2011

Intersociety Council for Pathology Information, Inc.
Attn: Donna Stivers
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear ICPI Board,

Thank you for awarding me a travel grant to attend the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. The meeting benefited me both professionally and intellectually.

As far as professional benefits, I was able to attend multiple networking functions as well as the fellowship fair, which allowed me to discuss my future subspecialty with multiple practicing academicians and private practice pathologists, as well as examine multiple fellowship programs, which I found especially valuable because our program does not offer fellowships. I met leaders in multiple fields, including my current area of interest, bone and soft tissue pathology.

The meeting also greatly enriched my knowledge in several areas of pathology, particularly molecular pathology and pulmonary pathology. I attended an Introduction to Molecular Pathology and an Advanced Molecular pathology course. These courses were instrumental in aiding my understanding of current techniques (e.g. FISH, Sanger sequencing, CGH microarray) and emerging technologies (e.g. next generation sequencing, whole genome sequencing at the genome, transcriptome, and proteome levels). These courses also helped me to understand the scope of personalized medicine and the rapid pace at which it is approaching. I also attended a pulmonary long course, which enriched my understanding of lung tumors, taught me about new stains and molecular techniques (e.g. EGFR, Alk and KRAS testing), and gave me a solid basis for medical lung disease, an enigma for many residents.

Other highlights include attending the breast specialty conference, International Society of Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology, as well as the opportunity to attend the College of American Pathology (CAP) Residents Forum and the CAP Specialty Conference on whole slide imaging.

Thank you for your financial support. Attendance at USCAP 2011 will reap many future benefits for me, both professionally and intellectually.

Sincerely,

Jamie Odem

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