

December 10, 2012

Mark E. Sobel, MD, PhD
Executive Officer
Intersociety Council for Pathology Information, Inc. (ICPI)
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3993

Dear Dr. Sobel and ICPI Board,

I would like to thank you and the committee members for selecting me as one of the recipients of the 2012 ICPI Trainee Travel Award. This generous award assisted me in attending the Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) in Seattle, Washington, on December 1-5, 2012.

The meeting was very beneficial for my current research as a Post-doctoral fellow with a focus on comparative reproductive pathology. I attended a one-day pre-meeting workshop on reproductive pathology that covered a wide variety of species from domestic to zoo to laboratory animals. I presented my research on hormone receptors in rat endometrial cancer in the context of human endometrial cancer in both oral and poster presentations. I attended many talks, including presentations on the challenges of endocrine disruption research and female reproductive pathology in industrial and toxicologic pathology settings, which were helpful for my future career goals.

As I am also training in anatomic veterinary pathology, the meeting provided opportunities to learn about the most recent findings in the field, reconnect with old friends and make many new connections, and learn lessons from important historical diseases such as Rinderpest. I attended a session featuring many "Pillars of Pathology," wherein very influential pathologists shared their stories and gems of advice. A session on mouse pathology and comparative pathology made me think about broadening my current training to better assist in the translation of animal models of human disease. A session covering gross and histopathological questions from the previous ACVP certifying exam gave me many tips that will aid me in my preparation for the board exam.

Overall, the Annual Meeting of the ACVP was a valuable experience that will benefit my career development and future career opportunities. I am grateful for the generosity of the ICPI that helped me to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Willson PhD, DVM
Post-doctoral fellow/ Anatomic Pathology
Pathology/Comparative Medicine
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157