

ICPI Trainee Travel Award: 2014 CAP Annual Meeting

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information (ICPI) for providing me with a travel award to the 2014 College of American Pathologists (CAP) Annual Meeting. The travel award also allowed me to attend and participate in my third CAP Residents Forum where I was a member of the credentialing committee for my second time. Without this funding, I would have had to choose between attending CAP, where I had a poster presentation and an organization with which I am involved in national junior member leadership positions, or USCAP, where I hope to also have a poster presentation and where I have met many international pathologists and trainees who always widen my perspective on pathology. Because of the ICPI travel award, I'm able to attend both as my institution's educational fund can now be directed towards covering the 2015 USCAP which this year is on the East Coast, where I train.

My favorite part of the CAP Residents Forum is meeting other residents. I love hearing their stories of how training differs at their institutions, but more importantly, I like finding like-minded activist souls who also want to work together to transform our profession. I was able to catch up with friends that I had met at previous Residents Forums and our talks continue to inspire me to work for positive change. I also made new friends both from my attendance at the Residents Forum and the Annual Meeting.

I was privileged to participate in my second CAP Annual Meeting poster session, again with a hematopathology case report topic, as I had done the year previously. I met some old, and now some new friends, while participating in the poster session and relaxing in the Residents/New-in-Practice lounge. And I'm always amazed at how small our world truly is, as in multiple instances, we found that we had mutual friends or mentors in common.

I was also able to attend sessions on my two areas of interest for fellowships, molecular genetic pathology and hematopathology. I was happy to see that especially in an evolving field such as molecular genetic pathology, the ages of the attendees to these sessions ranged from young to old. I was also excited to hear about the new CAP/ASH guidelines on the initial workup for acute leukemias because it resulted from a collaboration between two organizations representing physicians from different specialties that work together on a daily basis in the clinical setting. It also was an attempt to standardize the approach needed by both specialties in order provide the best patient care. The keynote by theoretical physicist, Michio Kaku, was also a scintillating glimpse into our possible future and I enjoyed his affable, humorous personality.

For me, meeting attendance is about learning the latest in evidence-based pathology but also about the lasting friendships and working relationships that I was able to make. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank ICPI for a unique experience that I would've been sad to have missed.

Sincerely,

Betty M. Chung, DO, MPH, MA
PGY-3, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School