

# IAP UPDATE

Iowa Association of Pathologists

October, 2013

## Register now for Nov. 7 IAP Annual Dinner

**T**he Iowa Association of Pathologists will hold its Annual Dinner Thursday, November 7 at the hotelVetro in Iowa City. This is the first time the IAP Annual Dinner has been held in Iowa City.

Dr. Daniel Slagel of Dubuque, president of the IAP, invites any Iowa pathologist to attend the evening of socializing, networking and education. Non-members and practice partners are welcome.

The evening will begin with a 6:00 p.m. reception; with dinner at 6:30 p.m. A clinical presentation by Ryan Askeland, MD will follow dinner. The title of his presentation is *Molecular Classification of Breast Carcinoma with Clinicopathologic Correlations*.

Dr. Askeland is director, Breast Pathology, for the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa. He is director of the Post-Sophomore Medical Student Fellowship and a Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology and Anatomic Pathology. His research interests are diagnostic

surgical and cytopathology and breast pathology. His presentation will cover "Luminal" versus "HER2" versus "Basal-like" molecular classification of breast carcinoma. The effectiveness of various tests currently used by pathologists will be discussed.

The hotelVetro is at 201 South Linn Street in downtown Iowa City. A special rate of \$119 per night, plus tax, is available for attendees at the IAP Annual Dinner. For hotel reservations, call 800.592.0355.\*



Ryan Askeland, MD will be guest presenter at the IAP Annual Dinner November 7 in Iowa City.

### ***IAP Annual Dinner • Thursday, Nov. 7***

**Thursday, November 7, 2013 • hotelVetro, Iowa City**

**6:00 p.m. Reception • 6:30 p.m. Dinner**

**Registration fee: \$100**

#### ***Registration Form***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic/office \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and mail it, along with your check to:  
Iowa Association of Pathologists, PO Box 513, Altoona, IA  
50009. For more information, call **515.957.9246** or email  
**meservices@q.com**

#### ***In This Issue***

**2** Message from the President

**3** Medical student award;  
tort reform task force

## Message from IAP President Daniel Slagel, MD

### ***‘What they do not value, they will lose’***

**P**athologists often have difficulty explaining to lay people what we do. Some of the difficulty in explaining has to do with the complexity of our work and other times we are just being modest. Unfortunately, many fail to understand the significant contributions pathologists make in patient care. We make significant decisions that have life-changing impacts on our patients. This is serious work and we know it comes with great responsibility. It is important that physicians, patients, and our policy makers value the pathologist’s contributions to health care.

We are in a transition period in medicine, and much of what we do is being threatened. Pathologists face numerous challenges. Unscrupulous self-referral practices, patenting of genetic testing, implications of ACOs and drastic reductions in the Medicare fee schedule are

*Dr. Slagel practices with Pathology Associates and United Clinical Laboratories in Dubuque.*

some of the issues affecting the way we treat patients.

Tackling the complexity of all these issues may seem more than the average pathologist has time to digest, but we must. A good beginning would be developing a deeper understanding of just one of these issues. Become the expert on this issue for your group or department. Equally important, be an advocate and educate our policy makers on the importance and value of the clinical laboratory and diagnostic pathology.

The government must understand the value of our contribution to patient care. While change is inevitable, we must influence its development in a way that maintains and values pathology services.

I recently ran across a quote, in another context, that seemed to apply directly to our policy maker’s understanding of pathology: *“What they do not value they will not protect and what they do not protect, they will lose.”*



**Dr. Daniel Slagel**

We must be advocates for pathology and quality pathology services to our medical colleagues, medical societies and politicians. We have to invest this energy. They must understand the true value of the diagnosis.\*

#### ***IAP Officers and Board***

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### ***IAP Board seeks CAP delegates***

The Iowa Association of Pathologists Board of Directors is looking for pathologists willing to serve as delegates or alternate delegates to the College of American Pathology.

The IAP Board seeks a pathologist who is an IAP member, who regularly attends the October CAP Meeting or the spring CAP Advocacy Forum and is willing to provide a brief meeting report to the Board. If you are interested, please contact IAP administrative staff at meservices@q.com, or phone 515.957.9246. \*

Update from the UI Department of Pathology

## Special Achievement in Pathology

**A** graduate of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine has been chosen to receive the Special Achievement in Pathology Award for 2013.

This year's recipient is Amelia Fierro-Fine, MD. The Special Achievement in Pathology Award is presented annually by the Iowa Association of Pathologists to a senior medical student. The award recognizes "meritorious participation throughout the four-year curriculum in programs related to pathology.

Dr. Amelia Fierro-Fine grew up in Ames, Iowa and received a BA in chemistry from Carleton College in Minnesota. She spent the following year teaching in the Republic of the Marshall Islands before beginning medical school at the University of Iowa in 2008.

Between her third and fourth year of medical school, Dr. Fierro-Fine joined the Department of Pathology as a pathology extern. During this time she solidified her interest in pathology as a career choice and participated in a research project in GI pathology, which she presented nationally. She began residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Oklahoma in July, 2013.\*



**Dr. Amelia Fierro-Fine, recipient of the 2013 Special Achievement in Pathology Award**

## IAP represented on IMS Tort Reform Task Force

**C**hristopher Leigh, MD of Dubuque is representing the Iowa Association of Pathologists on the Iowa Medical Society's newly-formed Tort Reform Task Force.

The Task Force is charged with analyzing best practices from other states, assessing the political landscape in Iowa and its impact on the ability to pass meaningful tort reform, and finding creative approaches to engaging coalition partners in the effort.

The task force is chaired by Dr. Michael McCoy, an obstetrician from Burlington. Two or three meetings were planned.

The final report from the task force will form the basis of the IMS policy priorities for the 2014

legislative session.

According to Clare Kelly, executive vice president of the IMS, for the past six years, the Iowa Legislature has concentrated on reforming health care delivery in Iowa but has failed to take "even modest steps to improve the tort climate."

In June, members of the IAP Board of Directors met with Clare Kelly to discuss mutual issues of concern. The meeting was held at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, hosted by Dale Andres, DO.

IAP board members attending were Daniel Slagel, MD, Dubuque, IAP President; Renee Ellerbroek, MD, Des Moines; Steve Goetz, MD, Mason City and Jamie Weydert, MD, Ames.

IAP representatives shared concerns about the IMS position on physician self-referral testing, sub-specialty encroachment into pathology services and the importance of maintaining a unified quality standard for pathology services.

The group also toured the Mercy Hospital Laboratory.\*

### Upcoming events

**CAP '13**  
**The Pathologists' Meeting**  
October 13-16, Orlando, FL

**CAP Advocacy Forum**  
May 5-7, 2014  
Washington, DC