

IAP UPDATE

Iowa Association of Pathologists

Fall, 2015

CAP President-Elect will speak at IAP Annual Dinner

Bruce Williams, MD, President-elect of the College of American Pathologists, will be a guest speaker at the IAP Annual Dinner November 5 at the hotelVetro in Iowa City.

Dr. Williams was chosen as president-elect of CAP in September. He is currently a partner with the Delta Pathology Group and a clinical associate professor of pathology at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he has taught and practiced for more than 35 years.

During that time, Dr. Williams has also served patients and fellow pathologists through his many appointments with the CAP. He has chaired seven committees and councils throughout his membership, served six years on the Board of Governors, and recently chaired the Council on Scientific Affairs. In 2007, Dr. Williams was awarded the CAP Outstanding Service Award for his long-term commitment to the organization and its programs. He will serve as president-elect



R. Bruce Williams, MD

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Report from 2015 CAP Meetings Crucial advocacy issues addressed

by Jamie Weydert, MD, FCAP
Chair, Iowa delegation to CAP House of Delegates

The Spring, 2015 CAP House of Delegates convened March 21 in Boston, Mass. The meeting featured a question and answer session with CAP officer and Governor candidates. All the candidates stressed political advocacy as a critical part of the CAP mission during this session. It appears the in-office ancillary service exemption (IOAS) remains the prime target of the advocacy arm of the CAP, and multiple candidates related frustrations with ‘pod labs’ that have negatively affected their practices.

An expert panel then dissected issues related to anatomic pathology (over)utilization. The recent Palmetto local coverage determination (LCD) regarding the ‘medical necessity’ of special stains in anatomic pathology was a big part of this discussion. An important take-away regarding LCDs — be wary. The rules in LCDs may set the stage on an annual basis.

Finally, Rebecca Johnson of the ABP was present to answer questions about the MOC process. An

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“Multiple candidates expressed frustration with ‘pod labs’ that have negatively affected their practices.”

IAP Annual Dinner speakers

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for two years, assisting the current president and preparing for his two-year presidency while attending Board and Executive Committee meetings. He will also be the CAP ambassador and representative of the president.

At the IAP Annual Dinner, Dr. Williams will discuss current advocacy efforts by CAP and CAP membership.

The IAP Annual Dinner will begin with a 6:00 p.m. reception on Thursday, November 5 at Iowa City's hotelVetro, 201 S. Linn. Following dinner, there will be a scientific presentation by Munir Tanas, MD of the University of Iowa. Dr. Tanas will speak on *A practical approach to biopsies of deceptively bland-appearing bone and soft tissue neoplasms*.

Any Iowa pathologist is welcome to attend the IAP Annual Dinner. To register, visit the Annual Dinner section of www.iapathologists.org, the IAP web site. If you wish to pay by check, print a registration form and mail it to the address listed on the form. If you prefer, you can register online and pay by credit card. *

Two students win IAP/UI Awards

Thomas Czczok received the 2015 Special Achievement in Pathology award, given by the University of Iowa Department of Pathology in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Pathologists. This achievement is awarded to a senior medical student for meritorious participation throughout the four-year curriculum in programs related to pathology. Thomas received a monetary award from IAP.

Tyler Willman received this year's Sophomore Medical Student Award in Pathology. This award is also given by the University of Iowa Department of Pathology in conjunction with IAP to the graduating senior who had the highest scores in the sophomore pathology curriculum. Tyler also

President's Message

Greetings!

It is that time of year again for us to gather for the IAP Annual Dinner. I encourage everyone to attend this year in Iowa City on Thursday, November 5 as we have a greatline up of speakers, Dr. Bruce



Williams, President-elect of the College of American Pathologists, will give an update on CAP issues and will be available for questions. Dr. Munir Tanas of the University of Iowa will give a talk on practical issues surrounding soft tissue neoplasms.

We will also have a reception and plenty of networking time since this is the only time all year that Iowa pathologists can get together.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Iowa City on November 5.

Best wishes,

Jared Abbott, MD, PhD

President, Iowa Association of Pathologists



Thomas Czczok



Tyler Willman

received a monetary award from IAP.

The names of both students will be added to award plaques displayed in the pathology administrative offices. *

CAP House of Delegates Report

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important take-away—the MOC recertification exam is not supposed to be as rigorous as the initial certification exam. A pilot program of off-site recertification testing may be conducted in the coming year; this provides a glimmer of hope that those taking MOC ABP exams in the future won't need to visit Tampa.

Fall, 2015 House of Delegates

The Fall 2015 HOD convened in Nashville on October 3rd, 2015. Threats of cuts to pathology services was the most pertinent issue discussed. The final CMS rule for 2016 pathology services will provide a net increase in technical and professional component revenue for pathologists. CAP expects the increased IHC reimbursement rate seen in the preliminary rule will stay in the final rule.

The CAP also noted that PAMA (Protecting Access to Medicare Act) has given CMS increased authority to determine so-called 'misvalued' codes. Continued CAP advocacy efforts will be required to stymie future reductions in pathologist work reimbursement. Contributions to PathPAC are encouraged for all CAP members.

Another panel discussion featured health care attorneys, health system administrators and insurance industry administrators. Two themes dominated the discussion: 1) Most pathologists are not prepared, nor are they particularly willing, to adapt to new payment models (pay for value, bundling, etc); and 2) Pathologists need to be more actively engaged with metric-based performance improvement within the hospital and health-system settings.

Panel members predicted that accreditation agencies such as the Joint Commission will require performance metrics to be included in hospital contracts with pathologists.

Engaging in small performance improvement projects (turn-around time, test utilization, blood utilization, etc) would be a good starting point for pathologists who have yet to enter into metric-assessed activities. *

“The final CMS rule for 2016 pathology services will provide a net increase in technical and professional component revenue for pathologists.”

Future CAP Meetings

2016 CAP Annual Meeting, House of Delegates and Residents' Forum — September 24-28, 2016, Wynn/Encore in Las Vegas, Nevada

2017 CAP Annual Meeting, House of Delegates and Residents' Forum — October 7-11, 2017, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD (Washington, DC)

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CAP on Twitter

Just in case you don't already know, the College of American Pathologists has joined the world of Twitter.

You can find CAP's twitter page at <https://twitter.com/Pathologists>. Check it out for news on trending issues of interest. *