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IAPupdate

Spring 2017

News from the Iowa Association of Pathologists

President's Message

Current legislative initiatives affect entire house of medicine

Jamie Weydert, MD, President, Iowa Association of Pathologists

As I write this article for our IAP Update, from around Iowa monumental legislative initiatives are occurring that affect the entire house of medicine.

On May 5, Governor Brandstad signed SF 465 into law, a bill colloquially known as the Medical Liability Reform Bill. Changing existing tort law is one of the more difficult advocacy issues facing physicians, as we are often pitted against a well-oiled advocacy base from the Trial Lawyers Association. This new law will cap non-economic damages (with some exceptions) at $250,000. The bill will also strengthen standards for so-called expert witnesses and require a certificate of merit (COM) prior to discovery in all medical liability suits. This is a win for Iowa physicians. Please be sure to thank your local representatives in the Iowa House and Senate who supported this bill. Recognizing our Iowa senators and representatives when they support the house of medicine helps

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Join your colleagues from around Iowa

IAP Annual Dinner September 21 in Iowa City

All Iowa pathologists are invited to join your colleagues at the IAP Annual Dinner Thursday evening, September 21 at the Coralville Marriott. Non-members and practice partners of IAP members are also welcome. The cost is $100; pathology residents attend for free.

This year's guest speaker is Andrew Bellizzi, MD, a Clinical Associate Professor in the University of Iowa Department of Pathology. Dr. Bellizzi is co-director of the department's Immunopathology Laboratory and

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IAP on Twitter

The Iowa Association of Pathologists has a brand new Twitter account. In establishing a Twitter account, IAP is following the lead of many national physician organizations, including the College of American Pathologists.

The URL of the IAP Twitter page is: **https://twitter.com/iapathologists.** Anyone who has the Twitter address can view the page. However, in order to comment on a tweet, you need to create your own Twitter account and "follow" the IAP Twitter page.

> ***Social media is an important driver of information sharing, and we need to get onboard.***
>
> **IAP President Jamie Weydert, MD**

Many physicians are already active on Twitter. If you find information on other Twitter pages that you feel is relevant for Iowa pathologists, please email IAP Communications Director Chris Sutton at **iapathservices@gmail.com** and the information will be "retweeted" on the IAP Twitter page.▼

IAP Award Winners Announced

Winners of two special student awards funded by the Iowa Association of Pathologists have been announced by the University of Iowa Department of Pathology. The Special Achievement in Pathology award goes to Mitchell Pitlick; the Sophomore Medical Student Award in Pathology goes to David DeMik.▼

IAP Annual Dinner

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Andrew Bellizzi, MD

and director of GI Pathology for the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. His research interests include gastrointestinal, pancreatic, neuro-endocrine and hereditary tumors and applications of diagnostic immuno-histochemistry. The title of Dr. Bellizzi's talk is ***Updates in Gastrointestinal Cancer Staging in AJCC8.***

Later this summer, IAP members will receive a flyer with additional details and a mail-in registration form. You can also register online and pay conveniently using your credit card in the Annual Dinner section of the IAP web site, www.iapathologists.org.

The Fall Meeting and Education Expo of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners begins Friday, September 22, also at the Coralville Marriott. The program **"Case Studies in Death Investigation"** is of interest to Iowa pathologists involved in death investigation. Speakers will include Michele Stuart, an Arizona private investigator and expert in the role of the Internet and social media in death investigation; Julie Howe, a death investigation expert from St. Louis University and Dr. Tim Huntington, an expert in forensic entomology. Dr. Huntington testified in the high profile 2011 trial of Casey Anthony in Florida.

The speaker at the IACME Annual Banquet on Friday evening September 22 will be Terry Ledbetter, a St. Louis County death investigator who was involved in the highly controversial Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Missouri. For more information about the 2017 IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo, visit the IACME web site, www.iacountyme.org.▼

Future Meetings

CAP17 The Pathologists' Meeting

October 8-11, 2017, Gaylord National, National Harbor Maryland

2018 IAP Annual Dinner

Thurs., November 8, 2018, Glen Oaks Country Club, West Des Moines

President's Message, *from page 1*

ensure that they will listen to future "asks" from health care groups.

On May 4, the US House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act, which is being referred to as the Obama Care Repeal and Replace Bill or the Trump Care Bill, depending on your political leanings. The bill will likely be significantly altered in the US Senate; therefore it is too early to determine this bill's impact on insurance markets and health care providers. Three provisions in this bill will be hot button issues. First, funding for Medicaid will probably be spread even thinner, which will change how states administer Medicaid programs and spending. Second, individual insurance policies may not cover as many services as the ObamaCare policies. Third, because it is so expensive for the insurance industry to cover pre-existing conditions and children under the age of 26 on a parent's plan, those costs will therefore be passed on to consumers.

In matters more specific to pathology, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) has agreed to co-sponsor the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Clarification Act. This bill wold hold Medicare Administration Contractors (MACs) more accountable to all stakeholders in the development of LCDs, and provide for a meaningful appeals process. As we are all aware, last February Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) followed the lead of Palmetto and implemented proscriptive LCD rules related to the ordering of special stains and immunohistochemical stains in the practice of anatomic pathology. This process was done via executive fiat, with no real consideration of input from pathologists and patients Please contact our US Senators and Representatives and ask them to support the Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act of 2017.

Pathology and Football – Our 2017 IAP Annual Dinner will be held Thursday, September 21 at the Coralville Marriott, and our speaker will be Andrew Bellizzi, MD of the UI Dept. of Pathology. The Fall Meeting of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners will follow at the same hotel on Friday and Saturday, September 22-23. The Iowa Hawkeyes host the Penn State Nittany Lions on the gridiron that weekend as well. The IACME Planning Committee, chaired by Iowa Chief Medical Examiner Dennis Klein, MD, has planned an excellent program that will be of interest to pathologists involved in death investigation.

IAP and Twitter – In an effort to enhance how the IAP communicates amongst its membership, our administrative staff has created an IAP Twitter account. Check it out at: https://twitter.com/iapathologists. Social media is an important driver of information sharing, and we need to get onboard.

I hope you enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September at the IAP Annual Dinner and the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners Fall Meeting and Education Expo.▼

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