



Laying a Firm Foundation in Molecular and Cytogenetics Diagnostics



Shree G. Sharma, MD, poses with his mentor, Margaret L. Gulley, MD, FCAP.

After completing one month's stay at Chapel Hill for a course on Molecular and Cytogenetics Diagnostics at the University of North Carolina, I found it difficult to describe the most exciting training program I ever attended. The training was very well organized for residents and fellows and covered applications in all the specialties of pathology.

Lectures were followed by workshops in which interpretation of the data and reporting was taught. The teaching provided was multi-disciplinary and useful for all residents irrespective of their eventual choice of fellowship. The teachers were accessible in person and via e-mail to answer questions.

Participants received several cases for workup, solving in teams of two to three. These exercises were challenging, promoted interaction among participants, and left us with a sense of achievement when we got it right. Many research ideas were born in the process.

The course covered so many different aspects, such as the difference each technique makes in the management of the patient and how results make a difference to the patient. We learned why a particular method is chosen by a laboratory, how tests are validated, and how the methodology can be applied in the development of other assays.

We also discussed the application of molecular pathology to the entire field of pathology—hematopathology, pediatrics, microbiology, forensics, and surgical pathology. The vast subsets of pathology were presented as one big picture, making it easier to visualize and understand the impact of molecular pathology in proper patient management.

A field trip to LabCorp, one of the biggest private labs in the US, helped me understand practice in a large corporate setting with huge case loads. Another trip to the State Bureau of Investigation crime lab in Raleigh was very educational and an experience in itself. The structure of the course never let any monotony set in.

This course has laid the foundation of molecular and cytogenetics in a manner that can incorporate lifelong learning. I see the molecular field as a key to a treasure, the exact extent of which none of us knows as of now.

Shree Gopal Sharma, MD
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Third in Conference Series: Transforming Pathology

CAP FOUNDATION
CONFERENCE SERIES III
**Futurescape
of Pathology**



Audio and PowerPoint presentations from Futurescape III are now available on the CAP Web site's 2009 Program section. A record number of people attended and were enthusiastic about what they learned.

"The conference contributed to my professional development through increased exposure to emerging business trends, technology, and information systems," said Emily Green, MD. "I was particularly interested in the area of endoscopic microscopy, a technique that could change the way that pathologists perform the inter-operative consultation."

Now in its third year, the conference series is becoming well known for bringing pathologists, researchers, and industry leaders together.

"The platform of the Futurescape Conference is a good place to start the conversation of where pathology is heading and what pathologists need to be doing as part of the change in health care management and the adoption of technology in their daily practice," observed Srividya Sathiyamoorthy, MD.

"I enjoyed the fact that the conference allowed me to discuss products with many different vendors of high-definition microscopic slide scanners and software programs," explained Rhonda Cooke, MD. "The conference clearly supported the emerging technology rather than any specific platform or vendor."



The value of attending extends far beyond the immediate future.

"While I think it is somewhat unclear as to the direction pathology as a whole will take, being aware of the players and stakeholders is an important step in the process of adaptation," Dr. Green pointed out.

Those seeking help in attending next year's Futurescape must apply by February 1, 2010.

From left to right: Pramil K. Chandra, DO, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas; Rhonda K. Cooke, MD, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas; Emily A. Green, MD; Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri; Srividya Sathiyamoorthy, MD, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC; and DeJun Shen, MD, University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California.

Lab InfoTech Summit

Providing Insight on Informatics and Lab Management



From left to right: Ulysses J. Balis, MD, Conference Co-Director, poses with the Lab InfoTech Summit travel awardees John H. Lunetta, DO, Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana; Gabriel C. Caponetti, MD, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts; Jerome Chang, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and John Joseph, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas; with Bruce A. Friedman, MD, FCAP, Conference Director.

CAP Foundation awards enabled four physicians to attend Lab Info Tech Summit on March 16–18, 2009. The participants found both the content and format particularly helpful.

“This conference allows us as physicians to gain an insight on informatics and laboratory management, an area in pathology in which we have little formal teaching,” noted Gabriel C. Caponetti, MD, of Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. “During the conference, residents and fellows have the opportunity to interact with faculty members who are experts in the field and representatives from software companies that are developing the information management tools of today and tomorrow.”

John H. Lunetta, DO, of Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, agreed. “The conference allowed me to gain a grasp on the dynamics involved with LIS at a level that is most applicable to my interests,” Dr. Lunetta said.

“By attending this conference, I learned many different concepts, such as the monitoring of health information by the patients themselves through the monitoring of personal health records as a backstop to medical errors,” added Dr. Caponetti. “I think this concept is excellent.”

Our thanks is given to the Foundation’s partner in sponsoring this award, the Pathology Education Consortium. Check the Foundation’s Web site at foundation.cap.org for information on the Spring 2010 Lab InfoTech Summit.



CAP Foundation helps pathologists identify and learn new technologies to improve patient care. Visit Foundation.cap.org.

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Thanks to generous donors, all gifts made during CAP '09 at the Foundation’s kiosk are matched dollar-for-dollar in a corporate challenge program. If you have not made your gift yet this year, please do so by going to foundation.cap.org.



Grants and Awards Calendar

OCTOBER 1, 2009, DEADLINE

ADVANCED TRAINING

General Elective

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation

Award Amount: \$2,000 to support travel and living expenses (four weeks)

Molecular Diagnostics

Sponsored by: Abbott Molecular

Award Amount: \$2,000 to support travel and living expenses (four weeks)

Molecular Pathology

Sponsored by: Sakura Finetek USA

Award Amount: Allowance for travel and living expenses (four weeks)

Pathology Informatics Scholarship

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation and IMPAC Medical Systems, an Elektra company

Award Amount: \$5,000 for educational, living and travel expenses incurred during rotation (three to four weeks)

NEW

Renal Pathology Grant

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation and NephroPath

Award Amount: \$2,000 plus living accommodations (four weeks)

Translational Diagnostics

Sponsored by: Ventana Medical Systems

Award Amount: Allowance for travel and living expenses (four weeks)

This rotation will start in 2010.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL

APIII / Lab InfoTech Summit 2010

September 12-17, 2010 - Boston, MA

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation and Pathology Education Consortium

Award Amount: \$1,500 maximum reimbursement for travel expenses

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Rippey Grant for Quality Assurance

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation

Award Amount: \$10,000 to support innovative projects related to quality assurance

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Scholars Research Program

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation and Seracon Diagnostics

Award Amount: \$12,500 maximum for six months, and up to \$25,000 for one year

Research in Telepathology

Sponsored by: CAP Foundation and Nikon Instruments

Award Amount: \$5,000 to cover expenses incurred during the grant period