

**2008 CAP Distinguished Patient Care Award**  
**Kim A. Collins, MD, FCAP**

*Biography*

Kim A. Collins, MD, FCAP, is honored for her commitment to helping patients by sharing her personal breast cancer survival story with millions of people in dozens of broadcast and print interviews, stressing the importance of testing and patient education during Breast Cancer Awareness month; for her heroic dedication in insisting that all nine of the firefighters who perished in a nationally spotlighted fire in Charleston all stay together, which meant that she did not go home until all nine autopsies were completed; for her significant contributions to the development of the award-winning patient Web site, MyBiopsy.org, which continues to educate patients about the outstanding work pathologists are doing on behalf of patients; for her dedication to organ and tissue procurement and transplantation, educating pathologists and the community on the importance of improving and saving lives through donation.

From 1995–2008, Dr. Collins was on the faculty at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, as professor in pathology and laboratory medicine, director of autopsy and forensic pathology, and co-director of the pathology education division of the medical and dental schools. She was the recipient of numerous teaching awards from medical and dental students. Dr. Collins now works with the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to her active involvement in the CAP Spokesperson Network, Dr. Collins serves as a member on the Public Affairs Committee, an advisor to and immediate past chair of the Autopsy Committee, and a CAP Fellow Member delegate to the CAP House of Delegates. Other professional membership activities include serving as the South Carolina liaison to the National Association of Medical Examiners, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, past president of the South Carolina Society of Pathologists, and member of the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation Medical Examiner/Coroner Advisory Committee.

After receiving her BS in microbiology, magna cum laude Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Georgia, Athens, Dr. Collins earned her MD from the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta. She completed her residency in

anatomic and clinical pathology at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, followed by a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

She is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology. She is licensed in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

*Remarks*

The opportunity to serve people through pathology is the greatest reward of my career. It is such a misperception that pathologists do not/cannot work with people, do not have patients, and that forensic pathologists only “work on” dead people. True, as a forensic pathologist, my patient is usually the decedent; however, I also interact with victim’s families, death investigators, coroners, law enforcement, the media, attorneys, and jurors. Pathologists can be an integral part of public service: learning from patients to help make change and advancements in medicine and science, early recognition of disease, disease prevention, outcomes of treatments, advocating for victims’ rights, and seeking ways to improve public safety.

Organ and tissue procurement is an area where pathologists truly impact thousands of lives, both donor families and transplant recipients, and is an area that has been especially meaningful and rewarding to me as a forensic pathologist. Pathologists are in an ideal position to be strong public educators. We need to take our knowledge and help patients understand diagnoses and diseases, risk factors, treatment options, and how they can improve their quality of life. I am honored to receive the Distinguished Patient Care Award and recognize that through the College of American Pathologists, I have been better able to serve my patients, their families, and the public.