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### **The Skills Are Navigational**

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Oyedele A. Adeyi, MB, MS (MD), FCAP, on mentoring

Transformative pathologists have an attitude of aptitude. They comfortably alternate between the roles of teacher and student. They share what they know. They are open to suggestion. And they recognize opportunities, expected or not.

Oyedele A. Adeyi, MB, MS (MD), FCAP, is a natural navigator, equally at home practicing pathology in his native Nigeria, doing a research fellowship in renal pathology at Harvard, and combining clinical practice, teaching and research as an assistant professor of laboratory medicine and pathobiology at the University of Toronto. So he did not think it odd when he was invited by the CAP to participate—as a mentee—in a new program, even though he himself was already being asked to mentor pathology residents at the University of Toronto. “I had no idea what was expected,” Dr. Adeyi said. “But, you know, it was the CAP. They invited me, so I went along with it, and I’m glad I did.”

The CAP pilot created 15 sets of mentor/mentee partners for one year. Dr. Adeyi was paired with Kim Collins, MD, FCAP, a forensic pathologist in South Carolina. Because Dr. Adeyi subspecializes in liver and transplant pathology, their conversations were more often centered on the culture of medicine in the West than technical matters. Dr. Collins’ insights were enormously helpful, he says, and their relationship “blossomed into a friendship.”

Dr. Adeyi completed medical school and his first pathology residency in Nigeria, where training requirements include a clinical year of internship spent rotating through other specialties. Canadian pathology residents must meet the same requirement, he says, and he is grateful for that. Common experience creates common ground with other clinicians, he believes, a benefit for pathologists growing into more prominent roles related to clinical management and decision making.

“I have had patients call me directly and ask that I explain what the report means, especially when it has to do with cancer,” he says. “I see myself playing more roles in clinical management and decision making, and I believe my past experience in bedside patient care has been a good preparation. For instance, a few minutes ago, I signed off on a case and called the transplant hepatologist to further discuss. I was comfortable recommending an immediate response to my report, and requesting an earlier than usual follow-up biopsy.”

“As a medical student I was always interested in two things: immunology and genetics,” Dr. Adeyi says. “I could have done either of those, but when I finished pathology training in Nigeria, I came to Brigham & Women’s Hospital, [Harvard Medical School] for a research fellowship in kidney pathology that involved a lot of transplants. Being interested in immunology, it was natural that I took to the transplant part of renal pathology and decided to ultimately pursue a career in transplant pathology. I went back to

Nigeria, continued my job there as a professor, and then returned to North America in 2001 to pursue a residency in clinical and anatomic pathology.”

After completing his AP/CP residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in 2005, Dr. Adeyi took a fellowship in liver and transplantation pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, after which he joined the faculty at the University of Toronto. There, in addition to clinical practice and research, he teaches an undergraduate course in immunopathology and conducts rounds in transplant hepatology for physicians. He is widely published and much in demand as a guest lecturer.

“Transplant pathology is my area of interest and research,” Dr. Adeyi concludes. “It’s what I most enjoy doing. I’ve been very fortunate to work with people who taught me things that I could pass along to somebody else.”