



# New York State Society of Pathologists Newsletter

WINTER 2018 • VOL. 1

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**MESSAGE FROM THE NYSSPATH PRESIDENT**

Mary Fowkes, MD, PhD, President, NYSSPath

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to wish all a Happy New Year and give a number of updates since our Fall 2017 Newsletter.

1. The anticipated rule change regarding NYS pathologists talking to patients has taken place. For those of you who already were speaking with patients, congratulations, your institution will no longer be at risk for fines. For those who do not wish to speak with patients, you do not have to. You can always choose to refer a patient to their respective clinical service member for a discussion about their diagnosis, if you are so inclined. However, pathologists taking an active role in being visible in their critical role in patient care may help our profession, especially in these times of poor reimbursement.
2. Currently the New York State Clinical Laboratory Association is working to assess laboratory staffing issues throughout the state. They have written a letter to Governor Cuomo to ask for help in addressing staffing due to the licensing requirement in clinical laboratory technology and shortage of Clinical Laboratory personnel. To address this issue, we are asking for all state laboratories, NYC and Upstate, to PLEASE send feedback of current laboratory staffing (mary.fowkes@mountsinai.org).
  - Do you have shortages in histologists? How many and for how long?
  - Do you have shortages in technologists? How many and for how long?
  - Do you have shortages in Pathology Assistants? How many and for how long?
  - If the current limited license for laboratory technologists is eliminated, will your laboratory staffing be impacted?
  - Other staffing issues (please describe)?

The next NYSCLA annual meeting will be June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Tarrytown. For topics and further information, please check out the NYSCLA website: [www.nyscla.com](http://www.nyscla.com)

3. I have spoken to the NYS Department of Education (DOE) regarding the new licensing law for Pathology Assistants (PA) and the specific Scope of Practice (SOP) requirements which you should be aware of and which are defined by law.

The law can be found at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/patha/article168.htm>

The regulations can be found at:  
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1117ppca1.pdf>

The application form can be found at:  
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/patha/pathaforms.htm>

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## MESSAGE FROM THE NYSSPATH PRESIDENT (continued)

Form 4 - Verification of Practice for the grandparenting pathway needs to be signed by a physician practicing anatomic pathology and requires verification of 2 years of experience done within the last 5 years. The grandparenting pathway is ONLY available till November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Form 4, which contains the physician attestation is at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/patha/patha4.pdf>

I would like to point out that the attestation reads, "I hereby certify that I am the supervising physician for the applicant named on this form, that I am knowledgeable about, and qualified to attest to, the applicant's work experience and that the applicant has the requisite experience, within the scope of practice for Pathologists' Assistant, as defined in Education Law §8850(4). I understand that any false or misleading information made in, or in connection with, my certification of this form may result in disciplinary action against my license and/or loss of my licensure and may result in criminal prosecution."

The DOE would like me to point out that this is a serious legal document and you should seriously consider the importance of the attestation.

The DOE considers this PA grandfathering pathway as generous. Data to address potential issues with this law are lacking. Therefore, if you see potential issues arising due to this law or its interpretation, please let me know and provide DATA so that NYSSPATH can address the issue with data to support our position.

4. An issue was raised by one of our State Pathologists regarding the CAP Pathologists Quality Registry and concern that CAP is not creating a proprietary quality reporting measures that CMS could set as required standard for which Medicare reimbursement to groups / departments is tied. I want people to know there are other registries available (if not now, at least in the works) by other pathology organization. Similar to the situation in California, where the legislature unilaterally decided to mandate use of the CAP cancer protocols for all reports, CAP does NOT want their guidelines to be mandated by law, but rather to be used as quality guides for pathologists. This information has been verified with CAP.
5. To follow-up CAP issues, I am running for a second term as CAP House of Delegates Steering Committee Member-at-large. I feel that I need to finish the work I have started in this initial 2 year period by extending it for another 2 years. If you are a member of the CAP HOD please lend your support.
6. The Blood Banking Society of New York will be holding their annual CME meeting this June 8-9<sup>th</sup> in NYC. Those interested in topics and further information, please see the listing at the end of this newsletter.
7. Any issues identified by your laboratory/Department, please contact NYSSPATH and we will work at getting answers.
8. NYSSPATH is providing a one year offer of joint membership with the New York Pathology Society. Application to either NYSSPATH or NYPS allows membership in both for 2018. Please go on line to either site and apply or renew your membership today! The NYPS has a recently updated website and invites you to browse it and view what joint membership offers.

**Advocate for Pathology and for our profession!  
If you are not currently a member of NYSSPATH, join or renew!  
Tell other state pathologists to join NYSSPATH today!**

Best regards,  
Mary Fowkes, MD, PhD, FCAP • President NYSSPATH

## NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

**Clare H. Bryce, MBChB**  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
NY, NY

**Fadi El Salem, MD**  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
NY, NY

**Janne Rand, MD**  
Saratoga Hospital  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Our current policy is to publish their names in this newsletter, soliciting over the three months following publication any information as to why such applicants should not be approved for membership. Please contact our administrative assistant, Barbara Birkeland, at [blkbirk@att.net](mailto:blkbirk@att.net) if there are errors in this listing, including errors of omission.

### *NYSSPATH Membership*

**20% DISCOUNT FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE AT LEAST  
75% OF THEIR GROUP PAYING THE ANNUAL DUES**

## EVENTS

|                |  |   |  |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| March 17       | Spring College of American Pathologists,<br>House of Delegates/Residents Forum Meeting         | Vancouver,<br>British Columbia,<br>Canada | <a href="http://www.cap.org">www.cap.org</a>       |
| March 17-23    | The United States and Canadian Academy<br>of Pathology (USCAP) 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting | Vancouver,<br>British Columbia,<br>Canada | <a href="http://www.uscap.org">www.uscap.org</a>   |
| April 20-May 2 | 2018 CAP Policy Meeting  | Washington, DC                            | <a href="http://www.cap.org">www.cap.org</a>       |
| June 7         | New York Clinical Laboratory Association<br>(NYSCLA) Annual Meeting                            | Tarrytown, NY                             | <a href="http://www.nyscla.com">www.nyscla.com</a> |

## Pennsylvania Association of Pathologists (PAP)



- Keynote speaker Robert Ordz, MD, presenting “IBD-Associated Neoplasia: A Contemporary Approach for Pathologists
- CAP President R. Bruce Williams, MD, FCAP, will give a CAP update on advocacy efforts and other CAP initiatives
- Visit [www.papathology.org](http://www.papathology.org)

## BBANYS Annual Meeting June 8-9, 2018 NYC, New York



Featuring topics on blood banking & transfusion medicine, patient blood management, blood donor collection and testing, cellular therapy, and lab management.

Keynote address featuring Dr Zbigniew “Ziggy” Szczepiorkowski, immediate AABB past president.

Recommended for clinical pathologists, hematologists, residents, and fellows as well as lab managers, supervisors, and technologists and nurses.

Visit [www.bbanys.org](http://www.bbanys.org)

## Digital Pathology Association



[www.digitalpathologyassociation.org/pathology-visions-conference](http://www.digitalpathologyassociation.org/pathology-visions-conference)