An update from the Research & Current Concept Committee

Diana Lin, MD

The Research and Current Concepts Committee has been very engaged for the 2021-2022 year. We carefully evaluated all the abstracts for the 2021 ASC Annual Scientific Meeting and selected winners for the following awards: Warren R. Lang, MD Resident Physician Award; Cytotechnologist Scientific Presentation Award; Gene Saccomanno, MD New Frontiers in Cytology Award; Advances in Thyroid Cytology Award; Innovative Cytotechnologist Practice Award and Quality Improvement in Cytology Award. We did not focus solely on annual meeting presentations, either. We also selected the winner of the newly established “Dr. Bernard Naylor Cytomorphology Award.” This award is given to the first author of a published manuscript which is a novel and high-quality cytopmorphological study with practical applications.

The committee will be producing a three-part webinar: “Meet the Winners of the 2021 ASC Annual Scientific Meeting Abstract Awards.” Committee members will interviewer the winners of the Scientific Meeting awards as well as the winner of the Bernard Naylor Excellence in Cytomorphology award. This
video will be available both on YouTube and ASC PodCast CytopathPod. The interviewees will highlight the challenges and rewards of writing an award winning presentation/paper. We hope this webinar will inspire more talented investigators to submit abstracts and manuscripts.

To further encourage research, the committee is also producing a second webinar: “A Roadmap on How to Prepare an Award-winning Project.” Committee members guide viewers on all steps of the process: planning, executing the project, writing the abstract, presenting a poster or platform, and writing the manuscript. This webinar will help budding researchers to tackle a high-quality project from start to finish. It will also be available on both the ASC YouTube Channel and PodCast.

We hope this article will motive enthusiastic researchers to submit abstracts to upcoming annual scientific meetings and papers to the Journal of the American Society of Cytopathology. Quality improvement work is especially encouraged, and we will continue to promote research in this field through social media.

The Committee Webinars are available at the following links:

“A Roadmap on How to Prepare an Award-winning Project.”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkFOhFfi3gM

“Meet the Winners of the 2021 ASC Annual Scientific Meeting Abstract Awards.” – Coming Soon

“Meet the Winners of the 2020 ASC Annual Scientific Meeting Abstract Awards.”
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIwnaT31fRE

The Research and Current Concept Committee hard at work.
It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Dr. Patricia Saigo.

The first 17 years of Dr. Saigo’s life in Hilo, Hawaii was a prelude for my current endeavor, a volunteer at the American Museum of National History (AMNH). After graduating from Hilo High School, she moved to another island, Manhattan, to enroll at Barnard College in Columbia University, New York City. After graduation in 1963, she worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City in a research laboratory, devising an animal model for autoimmune thyroiditis. Commercially produced antibodies were unavailable, and her job was to purify and titrate antigens and antibodies in small batches. After two years, she decided to go to medical school and attended Woman’s Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1969. Returning to NYC, she completed an internship in Internal Medicine and a residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. Encouraged by Dr. David Kaminsky, a fellow resident, to pursue a subspecialty in Cytopathology, she continued her studies at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. There, Dr. Myron R. Melamed and Dr. Steven I. Hajdu taught her cytology and encouraged participation in the ASC. For the Next 25 years, these two stellar institutions were the bulwark of her professional life. This period of her life was extremely exciting and gratifying, with new challenges always waiting. But, the rhythm of her life changed, and at the end of the last millennium, she retired.

In 2000 Dr. Saigo pursued other paths. Being a tour guide volunteer at the AMNH has heightened her interest and deepened her understanding of the natural world around us. She enjoys exploring it by walking, hiking, and traveling. Her other pursuits are ballroom dancing and learning Japanese. While the specifics of the adventures and challenges have changed, the enrichment of her life continues.

The memorial service was held at Plaza Jewish Community Chapel, 630 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY at 11 AM on 02/25/2022.
21st International Congress of Cytology held jointly with the American Society of Cytopathology's 70th Annual Scientific Meeting

November 15-20, 2022

Baltimore, MD, USA

To listen to the ASC Podcast go to podbean.com and search for CytopathPod
Time:
3:00 PM (ET)
Fourth Tuesday of each month.
(December Webinar is the second Tuesday)

Credits:
2 CME/CMLE Credits per webinar

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- Interactive. Engage with leading physicians and cytotechnologists through live Q&A sessions and audience polling.
- Learn from leading experts on a variety of cytopathology topics.

Click her for more information and Pricing
Advanced Cytopathology Education: Reimagining Cytology

April 25-29, 2022

ONLINE

Celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week with a dynamic educational course designed to help enhance your knowledge and skills in advanced cytopathology practice.

The Future of Cytopathology is Here!

Molecular Cytopathology Workshop

This online course provides organ-specific detailed molecular training, as well as general teaching on molecular assays and test selection. The course will empower cytopathologists to serve as experts in molecular cytopathology for both test selection and results interpretation.

In addition, following this course, cytopathologists can serve as an essential resource to guide oncologists, proceduralists, and surgeons on test utilization and interpretation.

Click here for more information and to register!
ASC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

ASC Member
Survey April 2021

In April 2021, the ASC asked the 2,947 members to complete an online membership survey. This survey was designed to explore ways to increase ASC membership benefits and to better serve the educational and professional needs of the membership and cytopathology community.

About our Members
The ASC members were notified of the survey by an announcement by blast email on April 28, 2021. As an incentive, respondents received a $10.00 Starbucks Gift Card for completing the survey. Of the 2,947 members notified, 252 members responded as of June 1, 2021. Of those responding, 42% were Medical, 29% were Cytotechnologist, 9% were Student Cytotechnologist, 7% were Voting Cytotechnologist, 5% were Pathology Resident, 4% were Cytopathology Fellows and Junior Medical, and less than 2% were international, scientist, affiliate, honorary and life members.
More than three quarters of the respondents rated professional growth as their reason to join the ASC.

The ASC benefits most valued by the members were Annual Scientific Meeting (19%), and Networking opportunities (11%).

**Question: 3. What benefits does the ASC offer that are of most value to you? (select your top three choices)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Voting Cytotechnologist</th>
<th>Cytotechnologist</th>
<th>Interna tional Medical</th>
<th>Cytopathology Fellow</th>
<th>Pathology Resident</th>
<th>Student Cytotechnologist</th>
<th>Life/Hon orary</th>
<th>Scientist</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>ASC Website</td>
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<td>6%</td>
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<td>9%</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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<td>Journal of the American Society of Cytopathology (JASC)</td>
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<td>CytoCE – Online Education</td>
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<td>Discounted registration fees for continuing education offerings</td>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>Cyto e-conference</td>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASC YouTube (cytopath1951)</td>
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<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>8%</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serve on Committees</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>The ASC Bulletin</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASC Listserv</td>
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<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC Podcast (CytoPathPod)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of our members follow the ASC on Facebook for announcements for meetings and events in addition to networking with other members. Members have also subscribed to our YouTube channel to gain additional education.
ASC’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

The ASC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was established to advise the ASC leadership on DEI matters in the Society. They engage with ASC Members to get input, ideas and suggestions for ways to make the ASC a diverse, welcoming and supportive environment for all to thrive and do their best work. The ASC Members were asked a series of questions focusing on DEI issues.
### ASC Educational Offerings

The ASC educational offerings are prime importance to the ASC Executive Board. The survey asked the ASC members which formats they prefer. The majority prefer online webinars followed by face-to-face meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At ASC, members and leadership respect and appreciate individuals whose backgrounds, beliefs and experiences are different from their own.</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC fosters an atmosphere to encourage members to be themselves without fear.</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The leadership at ASC treats all members equitably, without discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religious beliefs, and ethnic, cultural or educational background.</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting to know people with backgrounds different from my own has been easy at ASC.</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ASC's policies and procedures encourage diversity, equity and inclusion.</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of different backgrounds interact well at ASC.</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our organization values diverse opinions and ideas.</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC is committed to improving the diversity of the members.</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The leadership at ASC treats all members equitably, including cytotechnology members, non-medical members and those-in-training.</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the ASC educational activities, the respondents prefer the Annual Scientific Meeting followed by our monthly Cyto-econference Series. Our on demand programs, eJournal and Case Studies are popular as well. The recent addition of the YouTube webinars are beginning to take interest among the members.
The survey asked what city you would like to see the Annual Scientific Meeting in the future. The majority of the responses were for Boston followed by San Diego, Seattle and Chicago.
Thank you to ALL who responded!
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Rapid On-Site Evaluation Adequacy Assessment of 75-Year-Old Man with 3.3 cm Lung Mass

Raza Hoda, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Sarah Kline
Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Disclosure: None

Continuing Medical Education (CME): The American Society of Cytopathology is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Society of Cytopathology designates this enduring educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s). "Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Board of Pathology Maintenance of Certification (MOC): This product can help fulfill the CME requirements and Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) mandated by the American Board of Pathology MOC process.

Continuing Medical Laboratory Education (CMLE): The ASC designates this activity for the indicated number of CMLE credit hours and also fulfills requirements of the ABMS to participate in the Maintenance of Certification program.

This program is approved for continuing education credits in the State of Florida for 1 credit and the State of California for ½ credit.

Disclosure for Education Planners
Review the Case Study and visit the ASC Web site to take the test for Continuing Education Credit.

Clinical History:
A 75-year-old man had been in his usual state of health until 3 months before presentation to our hospital, when he developed decreased appetite with 50-pound unintentional weight loss, generalized weakness, cough, and right leg pain. He actively uses tobacco, with a 20 pack-year history of cigarettes; otherwise, his medical and surgical history was unremarkable. On physical examination, the patient displayed normal effort and normal breath sounds with no respiratory distress. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest was performed (Figure 1). An endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) of the station 7 lymph node was performed (Figures 2-5).

Cytopathology Features:
Cytologic smears from the fine-needle aspiration reveal dispersed single cells and loose clusters of small to medium-sized cells, characterized by enlarged nuclei with fine-to-coarse stippled chromatin pattern and scant cytoplasm. Nucleoli were not distinct. Nuclei display prominent molding. Occasional perinuclear blue bodies are seen. Apoptotic cells are present. The background displayed streaks of nuclear debris and tumor necrosis.

Figure 1: Computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest. CT image demonstrating a 3.3 cm right lower lobe lung mass contiguous with the pleural surface (arrowhead).

Figure 2: Endobronchial ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspirate (FNA) sample of station 7 lymph node. Image shows scattered tumor cells, appearing singly and in small loose clusters, in a necrotic background (Romanowsky stain, 100x).

Figure 3: Station 7 lymph node FNA Sample displays tumor cells with high nuclear-to-cytoplasmic ratios, minimal cytoplasm, and nuclear molding (Romanowsky stain, 200x).

Figure 4: Station 7 lymph node FNA Sample demonstrates tumor cells with marked crush and smear artifact and nuclear molding (Romanowsky stain, 200x).

Figure 5: Station 7 lymph node FNA Sample demonstrates tumor cells with marked crush and smear artifact and nuclear molding (Romanowsky stain, 200x).