



Excellence in HPV Cytology: From QA/QI to Challenging Cases

Virtual Course

September 18, 2026

Jointly presented by the **American Society of Cytopathology** and the
Latin American Society of Cytopathology (SLAC).

****please note that all times are Eastern Time**

PROGRAM

9:00 - 9:15

Welcome & Introduction

Cecilia E. Gimenez MD (USA)

9:15 - 9:50

Quality Assurance in Gynecologic Cytopathology: Past, Present, and Future

Vanda Torous MD (USA)

Educational Objectives:

- Discuss the rationale and methodology behind quality assurance measures in gynecologic cytology.
- Evaluate how HPV co-testing and primary HPV screening have altered case mix, correlation strategies, and quality assurance expectations in gynecologic cytology.
- Anticipate how digital cytology and AI-assisted screening will alter existing QA frameworks and identify validation and monitoring needs specific to these technologies.

Quality assurance (QA) is a cornerstone of cytopathology practice, ensuring diagnostic accuracy and patient safety in a field where subtle morphologic distinctions can carry significant clinical consequences. Gynecologic cytopathology QA has a legacy unlike almost any other area of pathology: the Pap test's success as a public health intervention has been inseparable from the rigor of its QA systems. This lecture explores how QA practices emerged, what they were designed to catch, and how they continue to safeguard one of medicine's most effective cancer screening tools. It considers the balance between longstanding regulatory requirements and evolving best practices at a time of significant change, as primary HPV screening reshapes the case mix and role of cytology within the screening algorithm, and digital cytology stands poised to further transform how gynecologic cytology QA is practiced.

9:50 - 10:25

Cytology of Cervical Glandular lesions

Carla Molina MD (Chile)



Educational Objectives:

- Review the classification of cervical glandular lesions according to the Bethesda System.
- Recognize the main cytomorphological criteria of benign, precursor, and malignant glandular alterations.
- To analyze the most frequent differential diagnoses in the interpretation of glandular lesions.
- To correlate cytological findings with histopathology and their relevance in clinical decision-making.

This talk will review glandular lesions of the cervix from the perspective of the Bethesda System, addressing the cytomorphological criteria for their recognition and classification. The main diagnostic categories, differential diagnoses and their correlation with histopathological lesions will be analyzed, highlighting the importance of an accurate cytological diagnosis for the adequate clinical management of patients.

10:25 - 11:00

Squamous lesions of the cervix in cytology: how to diagnose them!

Luiz Martins Collaco MD (Brazil)

Educational Objectives:

- Know the main cytological criteria for the diagnosis of low- and high-grade squamous lesions of the cervix.
- To establish the main cytomorphological differential diagnoses for low- and high-grade squamous lesions of the cervix.
- Understand the relationship of HPV types with high- and low-grade squamous lesions of the cervix.
- How to report low- and high-grade squamous lesions according to the Bethesda System for Cervical Cytopathological Reports.

To present the concepts, cytomorphological criteria, histopathological correlations and differential diagnoses of squamous lesions of the cervix from the perspective of cytopathology. The pathophysiology of lesion development and tissue expression is presented, as well as how these lesions should be reported according to the nomenclature for cervical cytology reports.

11:00 - 11:35

Beyond the Cyst: Cytopathology Pearls and Updated Guidelines for HPV-Related Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Elizabeth M. Jacobi MD (USA)

Educational Objectives:

- Recognize the key cytomorphologic features of HPV-associated squamous cell carcinoma on fine needle aspiration.
- Understand available methods of HPV detection in head and neck specimens.
- Apply the updated 2025 CAP guidelines for HPV testing in head and neck carcinomas.

HPV-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC) is now the most common HPV-related malignancy in the United States, and the cytopathologist is often the first to encounter it. This presentation will review the key cytomorphologic features of HPV-related OPSCC, ancillary testing strategies, and the updated 2025 CAP guidelines for HPV testing in head and neck carcinomas. Various



methods of HPV detection, including immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization, and PCR-based assays, will be discussed with emphasis on their sensitivity, specificity, and appropriate clinical applications. Attendees will gain practical strategies to avoid common diagnostic pitfalls and take away actionable pearls that can be readily applied in the everyday diagnosis of HPV-related head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

11:35 -11:50

Break

11:50 - 12:25

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in Cervical Carcinogenesis: Mechanisms, Progression, and Clinical Impact

Eric C. Huang MD PhD (USA)

Educational Objectives:

- Describe the biology and life cycle of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
- Explain the molecular mechanisms by which HPV contributes to carcinogenesis.
- Discuss current strategies for HPV prevention, screening, and vaccination in reducing cancer burden.

This session explores the role of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in the development and progression of cervical cancer, with a focus on the underlying disease mechanisms. Participants will examine the HPV life cycle, viral oncogenes, and host–pathogen interactions that contribute to carcinogenesis. The session will also highlight the clinical impact of HPV in cervical cancer and discuss current approaches to cervical cancer screening and management.

12:25 - 1:00

Anal Cytology and HPV: Screening and Interpretation

Esperanza Teuzaba Torres MD (Colombia)

Educational Objectives:

- Characterization of anal cytology as a screening tool for neoplastic and preneoplastic anal lesions
- Review of the Screening Guidelines and the pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical phases
- Morphological criteria for interpretation

Review of anal cytology and HPV and its state of the art in anal cancer screening, within the epidemiological framework of reference

1:00 - 1:30

Interactive Q&A and Closing Remarks

Cecilia E. Gimenez MD (USA), Moderator

Luiz M. Collaco MD PhD FIAC (Brazil)

Eric C. Huang, MD, PhD (USA)

Elizabeth M. Jacobi MD (USA)

Carla Molina MD (Chile)

Esperanza Teuzaba Torres MD (Colombia)

Vanda Torous MD (USA)