



Welcome to the AAPA 50th Anniversary Exhibit!

These posters are a brief glimpse into the rich history of the pathologists' assistant profession, and the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants. This exhibit draws heavily on the work already done by Tom Reilly, PA(ASCP)^{cm}, when developing the AAPA Historical Timeline. Tom spent countless hours researching and compiling information, and interviewing founding and early members to tell the story of the AAPA. This exhibit barely scratches the surface of this wealth of knowledge. If you're not already familiar with it, be sure to view the Historical Timeline at pathassist.org, or by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page. This exhibit also features museum specimens provided by Courtney Hyland, PA(ASCP)^{cm}, from the collection at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and bound volumes of AAPA newsletters from the first one in 1975 through 2005.

Though this exhibit focuses on the positive aspects of the AAPA's history, it's also important to remember that these accomplishments did not come easily. Many PAs fought year after year for recognition of the profession, acceptance by other pathology organizations, accredited training programs, and national certification. The AAPA has a "seat at the table" with pathology organizations such as the Commission on Cancer, CAP, and ASCP due to the persistence and professionalism of our members.

As you peruse the posters and displays, take a moment to think about all of the volunteers required to run this organization. From the first PAs who had the foresight to establish a professional association, to the current volunteers who continue to push the profession forward, the dedication and commitment of AAPA members is awe-inspiring. We are our own best advocates, and the experts in our field. Consider how you might be able to help your professional organization achieve its goals. Whether through a short-term commitment such as presenting a lecture at a conference or writing an article for *The Cutting Edge*, or in a more involved role such as serving on a committee, there is a place for you in the AAPA.



Scan the QR code to visit the AAPA Historical Timeline at pathassist.org

