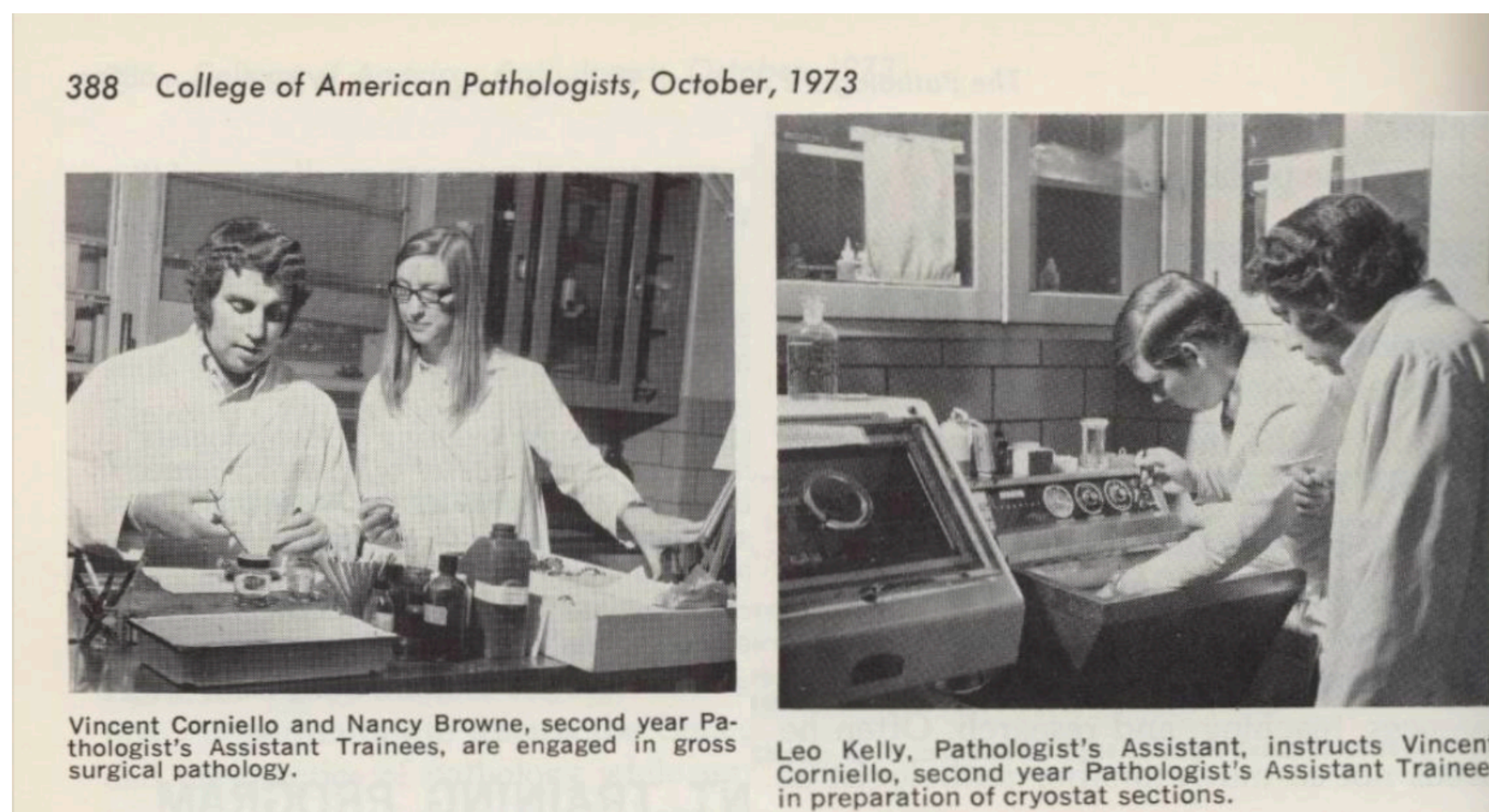


1969- The pathologists' assistant profession begins with a pilot training program at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Durham, North Carolina. The program was, and still is, administered through Duke University. A short time later, additional programs are established at VAMCs at University of Alabama and Quinnipiac College. These baccalaureate degree programs are the first to formally train people to assume responsibility for functions originally performed by anatomic pathologists and other anatomic personnel.



388 College of American Pathologists, October, 1973
From "The Pathologist's Assistant Training Program at West Haven," R Yesner MD and R Enriquez MD College of American Pathologists, October, 1973

1972- The first five graduates of the Duke University Medical Center Pathologists' Assistant Training Program hold a formal planning meeting to discuss the establishment of a non-profit organization that would foster the education of pathologists' assistants at recognized medical centers and universities.

The American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA) is officially founded and incorporated on April 14, 1972. From its inception, the AAPA is dedicated to advocacy for individual pathologists' assistants and to the advancement of a then newly-emerging allied health profession.

From the outset, the AAPA's major goals are to create guidelines for formal training programs, to develop a de facto certification "Fellowship" examination, to provide continuing education (CE) for its members, and to obtain national recognition for the profession and for individual pathologists' assistants.

The first official document defining the activities and governance of the AAPA as an association, the "Code of Regulations of the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants," is also created. The "Code" is designed to be a fluid document, able to be amended as necessary to ensure the proper governance of the association.



1975- The first annual meeting of the AAPA is held in the fall of 1975 in Atlanta, GA. The first officers are elected from the 35 members present. Revisions begin on the "Code of Regulations," committee chairs and members are selected, and discussions are held regarding formally and on-the-job (OJT) trained members. It is decided a "Fellowship" exam would be given at the next annual meeting. Members who are eligible for "Fellow" membership, including OJT PAs, have a timeframe for taking and passing the exam.

1976- The AAPA is officially recognized by the Intersociety Pathology Council (IPC) and establishes a relationship with the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC). The first "Fellowship" exam is given to members at the second annual AAPA Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA.

1983- The Association of Pathologists' Assistant Training Programs (APATP) is incorporated. The AAPA creates a document titled "Professional Responsibilities of the Pathologists' Assistant," detailing the scope of "gross tissue examination and personnel qualifications" for non-physicians.

1991- The AAPA BOT creates the "Guidelines for Establishment of an AAPA-Approved Training Program" document. The AAPA forms an Ad Hoc committee on national recognition. The first AAPA Central Office is established.

Through 1993- The AAPA forges new relationships with major stakeholders in the medical community, including the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Society of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP), the Intersociety Pathology Council (IPC), the Association of Pathology Chairmen (APC), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

1995- An accreditation process for pathologists' assistant training programs is established. Initiated by the AAPA and developed by NAACLS, with input from the CAP and ASCP, adoption of the process ensures a uniform standard of excellence for the training of PAs.

1999- A review of the scope and practice for pathologists' assistants is presented by the ASCP/CAP Ad Hoc Committee on Pathologists' Assistants at the ASCP/CAP 1999 Fall Meeting. A subsequent report based on the discussion of the review is favorable to the AAPA, with recommendations, one of which is to develop a national certification process.

2000- The AAPA becomes an approved Annual Provider for CE Credits through the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Scientists Professional Acknowledgement for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E.).

The National Commission for the Certification of Pathologists' Assistants is established. Comprised of representatives from the AAPA, program directors, and members of other pathology groups, the commission begins investigating, sourcing, and developing a certification program.

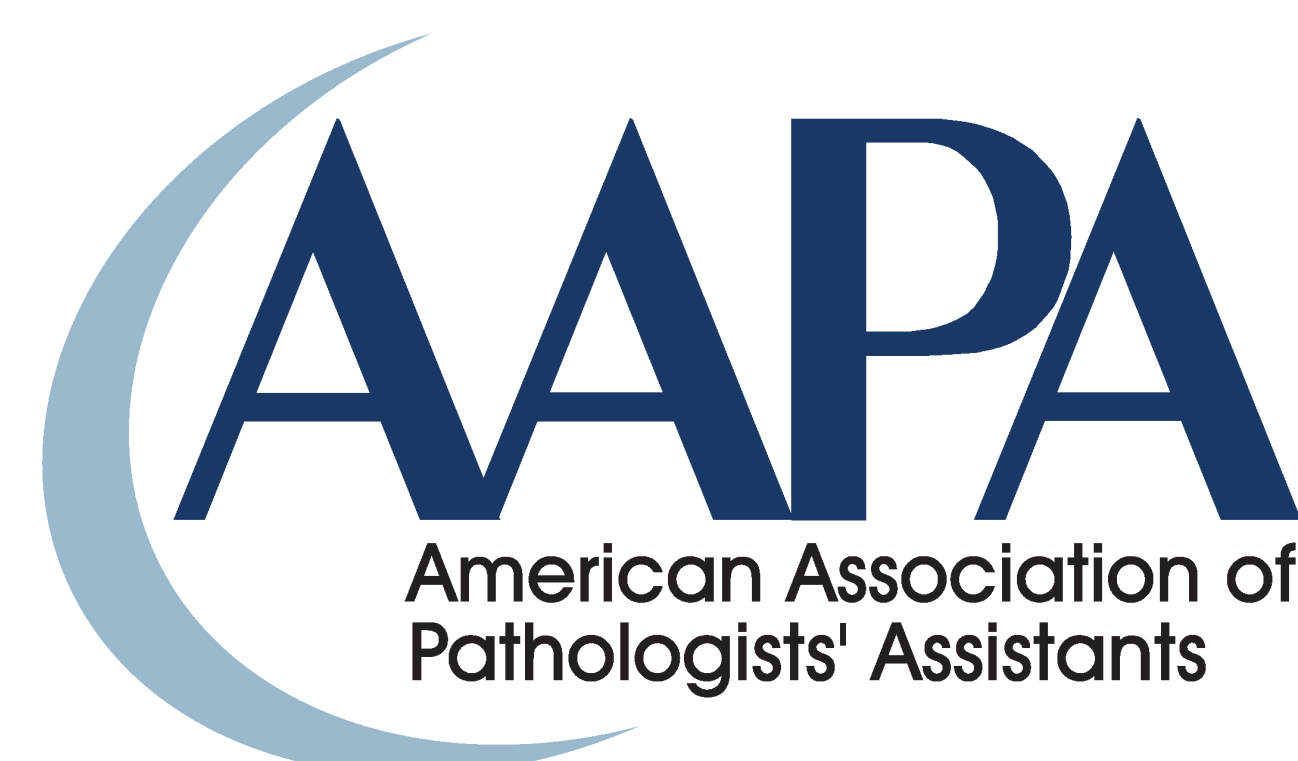
2004- The AAPA Board of Trustees and the ASCP Board of Registry develop a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the first national certification program for pathologists' assistants.



2005- The inaugural ASCP certification examination for pathologists' assistants is administered at the annual AAPA Continuing Education Conference in Boston, MA. AAPA Fellow members who had previously passed the AAPA Fellowship Exam, including qualified AAPA OJT (on-the-job trained) members, are given the opportunity to be grandfathered into ASCP certification.

2007- The Pathologists' Assistant-specific certification maintenance program (CMP) is launched by the ASCP. The AAPA creates new governance and membership structures, and additionally creates a set of bylaws to replace its outdated AAPA Code of Regulations.

2008- The AAPA creates its first paid Executive Director (ED) position. The ED is tasked to maintain, promote, and ensure that the AAPA remains the preeminent professional association for pathologists' assistants. A new official AAPA logo is created.



2010- The OJT route to certification is officially closed. The only path to become eligible to sit for the ASCP certification exam is now to graduate from a NAACLS-accredited training program. The AAPA offers a new CME source "Beyond the Bench", a pathologists' assistant specific publication of various pathology topics.

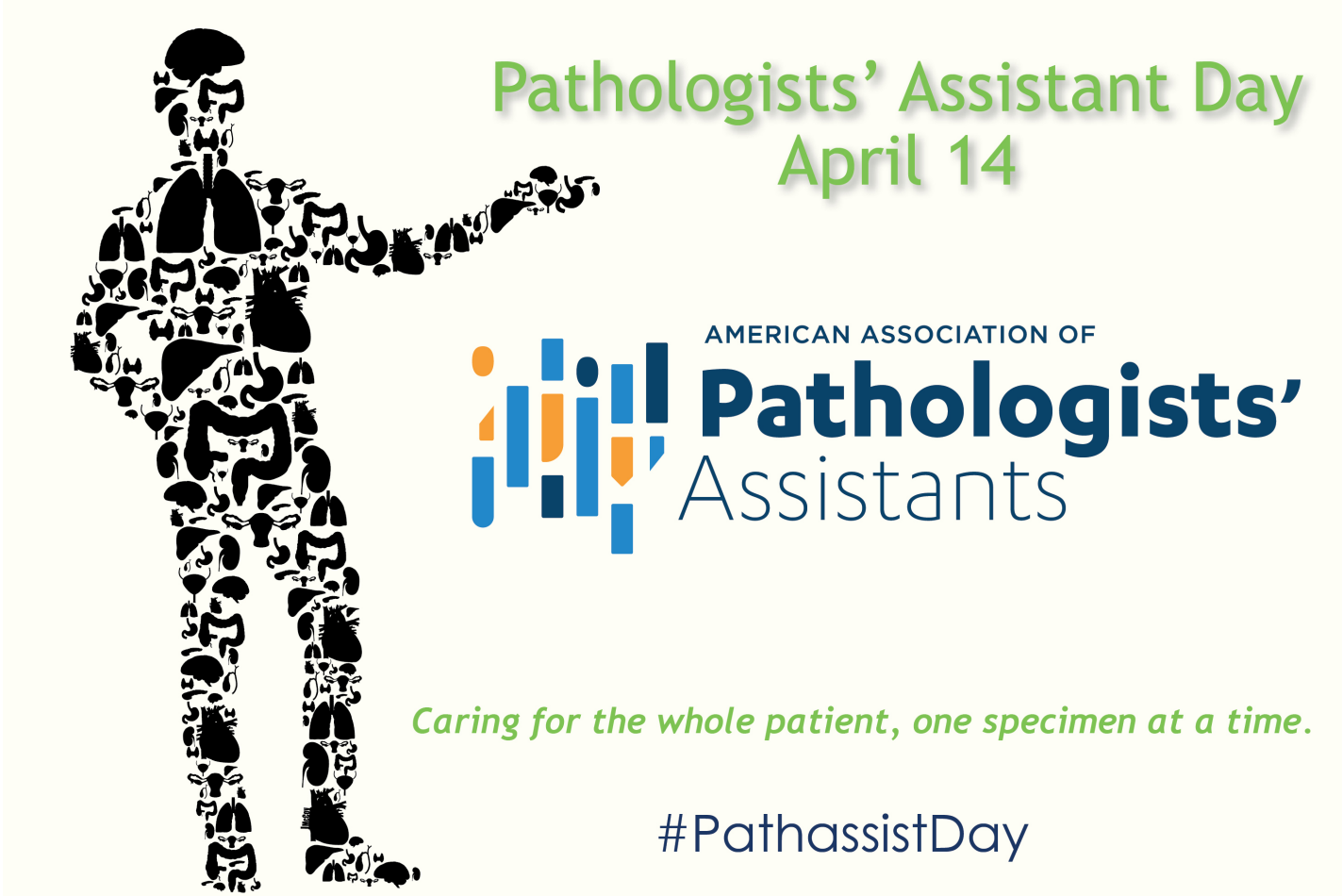
2011- The AAPA Newsletter is reformatted as a full-color, peer-reviewed journal publication and renamed The Cutting Edge.



2012- The first Spring Meeting is held, offering a CE-focused, no frills meeting alternative.

2013- The AAPA becomes a member organization of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC).

2014- The first "PA Day" is celebrated on April 14.



2016- All remaining baccalaureate degree programs are converted to master's degree programs. All future certification exam candidates are now required to graduate from a master's level NAACLS-accredited pathologists' assistants training program, and as previously required, must successfully pass the exam within five years of graduation.

2017- The AAPA Macroscopic Examination Guidelines: Utilization of the CAP Cancer Protocols at the Surgical Gross Bench (Grossing Guidelines), 1st edition is released.

2018- The AAPA becomes a member organization of the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

The revised "Scope of Practice" is released and sent to partner organizations like CAP and ASCP. The AAPA releases its "Inspection Readiness Kit".

The AAPA Macroscopic Examination Guidelines: Utilization of the CAP Cancer Protocols at the Surgical Gross Bench (Grossing Guidelines), 2nd edition is released.

2020- The AAPA introduces a new logo and the "It Pays to Know" marketing campaign.



2022- The AAPA holds its Inaugural Summer Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The ASCP BOC's new certification requirements for PA(ASCP)^{CM} go into effect, increasing the required credits to 60 per three-year cycle beginning in January of 2022. Since 2019, the AAPA has offered members 20 free CE credits annually (including advanced AP, laboratory safety, and medical ethics credits) to fulfill these requirements.

The AAPA celebrates its 50th Anniversary, culminating in the Annual Conference: Looking Back, Looking Forward held in Minneapolis.

