LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS
Drawing on the collective knowledge of more than 650 experts in laboratory medicine, the CAP helps laboratories navigate the accelerating changes in laboratory medicine and health care through its integrated laboratory improvement programs that include accreditation and proficiency testing (PT) to ensure the highest quality of patient care and mitigate risk of noncompliance.

CAP Accreditation
Worldwide, the CAP accredits approximately 8,000 laboratories, including hospitals as well as commercial laboratories, contract research organizations, and biorepositories, with growth outside of the United States accelerating.

The goal of the CAP’s Laboratory Accreditation Program is to improve patient safety by advancing the quality of pathology and laboratory services through education, standard setting, and ensuring laboratories meet or exceed regulatory requirements. The program incorporates the most stringent requirements while also providing laboratories the road map and tools to achieve these requirements, bringing value to patients, physicians, and providers.

The CAP’s Laboratory Accreditation Program is more than 55 years old, and its offering has diversified over the years to include:
- Biorepositories
- Forensic drug testing
- Reproductive laboratories (in partnership with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine)
- International Organizations for Standardization (ISO) 15189

Proficiency Testing (Surveys)
The CAP provides comprehensive programs and services to help laboratories consistently deliver accurate test results, monitor overall performance, and increase and sharpen staff skills. The CAP’s Surveys are the collective of PT and quality assurance programs designed for laboratories to meet regulatory compliance and provide a comprehensive view of their laboratory quality process. Through these programs, the CAP provides insight, knowledge, and peer-based educational coaching to assist in the detection and mitigation of performance issues before impacting patient care. These cutting-edge programs are built and supported by the scientific expertise and commitment of the world’s largest board-certified pathologist organization. Laboratories leverage this global collaboration and partnership to deliver the most reliable test results that ensure accurate patient diagnoses.

The CAP is now accredited to the ISO 17043/PT standard, a set of best practices specific to PT providers. The new accreditation aligns the CAP’s PT programs with an internationally recognized standard important to PT participants and providers alike.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET EXPANSION
International laboratories pursue CAP accreditation to be globally recognized and regionally differentiated—and, most importantly, to improve the quality of results they provide to the ordering physicians/caregivers while improving the quality of care they provide to their patients. The CAP is the laboratory’s partner in quality and an expert resource for those laboratories seeking
a ranking among the best—both from an institutional level and from individuals who are leading quality in their communities.

The CAP accredits approximately 438 international laboratories in more than 50 countries. More than 2,800 laboratories in more than 100 countries outside the United States participate in the CAP's PT/external quality assurance programs.

As it grows internationally, the CAP carefully monitors each laboratory's ongoing compliance to quality requirements and provides corrective action and guidance when necessary. For laboratories pursuing CAP accreditation, use of CAP PT across all analytes in the test menu is the first step in the journey to improve and sustain laboratory quality.

EDUCATION

The CAP offers pathologists and laboratory professionals around the globe convenient, online learning opportunities. Most of the CAP's online courses carry AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Many international credentialing and accrediting bodies recognize these credits. The CAP recently introduced a new Learning Dashboard that makes it easy to find courses and monitor progress toward meeting requirements.

Among the CAP's nearly 300 online courses, Creating a Culture of Patient Safety has been especially popular with new-in-practice pathologists. In addition, the Archives Applied series, based on articles from Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine (Archives), is convenient for the CAP's international audience. Other online learning opportunities include:

Online Inspector Training
- The CAP’s online inspector training program helps pathologists stay updated on the CAP’s accreditation programs and gain the most from CAP inspections.
- The CAP also offers online biorepository inspection training.
- Inspector resources include Fast Focus on Compliance, which offers inspectors access to videos and tip sheets that help improve the quality and consistency of the inspection.

Focus on Compliance Webinar Series
- The Laboratory Accreditation Program Focus on Compliance Webinar Series helps pathologists and laboratory professionals stay current with accreditation requirements.
- The series includes live and on-demand recorded audio and web presentations and provides useful information and best practices to more efficiently and effectively comply with accreditation requirements.

Surveys CME/CE activities
- The CAP offers continuing education for pathologists and laboratory professionals through the CAP’s Surveys and Anatomic Pathology Educational Programs.
- The CAP recently enhanced navigation and streamlined processes for an improved user experience in its AP Glass Slide education programs, which offer CME/CE credit (for example, PIP, PAP, NGC). Customers enrolled in the FNAG-C and PIP-C programs will experience the improved process.
The CAP will continue its work to preserve the value of pathology services and the vital role of the pathologist in providing patient care.

CAP17 – The Pathologists’ Meeting™
- A robust education curriculum is offered at the CAP's annual meeting. This year’s meeting, CAP17, will be held October 8–11, at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, near Washington, DC. The meeting theme is “The Right Knowledge. The Right Diagnosis.”
- Acclaimed physician, educator, and humanist author Abraham Verghese, MD, is the keynote speaker.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY
The CAP’s high-level strategic policy and advocacy priorities are:
- Preserve the value of pathology services
- Ensure pathologists can adapt to the new value-based payment models
- Sustain a favorable laboratory regulatory environment

The CAP works to influence public policy to sustain and advance the specialty in today's health care environment and position the specialty for future success. For example, as the government moves forward with implementing new Medicare initiatives and policies, the CAP will continue its work to preserve the value of pathology services and the vital role of the pathologist in providing patient care. The CAP also continues to engage with multiple stakeholders on the federal oversight of laboratory-developed tests to enhance patient safety, maintain quality laboratory testing, and promote innovation without creating a significant regulatory burden on laboratories.

Pathologists Quality Registry
Set to launch later in 2017, the Pathologists Quality Registry will improve practice performance by benchmarking against other pathology practices.

In addition, the Pathologists Quality Registry will make qualifying for bonuses under Medicare's Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)/Quality Payment Program easier for pathologists. Our CMS-approved registry will be the first pathologist-specific clinical data registry and will be powered by FIGmd, a leading provider of clinical data registries.

State Affairs
On the state level, the CAP represents the interests of pathologists by actively working with state pathology societies. Over the last several years, the CAP has undertaken substantial legislative and regulatory advocacy in more than three dozen states, helping craft laws and regulations that help protect the profession against economic and practice challenges. In addition, the CAP, partnering with state pathology societies, has been successful in advocating enactment of direct billing/anti-markup/disclosure laws that now regulate anatomic pathology billing for more than 75% of the US population.

PathPAC and PathNET
PathPAC, the CAP’s political action committee, pools voluntary contributions from pathologists across the country to support candidates for elected office who demonstrate their responsiveness to the concerns of our profession. The Pathology Advocacy Network (PathNET), the CAP’s grassroots program for members, facilitates the building of personal relationships between pathologists and Congress.

The CAP’s advocacy office—by making the voices of members and the profession heard—continues to build new relationships and strengthen existing partnerships in the public and private sectors, on both the state and national level, with the key decision makers to shape the present and future of pathology.
EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES

The CAP’s Pathology & Laboratory Quality Center (the Center) leads the coordinated development of evidence-based clinical guidelines, often in collaboration with other medical societies, many of which are global in reach. To ensure a transparent and unbiased approach for each guideline, the CAP assembles distinguished expert panels and follows the US National Academy of Medicine’s (formerly the Institute of Medicine) “Standards for Developing Trustworthy Clinical Practice Guidelines.”

Molecular Biomarkers in Colorectal Cancer Guideline

In February, the CAP joined forces with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to launch an interdisciplinary, groundbreaking practice guideline that helps clinical teams establish standard molecular marker testing, guide targeted therapy decisions, and advance personalized care for these patients. Molecular Biomarkers for the Evaluation of Colorectal Cancer was issued as an early online release in Archives and was simultaneously co-published in each association’s peer-reviewed journal.

Guideline for Workup of Acute Leukemia

Similarly in late February, the CAP collaborated with the American Society of Hematology to release an evidence-based guideline codifying the initial workup of acute leukemia. This guideline aims squarely at improving standard laboratory and diagnostic practices to achieve better care for patients with a range of acute leukemia types.

HER2 Gastric Guideline and More

To date, the Center has published 12 evidence-based guidelines. Two of note issued in 2016 were the CAP/ASCP/ASCO joint guideline, HER2 Testing and Clinical Decision Making in Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinoma and the CAP guideline, Bone Marrow Synoptic Reporting for Hematologic Neoplasms. Upcoming collaborations include Molecular and Cellular Diagnostics in Localized Prostate Cancer, Work-up of Initial Diagnosis of Diffuse Gliomas, and PD-L1 Testing in Immunotherapy.

MEMBERSHIP AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

As the delivery of care continues to change at a dizzying pace, the CAP ensures that pathologists are poised to succeed through our member-driven and increasingly digital resources.

Growing Pathology Practice

In the US for example, models of care delivery are moving from traditional fee-for-service to more value-based payment systems. The CAP’s robust and growing Value-Based Business Center, the first of its kind in pathology, equips members with business management tools, data, and assistance to navigate the complexities of clinical practice and influence decisions at higher levels in their organizations, communities, states, and regions.

Connecting With Peers

Beyond education and conferences, the CAP also encourages virtual networking. CAPconnect, our online community, is a members-only source for connecting and sharing knowledge with peers. Members discuss and collaborate in a secure online environment on topics such as diagnostics, practice management, emerging technologies, and health care trends. The CAP’s online career center also delivers vital connections, serving pathologists who need to
recruit new talent as well as those looking for new job opportunities. The CAP’s digital footprint on social media is growing as well, with strong followings on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

**CAP FOUNDATION**

The CAP Foundation is the CAP’s philanthropic, humanitarian arm. Uniquely, it brings the pathologist’s expertise to patients in need, and it funds grants and awards that help ensure pathologists are prepared to meet the specialty’s challenges.

See, Test & Treat® is the CAP Foundation’s flagship program. Through the program’s grants, CAP member pathologists lead the coordination and delivery of free, same-day cervical and breast cancer screening for vulnerable women across the US—women with limited or no access to preventive health care. The CAP Foundation hopes to fund several more of these screenings in 2017, with many more potentially on the schedule for 2018.

Ongoing CAP Foundation support and donations are essential to ensure that we can connect more pathologists to patients in need. Donating online is easy at foundation.cap.org/ways-to-donate/.

**OFFICIAL CAP PUBLICATIONS**

*CAP TODAY*, the CAP’s monthly news magazine, enjoys the highest readership among all laboratory publications. Each issue reports medical, industry, and business news to more than 50,000 laboratory professionals. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine* is the CAP's award-winning, peer-reviewed, scientific journal giving editorial focus to the introduction and evaluation of new knowledge and technology. *STATLINE* is the weekly electronic newsletter designed to keep members informed of new legislative and regulatory developments as they happen, serving as the first word on public policy issues facing CAP members.

**FUTURE MEETINGS—SAVE THE DATE**

- CAP17 – The Pathologists’ Meeting™: October 8–11, Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, Maryland (near Washington, DC)