



Ohio Society of Pathologists

Winter Update

January, 2021

First Virtual Meeting - A Success!

OSP held its first virtual meeting on 10/17/2020, which was made possible utilizing CAP's virtual GoToMeeting platform. In addition, CAP provided two personnel to help ensure the meeting ran smoothly. [The meeting can still be viewed online.](#) Topics included SARS-CoV-2 testing, CAP legislation/advocacy, and GI surgical pathology. During the meeting, new board member Wei Chen, MD PhD was elected and current board member, Shelley Odronic, MD, was nominated to be OSP's representative on the Contractor Advisory Committee. We are extremely grateful for their service!

Spring Meeting - Things to Come

Given the success of the spring format and the ongoing pandemic, the OSP Board of Governors elected to again offer a virtual meeting on 5/22/21. The PM speaker (AP) will be Sinchita Roy Chowdhuri MD PhD (MD Anderson), who will speak on issues surrounding CAP's new guideline for the collection and handling of small thoracic specimens. The AM speaker (CP) will be Dr. David Keren, MD (University of Michigan), who will speak on the detection of monoclonal gammopathies, including a discussion of new technologies and recommendations from the International Myeloma Working Group and CAP. As always, there will be many opportunities to interact. We look forward to logging in with everyone in May!

CMS Payment Reductions - Fight The Cuts

OSP supported CAP's efforts to avoid extensive cuts to Medicare payments in 2021. OSP added its name to a letter supporting bill HR 8702, while the OSP president sent a separate letter of support and OSP members were solicited to voice their opinion through multiple action alerts. [The result is some mitigation of the 2021 cuts.](#) What was once estimated as a 9% reduction in total pathologist reimbursement, is likely reduced to a 2.25% loss for next year.

OON Legislation - State Senate Insists on an Ohio-specific Solution

Ohio House Bill 388 was accepted by the Ohio Senate and approved by the Governor Mike DeWine, resulting in local legislation that will govern out-of-network (OON) payments at in network facilities. The legislation removes the burden of balance ("surprise") billing from patients, which was a change that was long overdue. However, the formula determining the amount that insurance will pay physicians is not particularly favorable to providers, particularly when compared to similar legislation in other states. Beyond the actual payments for OON services, OSP and CAP expressed concerns about HB 388's likely negative effect on a provider's ability to negotiate fair contracts.

One silver lining of the legislation is the presence of an arbitration system, where physicians will be able to contest payments that they deem unfair. The system was added with the help of OSMA, following discussions with OSP and CAP. The pathology societies argued arbitration does not justify the numerous other shortcomings of the bill, but members of the Ohio Senate insisted on a state-specific solution just before passing the bill. OSP will remain dedicated to working with CAP and OSMA regarding how the law is implemented and ensuring pathologists understand how to utilize the arbitration system effectively.

Want to know more about the OON legislative issue?

- [OSP objection to HB 388](#) and [Dr. Sean Kirby testimony \(OSP, President, 1:09:30\)](#) 12/9/20
- [OSP Objection to HB 388](#) - 5/4/20
- [Dr. Lori Elwood \(OSP, Past President\) testifies in opposition to HB 388](#) - 12/11/19
- [OSP objection to HB 388](#) - 11/17/19
- [House Bill 388](#)
- [Consensus Principles on Insurance Coverage For Out-of-Network Care](#)

What can you do to help?

- Your legislative fund donations have allowed OSP and CAP to engage two lobbyists on our behalf in Columbus. More donations will be necessary to sustain our current level of involvement in this and similar issues. Donations can now be made by mail or on our website!
 - Donate online (increments of \$100): Click “Legislative Fund” link in the Membership section of the OSP website (<https://pathology.osu.edu/osp/osp.html>)
 - Donate by mail (any amount): Please use the 2020 Annual dues form (<https://pathology.osu.edu/osp/forms/2020DuesStatement.pdf>)
 - A strong relationship with OSMA is critical to successful outcomes in state level politics. Join OSMA and let them know you are very concerned with the Out of Network billing issue in Ohio. [Request their collaboration with the OSP and CAP!](#)

Pathology Resident Match 2020 - Applications during COVID-19

Written by: Frido Bruehl, MD - OSP Resident Representative

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person visits to laboratories have been restricted and a number of Pathology departments in Ohio have turned to social media platforms to appeal to prospective trainees.

The [Cleveland Clinic's pathology residency program started a designated Twitter account in June 2020](#) and has gained over 800 followers. In a short video clip series entitled #meetthestaff, attendings share their advice and tips on how to prepare for a virtual interview as well as on how to succeed in residency.

In another example, the Ohio State University pathology department has already been using Twitter as a communication platform with resident candidates since 2018. In a recent posting, the account [@OSUPathRes](#) shared a picture of a pathologist in front of large computer screens, demonstrating a remote sign-out session via the latest digital pathology technology.

With the increasing reliance on technology and the internet, the video call infrastructure has replaced travel itinerary as the main logistics headache for applicants and interviewers. Many programs rely on online services such as Thalamus to manage the interview process. Users of the platforms can find their interview schedule, applicant portfolios, as well as post-interview evaluations in a web browser that they can access from any device. While the pandemic has taken away many benefits of the in-person residency interviews, it has also advanced the use and development of digital technologies in the residency interview process. Whether these recently adapted digital strategies will become an integral part of the residency Match process beyond the large academic institutions, and whether cybersecurity issues will hamper their further implementation remains to be seen.

CAC Microbiology/Molecular pathology position - More Seats at the Table

Molecular pathology, including molecular microbiology, continues to move forward at impressive speeds. Our local contractor advisory committee (CAC) has, therefore, requested additional representatives from Ohio to help shape how Medicare rules are applied to our region. This new position essentially doubles our representation on this important committee. Our primary representative will be Dr. Daniel Rhoads, MD and his alternate will be Dr. Navid Sadri, MD PhD. Thanks to both doctors for their service!

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