Welcome to a new year for the Residents Forum (RF)! I have just returned from CAP ’04, which was incredible—for both myself and my family. The meeting boasted 945 pathologists in attendance, and offered new and exciting education courses in anatomic and clinical pathology as well as fabulous recreational opportunities for family members. Truly a fantastic experience!

As we enter our 17th year as an organization, the Residents Forum is witness to an evolution in pathology training. As the largest organized body of pathology trainees, the RF strives to represent the concerns and wishes of all pathology residents and fellows, and seeks to guide initiatives affecting our collective training.

The challenge printed at the top of this article was issued by CAP President Mary Kass, MD, FCAP, during the welcome address at the Residents Forum Fall Meeting at CAP ’04. She encouraged residents to “take an active role in their education, as it is the first step in a lifelong learning process.” This set the stage for one of the most successful, and engaging, Residents [inset: J. Thomas Molina, MD, PhD Chair, CAP Residents Forum]

(continued on page 2)
Take an Active Role in the Future of Pathology

(continued from page 1)

Forum meetings to date.

Among the topics discussed was the new “Future of Pathology” Residency Training subgroup. Recognizing the need for consistent, quality pathology education, the CAP sponsored the first meeting of the cross-organizational subgroup, which is composed of members from the College of American Pathologists, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s Residency Review Committee for Pathology, the American Board of Pathology, the Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology, the Association of Pathology Chairs–Program Directors Section, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and a representative from the Residents Forum. This group’s goal is to define mechanisms to eliminate inconsistencies in pathology training and ensure achievement of core competencies in all residency programs. The inclusion of both pathology trainees and pathology educators will provide synergy in creating mechanisms toward achieving these goals.

We were also fortunate to have Betsy Bennett, MD, FCAP, Executive Vice President of the American Board of Pathology. She patiently answered difficult questions from the residents and was receptive to concerns and suggestions from the audience. Of note, Dr. Bennett said that the ABP will consider revision of the definition of one year of training to be more accommodating for residents who must take parental leave. If changed, this will be a true success for the Residents Forum, since this request germinated from a resolution passed at our Spring 2004 meeting in Vancouver.

Two resolutions were presented and passed with modifications. The first requested that the CAP House of Delegates work with the RF Executive Committee to create a mentoring program for the RF delegates. The second concerned the creation of a new Residents Forum Executive Committee (FEC) member-at-large position, which will require changes in our bylaws (to be presented at a future meeting).

The RF recognized Kim Collins, MD, FCAP, Professor of Pathology from the Medical University of South Carolina, with the CAP Resident Advocate Award. Dr. Collins served on the RF as a resident and has been instrumental in fostering countless young pathology leaders. We were pleased to present her with our highest honor.

At the close of the meeting, the RF delegates were invited to a luncheon and evening reception with the CAP House of Delegates members—an excellent opportunity for networking.

So what does all of this mean for you? It means that you have the direct opportunity to make a difference in your own education. You should personally get involved! Few residents realize the world of pathology beyond their own institution. The Residents Forum provides a mechanism where you can network with residents and fellows, affect positive change in pathology training, have a national voice in medicine, and participate in advocacy for pathology. Plus, it is a great way to develop leadership skills and meet future employers.

How do you get involved? Become a CAP Junior Member. Sign up—it’s free! Go to www.cap.org to obtain an application. Then contact one of the newly elected FEC members or Jan Glas at the College (contact information is on the last page of this report), and let us know you want to participate. Finally, spread the word. We want representation from all pathology trainees—from first-year residents to fellows.

We are the future of pathology, and it is up to us to make the future bright. I look forward to seeing you at the RF meeting in February/March 2005 prior to the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and at CAP ’05 in September 2005 in Chicago.

Bill Extending J-1 Visa Waivers for Foreign Physicians Approved

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation that would extend by two years a 20-year-old federal program designed to match foreign physicians with medically underserved areas of the United States.

The bill, the Access to Rural Physicians Improvement Act of 2004 (H.R. 4453), would extend through June 1, 2006, federal waivers of a J-1 visa requirement that foreign physicians return to their country of origin for at least two years upon completing U.S. training. Physicians who receive a waiver agree to practice in areas with physician shortages—typically rural communities—for at least three years.

The full House passed the bill by voice vote Oct. 6, about a week after the Judiciary Committee gave the measure voice-vote approval.

Congress has extended the waiver program numerous times since first passing it in 1994. The program originally limited the number of foreign doctors who could receive waivers to 20 per state. Congress increased this number to 30 in 2002. The legislation that passed the House Oct. 6 would further amend the limit by allowing five of the 30 waivers to be used by physicians in facilities outside medically underserved areas if the facilities serve patients from those areas.

The bill would also exempt U.S.-trained foreign physicians from a cap placed on the number of highly skilled foreign workers who seek to remain in the United States under an H-1B visa.
SNAPSHOTS

Learning, Connecting, and Having Fun Together in Phoenix As We Build Pathology’s Future . . .

cap’04

SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2004
New delegates and alternates participated in a Residents Forum (RF) orientation, led by Mark E. Shelly, DO, prior to the RF meeting.

Residents Forum Chair Charles L. Abbott, MD, called the meeting to order on Saturday, September 18, 2004, at 8:00 AM. Minutes from the March 6, 2004, meeting were approved.

CAP President Mary E. Kass, MD, FCAP, greeted the RF, and spoke about the importance of being involved and the future of pathology. Dr. Kass awarded outgoing FEC members with appreciation plaques for their dedication and commitment to the RF: Charles L. Abbott, MD-Chair; Antonio E. Martinez, MD-Vice-Chair; J. Thomas Molina, MD, PhD-Delegate to House of Delegates; Mark E. Shelly, DO-Secretary; and Teresa M. Cox, MD-Delegate to the AMA Resident and Fellow Section.

Dr. Abbott presented the State of the RF address, discussing recent RF accomplishments.

The RF delegates, alternates, and resident guests participated in breakout session discussions. Topics included:

- Core competencies, and ensuring that objectives are met,
- Encouraging more residency programs to fund their residents to attend RF meetings,
- 10-year recertification requirements,
- Taking electives during 4th year of residency, and the concern that there are too few opportunities for outside rotations,
- Assessing competency at the end of a clinical pathology rotation,
- Two graduating classes in 2006 and inherent issues,
- Instituting a match program for fellowships,
- Program directors and senior residents encouraging new residents’ involvement in the CAP and RF.

The Nominating Committee included Megan DiFurio, MD (TX), Shannon McCall, MD (NC) and Dylan Miller, MD (MN). RF Chair Charles L. Abbott, MD, led the group and presented the RF candidates for chair, vice-chair, secretary, alternate delegate to the AMA Resident and Fellow Section, and alternate to the CAP House of Delegates.

Chair
J. Thomas Molina, MD, PhD
Vice Chair
Teresa M. Cox, MD
Secretary
Noel A. Brownlee, MD, PhD
Mary E. Fowkes, MD, PhD
Alternate Delegate to the CAP House of Delegates
Samuel K. Caughron, MD
Anna M. Moran, MD
Alternate Delegate to the AMA Resident and Fellow Section
J. Michael Magill Jr., MD

RF Secretary Mark E. Shelly, DO, presented verification of credentials: 64 residents registered to attend the RF; there were 59 seated delegates, alternates, and guests, representing 31 states, including two military branches and one Canadian province.

RF-F04-1 House of Delegates Mentors for Residents Forum
Deepak Mohan, MD (Delegate-CA)
- Asked that the CAP House of Delegates Steering Committee and the RF Executive Committee investigate ways to provide mentoring relationships and report back to HOD and RF at their spring 2005 meetings.
Resolution adopted

RF-F04-2 Residents Forum Executive Committee’s Organizational Structure (four recommendations were considered separately)
RF Executive Committee

1) Asked that the current Vice Chair position be replaced with Chair-Elect position
Recommendation defeated

2) Asked that the Immediate Past Chair position be eliminated
Recommendation defeated

3) Asked that the Immediate Past Chair position be established as an Advisor for the year immediately following the year as Chair
Recommendation defeated

4) Asked that a one-year Member-At-Large position be established
Recommendation adopted

The CAP Resident Advocate Award was presented to Kim A. Collins, MD, FCAP. Drs. Abbott and Kass honored Dr. Collins, who was active in Residents Forum during pathology training and has promoted resident involvement in the College.

Betsy Bennett, MD, FCAP, Executive Vice President of the American Board of Pathology, answered submitted and spontaneous questions from forum members during an open session.

Dr. Abbott announced the newly elected RF Executive Committee: Dr. Molina-Chair, Dr. Cox-Vice Chair, Dr. Brownlee-Secretary, Dr. Caughron-Alternate Delegate to the CAP House, and Dr. Magill-Alternate Delegate to the AMA-RFS.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM by Dr. Abbott.
NEW: CAP Foundation Pathology Informatics Award

The CAP Foundation, Association of Pathology Informatics, and McKesson join together to offer an informatics elective.

This three-month elective opportunity will provide support for a senior resident with informatics experience to learn how new and improved information technology is developed in a business environment. The intent of the award is to give the resident background and experience to more effectively introduce and use new developments in information technology in the clinical laboratory. The fellowship is funded by McKesson and will take place in Eugene, Ore., starting no later than July 1, 2005, and to be completed by November 30, 2005.

Application Deadline: December 17, 2004

Visit www.cap.org; click on the CAP Foundation icon; click on grants and awards for more information on the curriculum.

Junior Member Receives CAP Foundation Humanitarian Grant

Chosen from 23 applications, Danny Milner Jr., MD, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston, received one of the two 2004 Humanitarian Grant awards.

“Dr. Milner’s proposal represents everything a humanitarian project should be,” said Melinda Lewis, MD, FCAP, chair of the grant review committee. “It is innovative and will provide direct patient services in addition to an education component that will have a lasting impact and allow higher quality patient care to continue indefinitely.”

The grant support for Dr. Milner’s project will allow increased teaching, training, and service support at the University of Malawi College of Medicine Department of Histopathology in Malawi, Africa. Funds will be used to support pathologists for five months to teach, do case sign-out, assist in research projects, and set up a functioning manual for the immunohistochemistry laboratory.

Four Young Leader Award Winners Attend CAP ’04

Selected as this year’s CAP Foundation Young Leader Awardees to attend the Residents Forum meeting in Phoenix were Calvino Ka-Wing Cheng, MD; M. Rajan Mariappan, MD, PhD; Shannon McCall, MD; and Deepak Mohan, MD.

Deadlines for the next funding rounds are November 6, 2004, and June 1, 2005. Travel stipends will be awarded to pathology residents and fellows to attend the Residents Forum’s spring and fall meetings.

Travel Awards Go to 14 Residents to Attend APIII Informatics Conference

Fourteen pathology and oncology residents received CAP Foundation Conference Travel Awards to attend the Ninth National Conference on Advancing Practice, Instruction and Innovation through Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh on October 6-8, 2004. This year’s conference was broadened to include two new tracks in oncology informatics and bioinformatics.

Pathology resident awardees were:
Faizi Ali, MD
Saad Y. Blaney, MD
Calvino Ka-Wing Cheng, MD
Robert Pershing Gormley, MD, PhD
David Douglas Grier, MD
Kisha Anne Mitchell, MBBS
Sara Elizabeth Monaco, MD
Heike Varnholt, MD
Bryan Poaning Wu, MD

Oncology resident awardees were:
Zhihua Chen, MD
Catherine E. Dumur, PhD
Lewis J. Frey, MD
Fausto E. Gonzalez, MD
Yuval Kluger, MD

The conference was jointly spon-

sored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, Department of Pathology, Center for Pathology Informatics, Benedum Oncology Informatics Center); University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Information Services Division; the Association for Pathology Informatics; and the American Medical Informatics Association.

Upcoming 2005 CAP Foundation Grant Deadlines

CAP Foundation Conference Travel (Informatics) Award Lab Info Tech Summit

In partnership with Pathology Education Consortium, conference travel stipends are awarded to pathology residents and fellows to attend the Lab Info Tech Summit (informatics conference), March 2-4, 2005, Las Vegas. Visit www.labinfotech.org for details.

Application Deadline: January 7, 2005

CAP Foundation/Abbott/Vysis Training in Technology Awards

One-, two-, or three-month advanced training grants are awarded to pathology residents and fellows. Visit www.cap.org; click on the CAP Foundation icon; click on grants and awards for more information.

Application Deadline: January 14, 2005

Become a CAP Fellow
(continued from page 1)

ment is $4,000! Save the most by becoming a Life Fellow before the end of 2004.

Contact the CAP Membership Department at 800-323-4040 ext. 7309 or visit www.cap.org to obtain a Fellow application today.
WHY I AM INVOLVED
Noel A. Brownlee, MD, PhD
Residents Forum Secretary

I pursued joining the Residents Forum (RF) because it would allow me the opportunity to work with like-minded people of the CAP who want to advocate for issues that are important for pathology residents, and pathology and laboratory practice in general.

I am particularly interested in educational issues for residents. The RF provides a unique opportunity for residents to come together and discuss some of these issues and formulate ways that our residency programs can be improved. Many resolutions passed in the Residents Forum have direct, tangible benefits for all pathology residents.

I have benefited from the programs of the RF and the CAP, and working with the Residents Forum is my chance to give back in the form of service.