

# On the Pathology Scene

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

SUMMER 2019



**Kalisha Hill, MD**

## Message from the President

Summer Greetings ISP Members! We will hold on to this long awaited summer as long as we can. However, there has been no rest for your busy ISP Board. We had a fabulous ISP/CAP Event at CAP headquarters where we hosted CAP Presidential candidates and heard updates on national and local advocacy affecting pathology practice. We instituted a Social Media

Committee to share information and proudly tout the efforts of ISP. We partnered with CPS with reciprocal board membership and praise them for an excellent annual slide seminar. Finally, we have increased membership, including recruiting Dr. Mir Alikhan as our ISP representative to the CAP pathologist Contractor Advisory Committee (CAC).

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at CAP'19 in Orlando. It's not too late to register! We are hoping for as many Illinois delegates as possible to attend. Please note that the 2020 House of Delegates nomination form is now open, <https://www.cap.org/member-resources/house-of-delegates>, so please self-nominate and/or nominate a colleague as a delegate or an alternate so that the voices of Illinois pathologists can be heard!

## ATTEND CAP MEETING IN ORLANDO

Please attend the CAP Annual Meeting in Orlando. If you are a member of the House of Delegates (HOD) please attend, as we would like to have Illinois fully represented. The deadline for registering is Wednesday, September 18 at 3:30 PM Central.

The HOD Meeting starts with the joint breakfast at 7:00 AM on Saturday, September 21. The HOD Meeting starts at 8:40 AM.

Below is the registration link. Please let me know if you have any questions. <https://www.capannualmeeting.org/>

## ISP Signs on to CAP Letter with Other State Pathology Societies on "Out of Network Surprise Billing"

As Presidents of state pathology societies around the country, we have voiced our concerns with proposals being discussed in the Senate to address surprise medical billing. While we support congressional action to protect our patients from receiving surprise out-of-network bills, several of the current Senate proposals are misguided and inadequate to solve the problem.

We are calling on the Senate to pass legislation that will hold patients harmless, require network adequacy standards for health insurers, establish a fair reimbursement formula for services provided, and create an arbitration process that denies insurers the ability to dictate payment and, consequently, care provided to patients. These elements are a necessary part of the holistic solution required to address the problem of surprise billing.

As health-care experts, the following issues are our main concerns with several Senate proposals:

We are extremely concerned that no network adequacy provisions are included.

Setting the automatic payment at the in-network rate means payment will be unilaterally controlled by insurance companies.

It is problematic that the independent dispute resolution (IDR) process does not allow entities to consider charges in their decision-making, instead specifically directing entities to consider median in-network rates.

Legislation mandates price transparency, which can be too difficult to determine in advance. Pathologists understand how access to price information prior to services may be useful, but the CAP opposes adding additional administrative requirements on physicians that interfere with or impair the patient's medical diagnosis and care.

The concept of "network matching" or an "in-network guarantee" to address surprise billing would require facility-based physicians to contract with every health plan that the facility at which they practice accepts. Forcing physicians to join a network gives significant power to the insurers and forces physicians accept what they can get with limited ability to negotiate.

Representative Raul Ruiz and Phil Roe have put together a legislative proposal to address surprise billing that has our support. The solutions as proposed would take necessary steps to accomplish the goals of holding patients financially harmless from surprise medical bills while creating a fair reimbursement system that keeps patients out of the middle of billing disputes. In particular, we are pleased to see inclusion of a baseball-style arbitration process that allows consideration for a range of factors, including the usual and customary rate that reflects the market value of physician services. While we are still hopeful that any final proposal will include network adequacy provisions, this is a far better starting point than other proposals.

We urge the Senate to adopt similar legislation to the Ruiz/Roe proposal and to pass commonsense legislation to address the issue of surprise bills that protects our patients from financial risk of out-of-network bills, ensures the financial viability of the health care delivery system, and preserves patient access to physician specialists.

### ISP Director Wins Schenke Award

Marisa Saint Martin, MD, ACC, FAAPL, FCAP, FASCP, whose wellness program at Illinois' Loyola Health System was based on methods modeled from a Wall Street heavyweight, was awarded the Schenke Award, which recognizes individual innovation in the creation of education programs advancing physician leadership and improved health care.



Peter Angood, Mark Lester, Marisa, Gregory Jolissaint

### CAP-ISP Reception

The annual CAP-ISP Reception was held in late May in the CAP headquarters on May 31<sup>st</sup>. CAP Officers, Bruce Williams and Patrick Godbey were joined by ISP Officers Kalisha Hill and Rohit Gupta. Past Presidents Erlo Roth and Bharati Jhaveri were in attendance representing ISP. Doctors Williams and Hill spoke on the importance of membership in the local and national organization and the influence greater numbers have on legislators. Although this has been a quiet year for legislative issues in Illinois, ISP is grateful to partner with the CAP and enjoys a beneficial relationship.

ISP and CAP are grateful to **Bristol Meyer Squibb** for exclusive sponsorship of the second Annual CAP/ISP Reception.



Patrick Godbey, Kalisha Hill, James Richard, Emily Wolk and Bruce Williams



Kalisha Hill



Rohit Gupta, Bharati Jhaveri



Eleni Boutsos, Erlo Roth and Kalisha Hill



Bruce Williams



Pam Cramer and Megan Wick



#### SOCIAL MEDIA for ISP

The ISP Board appointed a task force to establish a social media presence for ISP. Thanh HaLan, MD – University of Chicago; Aadil Ahmed, MD-Loyola and Tushar Patel, MD-UIC are exploring platforms and

usefulness. Stay tuned for ISP's new communication tool. If you are interested in working with this task force, please contact the ISP office [pcramer@illinoispathology.org](mailto:pcramer@illinoispathology.org)

#### CAP 2019 Policy Meeting

Drs. Marisa Saint Martin and Jasmine Saleh (PGY1) participated in the College of American Pathologists 2019 Policy Meeting held in Washington D.C. 4/29-5/1. Along with other members of the delegation from Illinois, they met with staff from the offices of Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. They also met the prestigious journalist Chris Wallace and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois 8th District..



Marisa and Loyola RIP  
Jasmine Saleh



Marisa and Chris Wallace



Jasmine Saleh, Rep Raja  
Krishnamoorthi, Marissa



Marisa and staffers at  
Dick Durbin's office



Alan Frigy, Bharati Jhaveri, Marisa

#### Survival Tool Kit for New Pathologists



Thanh Ha Lan, MD

Being organized is key to minimizing anxiety and frustration during this unexpectedly time-consuming process. Here are my tips for getting through credentialing. The sooner you start, the better off you'll be.

**Centralize all your diplomas, certificates of residency/fellowship completion, and state licenses.** Especially if you have moved be-

tween medical school, residency, and fellowship, it's really easy to lose track of these little pieces of papers. Designate a folder where you keep these documents. Better yet, I highly recommend you scan these items and save them in a designated file to your laptop or your favorite cloud-based platform for easy accessibility and convenient submission via email during credentialing.

**References.** As you near graduation, have a conversation with your residency/fellowship director as well as an attending that you've worked closely with and ask them to be your references for future job application and hospital credentialing.

**Apply for DEA license.** Some hospitals require an active DEA license as part of credentialing. Many, if not all employers reimburse the cost of credentialing, so you may want to wait until you're officially hired to apply for a DEA license. Alternatively, see if your training program will reimburse this cost. Be aware of any time constraint though.

**Have an active BLS certificate.** Again, this is required by many credentialing committees. If you do not have one or if your current certificate is nearing expiration around the time of credentialing, you can get a new certificate through a number of online courses such as this one <https://acls.com>.

**Mal practice insurance information.** All credentialing committees ask about mal practice insurance policies that you have had in the past. Some ask to have a letter from the mal practice carrier to confirm that you are in good standing with no suits pending against you. For this reason, contact your training program's coordinator and ask how you can obtain a copy of the mal practice policy as well as this letter of good standing prior to leaving your residency and fellowship program.

*Dr. Lan practices anatomic pathology and dermatopathology at NorthShore University HealthSystem. She particularly enjoys learning about telepathology as well as development and application of AI. As a member of the ISP, she is active in the Social Media Committee*