

# On the Pathology Scene

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

WINTER 2019



Kalisha Hill, MD

## Message from the President

Happy Holidays ISP members! There is much to be thankful and joyful for as we excitedly move into a new year. Since our last newsletter, many of our ISP members attended CAP'19 in Orlando. Illinois was well represented at the House of Delegates meeting.



State Society's Presidents Panel: Drs. Kathryn Knight, Matthew Fries, Mary Fawkes, Morton Levitt, Kalisha Hill

Segments of the HOD focused on strengthening state societies. Best practices were shared by myself and three other state society presidents during the state pathology society panel you see above.

Our very own Ritu Nayar, MD was awarded the CAP Lifetime Achievement Award. She has trained numerous pathologists, provided educational lectures around the world and saved us all with her collaborative work on Bethesda terminology. We are proud of her contributions, representing Illinois well in all her endeavors. Congratulations Dr. Nayar!



Drs. Ritu Nayar, Kalisha Hill and Patrick Godbey

Dr. Sambasiva Rao, Director of Surgical Pathology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, has officially retired after a long and illustrious career training numerous pathologists. The warmth and accolades of amazing stories shared by former residents and colleagues only further solidified his legacy in Illinois. From all of us trained by you, working with you and sending consults to you, we thank you for your years of dedication to pathology!



Dr. Rao with colleagues and former residents

Finally, I encourage everyone to attend the inaugural CAP Pathology Leadership Summit, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This meeting combines the House of Delegates and Annual Day on the Hill. The event will allow us to meet with our state representatives or senators and educate them on the health care issues impacting pathology.

<https://www.pathologistsleadershipsummit.org/>



## Productive and fun time at CAP 2019 in Orlando



I wish you all wonderful holidays with family and friends and a prosperous NEW YEAR!

## Malpractice Advice for Residents



**Thanh T. Ha Lan, MD**

To all the residents and fellows soon to be starting your first job, congratulations! And if you're still searching, best of luck! If you're anything like me when I was starting my first job, you probably have very little understanding about malpractice insurance. After all, isn't it automatically provided by all employers? While it

is generally true that you may never need to shop around for a malpractice policy yourself, even a superficial knowledge on this topic is important, especially since there may be long-lasting financial consequences.

For the most part, you will hear about two different types of malpractice insurance, occurrence and claims-made. An occurrence policy, which is what most training/academic centers have, is a policy that covers all events that occurred during the coverage period, regardless of when a claim is brought. For example, you were a resident at a training program from 2010-2014. You would still be covered by that program's occurrence policy even if a law suit is brought against you today in 2019, although you are no longer working there, as long as that event occurred between 2010-2014 while working at that training program. A claims-made policy is different. It only provides coverage for an event and a law suit that is brought against the policy holder while the policy is in effect. For example, you worked with a private group from 2015-2018 then left for a different job. Between 2015 and 2018, you were covered by a claims-made policy. If a law suit is brought against you in 2019 for an alleged misdiagnosis in 2016, you would no longer be covered by the former claims-made policy. Moreover, you would have no coverage by the policy at your current job either.

Knowing the type of malpractice insurance your employer provides is very important. If your employer provides an occurrence policy, then there is not much to worry about when it comes time to switch job. However, most private groups carry a claims-made policy. What this means is that you have to have a "tail" insurance to cover you for any potential future litigation after your current claims-made policy has ended. Some claims-made policy includes an automatic tail coverage for a certain number of years. More frequently, it does not, and you have to purchase the tail coverage yourself. The cost of the tail insurance, as with malpractice insurance in general, varies

across the board depending on where you practice. But it's not unheard of for a tail policy to be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

My advice is to know upfront your group's malpractice insurance and its tail insurance policy. Talk to a couple of carriers and get a quote. If possible, negotiate for a tail coverage. Some employers will provide tail coverage if you have worked for a certain number of years. Some employers will provide you a loan. Some employers will pay for tail coverage when you come on board with them. Even if nothing can be done, it's still critical that you know this information to avoid being hit with an unexpected and potentially massive insurance bill.

## Report of the Executive Director



**Pamela Cramer, CAE**

I am happy to close this year with Illinois continuing to be a strong healthy state society organization. Our membership has increased from a total of 252 in 2018 to 329 in 2019, largely due to our increase in Residents in Training. We now have Residents from programs at Loyola, University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago, and Northshore Healthcare. We are grateful to Tushar Patel at UIC for leading this very successful recruitment effort. We also have established a social media presence led by Tushar and Aadil Ahmed at Loyola. ISP now has FaceBook and Twitter accounts where we are posting legislative and advocacy updates. Our Social Media Task Force, chaired by Tushar Patel, with members Thanh HaLan and Aadil Ahmed have constructed these accounts and we are hoping to keep them robust and buzzing! We will continue to host jointly with CAP an annual Wine and Cheese at the CAP Headquarters in 2020, stay tuned for the date. You can visit the ISP website, at <https://illinoispathology.org> to visit Board members or learn the latest updates. CAP tells us "Illinois has a stable and robust society...we are looking at other states societies that have flat or declining memberships and agree that Illinois has a high market-share of members in Illinois and is meeting member needs through advocacy and networking." We thank our leaders for their continued strong engagement and support and wish all readers a joyous and healthy Holiday.

## CAP House of Delegates Election

The College of American Pathologists House of Delegates election is in process. In November the ISP Board confirmed the following names as members-in-good standing of the Illinois state society. January 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for state societies to endorse candidates, so....if there is a member-in-good-standing who would like to be a Delegate or Alternate in the Illinois Delegation, please contact Pam Cramer [pcramer@illinoispathology.org](mailto:pcramer@illinoispathology.org), for consideration by the ISP Board. CAP HOD voting will begin on February 10, close on March 20 and elections results will be announced at the end of March. See below for candidates for the Illinois HOD Delegation

Dr.	Stephen	Berns	Illinois
Dr.	Eleni	Bourtsos	Illinois
Dr.	Robert	DeCresce	Illinois
Dr.	Karen	Ferrer	Illinois
Dr.	Alan	Frigy	Illinois
Dr.	John	Gao	Illinois
Dr.	Kalisha	Hill	Illinois
Dr.	Bharati	Jhaveri	Illinois
Dr.	Kruti	Maniar	Illinois
Dr.	Swati	Mehrotra	Illinois
Dr.	Sanjai	Nagendra	Illinois
Dr.	Gladell	Paner	Illinois
Dr.	Ajay	Patel	Illinois
Dr.	Maryam	Pezhouh	Illinois
Dr.	Jennifer	Pincus	Illinois
Dr.	Vijaya	Reddy	Illinois
Dr.	Alvin	Ring	Illinois
Dr.	Stephen	Ruby	Illinois
Dr.	Jodi	Speiser	Illinois
Dr.	Milind	Velankar	Illinois
Dr.	Mark	Pool	Illinois



### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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