

On the Pathology Scene

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

SPRING 2020

Message from the President



**Kalisha Hill, MD,
MBA**

Dear treasured ISP members,

We are in a sobering moment history, yet hope still abounds. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted so many, some with loss of life; we mourn and celebrate the lives of these victims. Yet as I write this newsletter, so many patients are recovering and bring hope to those battling this illness with the promise of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma. Testing platforms are increasing in availability, including antibody

testing to glean exposure and future return to "normalcy". Yet this is a financially difficult time in our country, including healthcare, and I am prayerful our members are able to take advantage of the available governmental programs.

The brightest light in this pandemic is the spotlight placed on the importance of laboratory medicine. This is an opportunity for each pathologist to share their expertise with colleagues and praise the skills of our laboratory staff, technologists and phlebotomists. The clinical laboratory defined teamwork and quality long before they became focal points in other hospital departments. It is in our blood.

So on behalf of the ISP board, I thank you for all you do every-day to care for patients and strengthen the future of pathology and laboratory medicine.

ISP President, Kalisha Hill, MD, MBA Attends the Florida Society of Pathologists Meeting

ISP President, Kalisha Hill attended Florida Society of Pathologists meeting held in Orlando in February.



**Dr. Hill and Florida president
Dr. Morton Levitt**

Covid-19 interview with Dr. Karen Kaul and Dr. Kalisha Hill



Karen Kaul, MD, PhD

Thank you to Karen Kaul, MD, PhD for taking the time to share her expertise with ISP President Dr. Kalisha Hill on the COVID-19 Pandemic regarding testing and impact of the virus on pathologists and the community!

Interview Link: <https://youtu.be/GbVdMjFnWSI>

CAP Publishes COVID-19 AUTOPSY GUIDELINES

The College of American Pathologists Autopsy Committee supports the performance of autopsies as part of routine pathology practice. However, the Autopsy Committee recommends that only individuals properly trained in performing EID (Emerging Infectious Disease) autopsies, and with adequate personal protective equipment and appropriate facilities, perform autopsies on patients with known or suspected COVID-19. See CAP's COVID-19 Autopsy Guidelines.

<https://documents.cap.org/documents/COVID-Autopsy-Statement-09april2020b.pdf>

ISP President, Kalisha Hill, MD, MBA Attends the Texas Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting

Dr. Kalisha Hill attended the Annual Meeting of the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP) in January at the Renaissance Plano, Texas. Bob McGonnagle, Editor of *CAP Today* and Publisher of *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*, received the Citation of Merit Award along with Dr. Kevin Homer who received the distinguished



Caldwell Award.. There were many excellent scientific presentations, an exhibit full of products, services and events. Junior colleagues presented their research projects through an Abstract Competition and pre-conference sessions were added. We look forward to the 2021 TSP meeting celebrating it's 100th Anniversary. Thank you for your Texan Hospitality TSP !

**Dr. Hill and Texas president
Dr. James Malta**

ISP Collaborates with TSP on AETNA Better Health Network

ISP is known for its strong advocating with payers and its good relationships with federal and state legislators, Texas asked for advice on ISP's experience in 2017 with Aetna Better health Network's non payment for Clinical Pathology Component Billing for Medicaid.

Past Chair, and Legislative Committee Chair Bob DeCresce shared Illinois experience and strategy with the TSP Leadership. Kalisha Hill, President and Pam Cramer, Executive Director participated in a conference meeting with TSP's leaders on ISP's timeline and Advocacy efforts. ISP was proud to be able to help a sister-state in fighting this battle and wish TSP well.

CARES Act-Stimulus Package

The CARES Act is providing emergency relief for which pathology practices can apply. Check out the CAP Website at <https://www.cap.org/advocacy/latest-news-and-practice-data/april-3-2020>

This might be helpful for some of the private practice groups that have lower volume during this time.

We Like Science

Dr. Phillip DeChristopher, Professor of Pathology and Medicine at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine and ISP President Elect, wearing his "Dr. Fauci" socks...a gift from the Blood Bank staff at Loyola for Doctor's Day. Dr. De says "My embedded message in wearing the socks is that I believe in Dr. Fauci."



CMS Waiver from CLIA Requirements During COVID-19

Letters were sent to the Honorable Jesus Garcia and Bobby Rush expressing gratitude for their support in granting the temporary waiver from CLIA provisions. This waiver allows pathologists the flexibility to sign out cases remotely, which will speed up the identification of sick patients and help isolate positive cases as well as ensure continuity of care.

Report of the Executive Director



Pamela Cramer, CAE

I am happy to report that amidst all this uncertainty and turmoil, the membership renewal campaign has ended and the ISP has grown to 343 members in March 2020, compared to 312 in March 2019. This growth is due to Residency in Training members and 15 new fellow members. This growth, during this time, speaks to ISP's value and leadership. We are thrilled to report we have Residents from programs at Loyola University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago, Rush University, and Northshore Health

System. As reported in our last newsletter, ISP finally has a digital presence, through Twitter and FaceBook. Our "Likes" to our FaceBook page has grown exponentially and the interview between Doctors Karen Kaul and Kalisha Hill got the most downloads and "likes" in our short history. Many thanks to our Social Media Task Force chaired by Tushar Patel with members Thanh HaLan, Aadil Ahmed, and Brandon Zelman.

ISP Board of Directors Update

ISP was sorry to see Marissa C. Saint Martin, MD, FCAP move to another state, so she will no longer sit on the ISP Board. However, ISP is happy to welcome Bharati Jhaveri, MD, FCAP onto the Board to fill this vacancy. As you all know Dr. Jhaveri has been a member of the CAP Board of Governors for the past eight years, during her last years chairing the Council on Scientific Affairs. Dr. Jhaveri also is a member of the ISP Delegation to the CAP House of Delegates. ISP is thrilled to have Dr. Jhaveri and Dr. Zelman as new board members among the leadership of ISP.



Brandon Zelman, DO, PGY
1-Loyola University Medical Center



Bharati Suketi Jhaveri, MD,
FCAP Medical Consultant

CAP House of Delegates-Illinois Delegation

The following members are the Delegates and Alternates sitting in the CAP House of Delegates:

Position	Member Name
Delegate	Eleni P. Bourtsos, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Robert P. DeCresce, MD, MBA, FCAP
Delegate	Karen T. Ferrer, MD, FCAP
Delegate	John Z. Gao, MD, PhD, FCAP
Delegate	Kalisha A. Hill, MD, MBA, FCAP
Delegate	Bharati S. Jhaveri, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Kruti Maniar, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Swati Mehrotra, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Gladell P. Paner, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Ajay J. Patel, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Jennifer L. Pincus, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Mark D. Pool, MD, FCAP
Delegate	Vijaya B. Reddy, MD, MBA, FCAP*
Alternate	Stephen M. Berns, MD, FCAP
Alternate	Alan F. Frigy, MD, FCAP
Alternate	Maryam K. Pezhough, MD, MSc, FCAP
Alternate	Alvin M. Ring, MD, FCAP
Alternate	Stephen G. Ruby, MD, MBA, FCAP
Alternate	Jodi Speiser, MD, FCAP
Alternate	Milind M. Velankar, MD, FCAP

*Current Delegation Chair

The timeline for Delegate and Alternate election is as follows: October- Submission Delegate and Alternate form to CAP; November-Candidate slates to State societies; Feb- voting; March- voting closes; March 31- election results announced; May 15- Delegate Chair election results due from each state.

Amita Health Gala

Amita Health Gala Fundraiser was strongly supported by ISP pathologists. It was held just before the Covid-19 stay at home order was enacted.



Drs. Eleni Bourtsos, Laurie Eisengart, Joanne Hutton, Vickie Rezai, Kalisha Hill and Muge Turkyilmaz



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

On the Pathology Scene is a publication of the Illinois Society of Pathologists and may not be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the publisher. Views expressed by various authors are not necessarily those of ISP.

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