

On the Pathology Scene

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

SPRING 2018



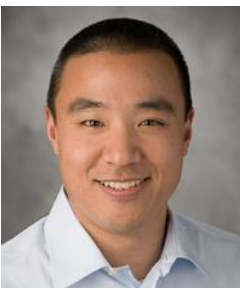
Ron Champagne, MD

Message from the President

Greetings from the ISP! Welcome to the spring issue of the ISP newsletter. I invite you to become informed of issues related to the practice of our profession below.

Network Adequacy and Transparency Act

Last year the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act (NAT act) passed both houses and was approved by the governor and enacted into law. This act attempts to slow the growth of narrow insurance networks and protects patients by ensuring health insurance networks in the state cover necessary services and providers. As originally written the legislation contained language supported by the Illinois Society of Pathologists and the College of American Pathologists which would ensure provider networks have sufficient numbers of hospital-based physicians at in-network facilities to provide patients with reasonable access to these providers. However, prior to this legislation being enacted into law the bill was modified and the favorable language for hospital based physicians was removed from the bill. Should the Illinois State Medical Society seek to address the omission regarding hospital based physicians in the NAT act in this new legislative cycle, the ISP legislative affairs committee and the College of American Pathologists will be involved in the process.



Meet New Board Member – Oliver Kim, MD

Dr. Kim serves as president of Midwest Diagnostic Pathology and Medical Director of ACL Illinois Operations (Advocate Aurora Health). He is also Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington. We welcome Dr. Kim to the ISP Board of Directors !

ISP Pursues Affiliate Agreement with College of American Pathologists

The Illinois Society of Pathologists Board has established a Membership Affiliate Agreement with the College of American Pathologists joining 25 other state pathology societies in order to strengthen the profession of pathology nationwide, create a stronger partnership with the CAP and augment advocacy efforts at the state level.

Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act (S.794)

Congressional Bill S.794, the Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act of 2017 is a bill currently within the legislative process which is designed to improve transparency and accountability when Medicare contractors set local coverage determination (LCD) policies for physician services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. These decisions affect millions of Medicare beneficiaries and impact critical access to innovative technologies and procedures.

The Senate Bill was introduced in March of last year by sponsor Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and was cosponsored by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) in full support of the Illinois Society of Pathologists and the CAP.

According to the bill sponsors, the current Local Coverage Determination process is broken, lacking transparency, accountability and placing patients at risk for being denied access to innovative healthcare services. The current bill would incorporate input from doctors and patients providing needed expertise for Medicare contractors and would help to determine local coverage policies for physicians' services that are in the best interest for patients.

Key provisions in the bill include:

Open Meetings: Medicare Administrative Contractor's (MAC) Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings must be open, public, and on the record. Minutes should be posted to the MAC's website for public inspection. The gravity of limiting or precluding coverage for both beneficiaries and practitioners heightens the need for transparency where meetings are currently closed.

Upfront Disclosure: MACs should include at the outset a description of the evidence considered when drafting an LCD as well as the rationale they rely on to deny coverage. If this information is not provided until the final LCD, it hinders meaningful stakeholder exchange and makes the MAC's decision to deny coverage almost a foregone conclusion.

Meaningful Reconsideration and Options for Appeal: A meaningful LCD reconsideration process gives Medicare providers and suppliers the opportunity to have a secondary review by a qualified disinterested party. Under current Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules, MAC LCDs are essentially unreviewable for providers and suppliers without new evidence submitted to the very MAC that issued the LCD.

Stopping the use of LCDs as a backdoor to National Coverage Determinations (NCDs): Prohibit the CMS from appointing a single MAC, either expressly or in practice, from making determinations to be used on a nationwide basis in a given specialty. The CAP has witnessed the carbon copy adoption of MAC LCDs by other MACs without the benefit of meaningful solicitation or independent assessment of comments and concerns from the public or medical community of the adopting MAC. The policy then can become of such geographic magnitude it approaches becoming a NCD in practical terms without having followed more rigorous requirements.

This legislation would make significant improvements to the LCD process and ensure that medical evidence is not used selectively to deny appropriate coverage to Medicare beneficiaries.

For more information, please see the following link:
<https://capatholo.gy/2HlqYKo>.

Please Donate NOW to Advocacy

We need your Advocacy Donations as we continue to fight these legislative battles, and if there are pathologists in your group who are not members, they need to join. Please support ISP!

Supporter \$100-\$499 **Contributor \$500-\$999**
Advocate \$1000-\$1999 **Benefactor \$2000-\$2999**
Cornerstone \$3000-\$4999 **Presidents Circle \$5000 +**

Contact: pcramer@illinoispathology.org (or)

Mail To: **ISP, 902 Ash Street, Winnetka, IL 60093**



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS



You are cordially invited to attend a CAP/ ISP Reception

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 6:30–8:30 PM

**CAP headquarters 325 Waukegan Road
Northfield, Illinois**



R. Bruce Williams, MD, FCAP
CAP President



Ronald Champagne, MD, FCAP
ISP President

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Parking is available on site.

The threat to cut payment for pathology services is unrelenting. Meet those who have your back and are fighting for you.

Join the CAP officers, president, R. Bruce Williams, MD, FCAP, and president-elect, Patrick E. Godbey, MD, FCAP, and the ISP officers, president, Ronald Champagne, MD, FCAP, president-elect, Phillip J. DeChristopher, MD, PhD, FCAP, and secretary-treasurer, Kalisha Hill, MD, FCAP, to learn how the CAP and ISP collaborate to advocate for pathologists.

Take advantage of this opportunity to voice your concerns about issues facing you and your practice.

6:30 PM–7:00 PM **Networking**
7:00 PM–7:30 PM **Welcome by R. Bruce Williams, MD, FCAP
and Ronald Champagne, MD, FCAP**
7:30 PM–8:00 PM **Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy Update**
8:00 PM–8:30 PM **CAP Headquarters Tour and Networking**

RSVP no later than Monday, July 2.

www.illinoispathology.org/reception

Being a member of the CAP and the ISP strengthens our profession and bolsters pathology's influence on advocacy issues at the state and federal levels. When working with elected officials, the number of members in an organization affects its ability to impact decisions and guide policy.

ISP Officers, Directors and Committees

OFFICERS

Ron Champagne, MD

President (2017-2018)

Peoria-Tazewell Pathology Group,
SC
Graham Hospital
309.647.5240 ext. 2247

Andrew Armstrong, MD

(2017-2019)

Peoria-Tazewell Pathology
Group, SC
Unity Point Health Methodist
Medical Center
309.671.7776

**Phillip J. DeChristopher, MD, PhD,
FCAP**

President-Elect (2017-2018)

Loyola University Medical Center
708.327.2609

Eleni P. Bourtsos, MD

(2017-2019)

DuPage Pathology Associates
708.245.7885

Kalisha Hill, MD

Secretary-Treasurer

(2017-2018)

Presence St. Mary's Hospital
Phone: 815.937.2282

Ajay Patel, MD

(2018-2020)

Central DuPage Hospital
630.938.9134

Robert P. DeCresce, MD, MBA

Immediate Past-President

(2015-2018)

Rush University Medical Center
312.942.8850

Mark Pool, MD

(2017-2019)

Rush University Medical Center
312.942.9975

DIRECTORS

John Abran, MD (2016-2018)

**Chicago Pathology Society Repre-
sentative**

4Path, Ltd.
708.929.4326

Rohit Gupta, MD

(2017-2019)

Laboratory & Pathology Diagnos-
tics, LLC
Edward Hospital
630.527.3460

Brian Adley, MD (2017-2019)

Midwest Diagnostic Pathology
847.723.7361

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pamela Cramer, CAE

847.441.7200

Oliver S. Kim, MD (2018-2020)

President, Midwest Diagnostic
Pathology
ACL Laboratories
847.842.4183

COMMITTEES

**Legislative Affairs and
Advocacy Committee**

Bob DeCresce, MD, CHAIR

Imad Almanaseer, MD

Rick Anderson, MD

Reshma Ariga, MD

Manuel Doria, MD

(2017-2019)

Central Illinois Pathology
309.624.9121

Membership Committee

Tushar Patel, MD, Chair

The Chicago Pathology Society Annual Slide Seminar



Monday, May 14

Rush Medical Center, 1725 W. Harrison, Room 500

5:30 Cocktails

7:00 Dinner and Lecture

PROGRAM: The Donald West King and Mary E. King
Endowed Pathology Lectureship of Rush University
Raymond Redline, MD, *"Providing Clinically Relevant
Placental Diagnoses in 2018"*

Sponsored by The Chicago Pathology Society, Rush
University and the Illinois Society of Pathology.

RSVP: <http://chicagopathology.org/>

Click on Membership, then Payment and register

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 ex-
pressed by various authors are not necessarily those of ISP.
All contributions are made with the understanding that they
may be edited for clarity and placement purposes.*

Editor: Ron Champagne, MD, President
rchampag2000@yahoo.com

Executive Director: Pamela Cramer, CAE
pcramer@illinoispathology.org

Production Editor: Mike Hatton
mhatton@thepmcgroup.com

*Offices: 902 Ash Street, Suite 200, Winnetka, IL 60093-2436
(847-441-7200) www.illinoispathology.org*