As we head into summer and the mid-point in the year, I would like to share with you what the CPRC has been doing and what is planned for the rest of the year. As one of our main initiatives for 2016-2017, our committee has continued to refine the proposal for the Mid-Level Pathology Professional (MLPP). We are working closely with the ASC/ASCP Workgroup to thoroughly evaluate data that supports this new profession. Perhaps most importantly, we are looking at ways to help training programs move towards future practice models. We are using what we heard from you in forums such as last year’s Strategies in Cytotechnology Education Session (SCE) regarding both challenges and opportunities to frame our discussions. We hope to see all of you in Phoenix for the 2017 Strategies in Cytotechnology Education (SCE) Session on Friday November 10th for important updates on the MLPP.

Another focus of the CPRC this year is recruitment of students into our Cytotechnology Programs. There are open positions in many of our schools. We are looking at ways to support our Program Directors in their recruiting efforts, particularly during this time of change in the cytotechnology (CT) profession. We will discuss this at the SCE session this year with an introduction to digital marketing for the CT educator. In addition, the Strategies session will focus on support of our Cytotechnology students including innovative programming like the Anytime/Anywhere Cytotechnology Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Cytotechnologist Mentoring Program at the Cleveland Clinic. We will also discuss ways to optimize the CT student learning environment with a focus on learner mistreatment. Lastly, we will present a skills workshop on preparing a virtual screening workshop. We’ve listened to your feedback from prior meetings and we aim to make this program as interactive as last year. We hope you can join us!

Another important responsibility of the CPRC this year is to begin the review process for the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology. The entry level competencies for Cytotechnology Programs were last revised in 2013. CAAHEP requires review of these Standards and Guidelines every five years. We’ve begun this review by seeking input from our sponsors and communities of interest about whether changes in the entry level competencies are needed. Please stay tuned!
The Cytology Education Learning Lab (CELL) continues to grow, both in available resources and in registrants. We would like to thank the CELL Resource Subcommittee as well as the Program Directors for their contributions to this effort. We continue to encourage submissions. The CELL Website is also undergoing a major interface redesign to accommodate more material in a readily accessible manner. If you haven't been to this site in a while, we encourage you to visit!

We hope you have a fun and restful summer! Please feel free to send us your comments/feedback on all things related to Cytotechnology Education. We hope to see you at the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix in November.

**Status of Programs (as of June 2017)**

- 24 Accredited Programs
- 24 Active Programs
- 0 Inactive Programs
- 0 Discontinued Programs
- 0 Developing Program

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

*Since May 2016, the following Cytotechnology Programs were awarded Initial Accreditation and granted Accreditation Cycle Extensions*

- **Initial Accreditation for Five (5) Years:**
  - Roswell Park/Daemen College

- **Accreditation Cycle Extensions from Seven (7) to Ten (10) Years:**
  - UCLA, Greater Los Angeles Cytotechnology Consortium

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**MLPP Subcommittee Update: Survey Data, Interview Perspectives and Expert Feedback - Completed, Collated and Soon To Be Published**

*Karen Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)IAC, Robert Goulart, MD and David Wilbur, MD*

The MLPP Subcommittee of the CPRC would like to formally thank the ASC/ASCP Cytotechnology Workgroup and Asma Ali, PhD and her ASCP team for their excellent work in collecting, collating, and presenting the multiple sources of data regarding the evolving field of cytotechnology and pathology practice.

Although the best data available has been used as the basis for our recommendations to date, this additional information will play a key role for all in making data-driven decisions regarding the future of cytotechnology
educational infrastructure and new Entry-Level Competencies, in addition to further guiding the exploration of an advanced pathology practitioner (aka, MLPP).

The data collection and collation process has been both complex and thorough, taking almost two years to complete. Multiple publications are expected soon.

This subcommittee looks forward to working with the CPRC, the ASC/ASCP workgroup and all CT educators to discuss and debate the results, focusing on next steps, which will strengthen our field and position it well for future needs.

Please join us at the Strategies in Cytotechnology Education Session
ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix
We hope to see you there!

Strategies in Cytotechnology Session
Friday, November 10, 2017, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

If you are a practicing cytologist, pathologist, student, recent graduate or educator, join us on Friday, November 10th, 2017 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm for the engaging and interactive Strategies Session sponsored by the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC). The focus this year is on modernizing our approach to education, professional and workplace awareness and moving to Master’s level programs.

NOTE: This strategy session is included in the meeting registration but seating is limited so please register to secure a seat at the table.

Session 1: Education Innovations and Workplace Awareness

- The session begins with an update on the current state of Cytotechnology School Programs.  
  \textit{CPRC Chair Jennifer Brainard, MD and Vice Chair Karen M. Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)IAC}

- \textbf{Anytime/Anywhere Cytotechnology Training:} The common and widespread offering of online education has finally come to Cytology. This presentation will demonstrate how one school is addressing the challenge of space and time to train cytotechnologists. \textit{Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP)}

- \textbf{Skills workshop – How to set up a virtual screening exercise:} Use these new skills to create your own continuing education sessions and incorporate technology software into your cytology courses. \textit{Maheswari Mukherjee, PhD, MS, PT, CT(ASCP)}

- \textbf{The learning environment and learner mistreatment:} Harassment and abuse in the workplace has many faces. The learner environment is not free from these encounters. This presentation will identify unwarranted behaviors and preventative actions to provide a safe and productive learning environment. \textit{Gregory Freund, MD}

- \textbf{Mentoring: The Cleveland Clinic Foundation Experience:} One of the best ways to foster professional and personal development of others is to participate in a mentoring program. Everyone is eligible to be either a mentor or a mentee where age is no barrier. This workshop will share one laboratory’s success story. \textit{Sandy Dolar, SCT(ASCP)}^{CM}
Session #2: Professional Growth Factors

- Moving to a Masters Level Professional. This interactive session will continue the discussion on moving to a Masters Level profession. Data supporting this decision, recommendations for expanded entry level competencies and a timeline of events to make all this happen will be shared. Early adopters will be modeled to provide guidance and support.

  David C. Wilbur, MD, Robert A. Goulart, MD, Karen Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)IAC

The Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology: Is it time for revision?

Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP)

If you are involved with a Cytotechnology program, no doubt you are familiar with the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology, and you know that the Standards and Guidelines are the minimum standards of quality with which all programs are expected to comply in order to maintain CAAHEP accreditation. You more than likely also know that Standards, which appear in regular typeface, are the minimum requirements to which programs are held accountable, while guidelines, which appear in italics, are not required but they assist with interpretation of the requirement in the Standard. The Cytotechnology Standards also includes, in Appendix B, the minimum entry level competencies that students must be able to demonstrate upon completion of the program. These competencies reflect the skills and knowledge required of cytotechnologists as they enter the profession. As we contemplate how we continue to assure that our educational programs are aligned with changes in our practice, we also need to contemplate the changes that may be needed in Standards. But exactly how do Standards and Guidelines get revised?

Every profession within CAAHEP has its own set of Standards but they are all required to follow the established format and language that is defined in the outcomes based Standards and Guidelines template that was approved and adopted by the CAAHEP Board of Directors more than 15 years ago. The template itself is periodically reviewed by the CAAHEP Standards Committee and revised as necessary after considering input from communities of interest. Recommended changes must be approved by the CAAHEP Board of Directors before they are implemented.

Every committee on accreditation (CoA) – which includes our CoA, the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee – is responsible for periodically reviewing and revising if necessary their Standards and Guidelines in order to maintain compliance with CAAHEP policies, including changes in template language that have been approved since the last revision, and to assure that the educational preparation of students is consistent with the accepted state of practice for the profession. CAAHEP policy requires that the Standards and Guidelines, including Appendix B be reviewed at least once every five years and a written report on the outcome of the review be submitted to the CAAHEP Board of Directors (BoD). The review doesn't always mean there will be changes. In fact, the review may result in one of five outcomes:

1. Changes will be proposed to the content of the Standards (with or without changes to the Guidelines), and current template language will be incorporated as needed.
2. Changes will be proposed to Guidelines language only, and current template language will be incorporated as needed.
3. Changes will be proposed to Appendix B only, and current template language will be incorporated as needed.
4. No changes will be proposed to either the Standards or Guidelines, but the current template language will be incorporated as needed.

5. No changes will be proposed to either the Standards or Guidelines, including Appendix B, and the Standards and Guidelines are already in current template language so no changes will be needed to incorporate current template language.

Of course, if the CoA deems that changes are needed prior to the five years, the changes may be submitted to the CAAHEP Standards Committee (SC) for consideration sooner. When Standards need to be revised, the CoA works with its sponsoring organizations to obtain consideration from their communities of interest as they develop the revisions. Communities of interest include practitioners, educators, employers, related professionals, students, program administrators, national societies and agencies, and the public. The CoA must consider all suggestions from its communities of interest but only those that it deems appropriate need to be incorporated. The CoA must however report to CAAHEP any suggestions that were not incorporated and the rationale for that exclusion.

As each draft is developed, it is submitted to the SC for review. The Standards Committee reviews the draft to assure that it is in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines template, and it is in compliance with CAAHEP policies and philosophy. Because the template is one of the things that unifies all of the diverse disciplines within the CAAHEP umbrella, the SC requires a sound rationale be submitted when there is any deviation from the template language. Once the SC has completed its review, the draft is returned to the CoA for review and response to comments and questions, and revision. The process may take several back and forth reviews until there is a draft that is approved by both the Standards Committee and the CoA.

The CoA then seeks endorsement of the final draft from its Sponsors. Once the letters of endorsement are received by CAAHEP, the draft is posted to the CAAHEP website for at least 30 days followed by an open hearing. Open hearings are held in January, April, July and October. The hearing is conducted by a three-person panel, composed of SC members or designee(s). Following the hearing, the panel meets in executive session to assess the testimony and comments to determine which if any should be incorporated into the Standards and Guidelines. The SC, following consultation with the CoA chair and senior staff, then formulates a recommendation based on the outcome of the open hearing and forwards it to the BoD. The BoD takes action on the recommendation at its next meeting.

This full review process could take up to 18 months depending upon the timing and schedule of reviews for the Standards Committee, but there are expedited processes for changes that are needed only for template language or in Appendix B. The expedited processes allow for elimination of the open hearing step if after the draft has been posted for at least 30 days, there are no significant comments or concerns that were raised. The SC makes the determination once the comment period ends. Changes in Guidelines language are submitted directly to the BoD for action once the SC and CoA approve changes.

So, what does all this mean for us in Cytotechnology? The Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology were most recently revised in 2013 when the entry level competencies were last updated and will be coming up for review per the CAAHEP policy. The question is, will any revisions be needed? The CPRC has already been in the process of seeking input from its Sponsors and other communities of interest about whether changes are needed in two major sections of the Cytotechnology Standards – I.C. – Responsibilities of the Sponsor (should the minimum degree requirement be Masters rather than a Baccalaureate degree) and Appendix B – the entry level competencies. After completing the review of the feedback, if the CPRC determines that Standard I.C. will need to be revised, the Standards will undergo the full review and revision.
process, including working with the SC to come to agreement on language, obtaining letters of endorsement from Sponsors, posting the final draft for public comment, and conducting the open hearing. If there are changes in only the entry level competencies, the Standards Committee will follow the expedited review process for Appendix B. Once approved, the CPRC will then develop an implementation plan and assist programs to come into compliance with revisions.

Let’s continue with more CAAHEP news, for your information:

Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP), CPRC Commissioner
Kerry Weinberg, PhD, RDMS, RDSC, FSDMS, CAAHEP Liaison

CAAHEP Annual Meeting, April 23-24, 2017
The 2017 CAAHEP Annual Meeting, held in Atlanta, Georgia this past April, was one of the best annual meetings held to date according to participants! The focus was “Quality Improvement vs Quality Assurance: Can we be both Counselors and Cops?” with the keynote address given by Dr. Judith Eaton, President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Among the many interesting topics was a session that gave insight on what employers are looking for and what they need from graduates. The Association of Postgraduate Physician Assistant Program (APPAP) was approved as an associate member at the Annual Business Meeting. The Physician Assistant profession was previously approved by the Commission to join the CAAHEP system.

New CAAHEP Board of Directors and Officers
During the April business meeting, the election to the Board of Directors open seats was held. Doug York and Kate Feinstein were re-elected to the Board for the Committee on Accreditation and Sponsoring organization positions respectively. Greg Frazier was elected as the representative of Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). In addition, at its March meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Melissa McKnight as its new Recent Graduate Commissioner on the Board. And during its May conference call, the Board held officer elections – Carolyn O’Daniel was elected as the new President of CAAHEP, Katie Kuntz as Vice President, Susan Fuchs as Secretary and Greg Ferenchak as Treasurer.

NEW CAAHEP Website Launched!
Come check out the new CAAHEP Web site, which was launched on May 15th! CAAHEP is working with its vendor, Indigo, on completing the build of the database, including the annual reporting tool. Testing of the system will begin this summer.

Health Professions Accreditors Collaborative
CAAHEP recently joined the Health Professions Accreditors Collaborative (HPAC). HPAC was established in 2014 as a platform for discussion, proactive problem solving, and sharing amongst accreditors. HPAC is working with the National Center for Interprofessional Practice & Education (IPEC) to advance interprofessional education among health care professionals. The initiative is founded on the on-going demand for health care pre-professionals to have a sound understanding of the roles and relationships of each member of the health care team which ultimately will lead to better service coordination and delivery, and better outcomes for patients.
CAAHEP is tentatively planning a session about interprofessional education at its Summer Workshop in July, and may consider adding language relating to interprofessional education to the Standards template in the future.

**REMINDERS.............**

- **CAAHEP moved**, over a year ago actually, but we wanted to make sure that all Programs have updated this information, since Programs may be cited for not having correct information available in your Program’s publications. Be sure to update your Program Web site, brochures, and any other materials that reference the contact information for CAAHEP. Standard V.A.2. requires that Programs make known to all applicants and students the name, mailing address and web site address, and the phone number of the accrediting agencies.

  Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
  25400 US Highway 19 N., Suite 158  
  Clearwater, FL 33763  
  727-210-2350  
  www.caahep.org

- **Publishing Outcomes:**  
  Cytotechnology Programs made the transition to publishing outcomes very smoothly in 2016; however, regular updates are required. As all Program Directors know, confirming or updating the required published outcome (3-year, first time pass rate for the Board of Certification exam, must be included in the Annual Reports under the Comments section.

**Speaking of Annual Reports........ As all Program Directors know, the emails requesting submission of Annual Reports were sent in mid-May, with a submission deadline of July 10th, to be followed by CPRC reviews and feedback by September 2017. NEXT YEAR, we will use the new CAAHEP Annual Report Management System, which should be far more user friendly.

**The Cytology Education Learning Lab (CELL) went “live”**  
three years ago, with the expectations of serving Cytotechnology Programs to provide resources that may be useful to Program Directors as they integrated the 22 new Entry-level Competencies (ELC) into their curricula. With original focus on the needs of the Cytotechnology Programs, we have been continuously surprised by the level of interest. As of June 2017, we have over 1,845 registrants with over 30% international registrants!!

Currently, the CELL Resource Subcommittee has met for one conference call on February 16th, 2017. During this call, we created a strategic plan for a refresh of the current Entry Level Competency sections of the CELL Web site. The initial deadline was May 1, 2017 and the CELL members have responded with an abundance of resources. CELL members will also begin to target resources for removal that may be outdated. The current Cytotechnology Program Directors have made major contributions to the CELL Website.
The CELL Web site is in the process of a major interface redesign. In order to foster increased traffic, and future growth opportunities, the Chair of the Cell Committee, Sean McNair, MPH, CT(ASCP) and Deborah Sheldon of the ASC are collaborating with health care info and design company SLACK Inc. to create a complete redesign of the CELL Web site. The current Entry Level Competencies displayed on the CELL site will be rearranged into TABS and new sections will be created to permit the introduction of a diversity of resources to the CELL Web site. Current suggestions are adding a “Hot Topic” section, so that current Cytology professionals can view cutting edge research and development in our field. The refined interface, in combination with robust resource contributions from members of the committee are expected to drive growth of the website. Future plans include collaborating with the Social Media Committee in order to advertise the website after the go-live date for the new template.

In the meantime, all Program Directors are encouraged to submit resources they feel represent their best practices. Please send any resources or questions to Deb MacIntyre Sheldon.

**Cell Resource Committee Member**

Sean McNair, MPH, CT(ASCP), Chair
Jennifer Brainard, MD
Keisha Burnett, MS, CT, MB(ASCP)
Rhonda Drexler, SCT(ASCP)CM
Jacqueline Emery, MD
Lois Rockson, MA, SCT(ASCP)IAC

Donna Russell, MEd, CT(ASCP)HT
Michele Smith, MS, SCT(ASCP)
Tatiana Zorina, MD, PhD, CT(ASCP)
Robert Goulart, MD, CPRC Liaison
Kara Hansing, SCT(ASCP)CM, Past Chair, Ex-officio
Deborah MacIntyre Sheldon, Liaison

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**Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award**

The Awards for cytotechnology students were established in memory of the late Geraldine Colby Zeiler who trained as a cytotechnologist at the Mayo Clinic. The Awards, made possible through the generosity of Dr. William B. Zeiler, family and friends of Mrs. Zeiler, are funded through the College of American Pathologists Foundation and administered by the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC).

The purpose of the Awards, up to five each year, is to stimulate and reward high achievement by cytotechnology students during their training. Awards are based on academic performance and microscopic diagnostic skills, leadership ability, initiative, acceptance of responsibility, dedication and collegiality.

*2017 Applications are under review now, and an Announcement of the five recipients will be in early/mid-July. Good luck to your students and recent graduates!*
****News from CPRC Sponsoring Organizations***

**American Society of Cytopathology**

The **ASC 65th Annual Scientific Meeting** Program almost complete. For the Schedule at a Glance, Meeting Highlights, Travel and Hotel Information, and much more, please visit the [Meeting site to register](#).

The **Strategies in Cytotechnology Education** sessions continue on Friday, November 10th, as detailed on page 3. All Program Directors are encouraged to attend these sessions and participate. More news in the next couple months!

As many of you know, the ASC offers a **Travel Scholarship to the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting** for Cytotechnologists, Residents and Fellows. You are encouraged to share this information with you recent graduates. **Submission deadline is August 15, 2017**

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**American Society for Clinical Pathology**

This is the largest global gathering of the Pathology and Lab Medicine Team. Join your colleagues and leaders to gain knowledge that will empower you to improve patient care today while you shape tomorrow. [REGISTER NOW!](#)
The ASCT had another successful meeting in San Antonio, Texas, April 28-30, 2017. Attendees enjoyed the educational lectures and workshops, along with the exciting atmosphere of San Antonio. Once again, the student case presentations were a highlight and the winners are as follows:

Warren R. Lang Student Awards/Winners

1st Place: Amanda Vallow
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Cytotechnology Program

2nd Place: Franklin Barber
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Cytotechnology Program

3rd Place: Christina Barbato
Thomas Jefferson University Cytotechnology Program

Computer Loop Winner: Swati Gupta
Thomas Jefferson University Cytotechnology Program

ASCT Student Presenters

The ASCT Warren R. Lang Student Awards were presented to the winners: $150 for 1st place, $100 for 2nd place, $50 for 3rd place, and $50 in ASCT bucks for the Computer Loop winner.

Bob Gay Student Scholarship
This scholarship was “established by Kim Kowalczik in memory of her father, Bob Gay, who made significant contributions to the education of cytotechnology students and was a founding member of the ASCT. The scholarship awards $1,000.00 and sponsorship (travel and accommodations) to the upcoming ASCT Annual conference to an outstanding student.”

Winner of the 2017 Bob Gay Student Scholarship:
Crystal Whitmore, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Cytotechnology Program

Right: ASCT President, Jenna Benson, Crystal Whitmore and Beverly Haigler-Daly

The 2018 ASCT Annual Meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 4-6, 2018!
The College of American Pathologists

The College of American Pathologists is an organization of physician pathologists, but its broader interests also include the health and well-being of the allied health professions particularly as they relate to the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine.

To that end, the CAP would like to invite all allied health professionals to attend the CAP Annual Meeting, CAP17 – The Pathologists’ Meeting™, which will be held at the Gaylord National, Maryland October 8-11, 2017.

CAP 17 offers more than 70 courses with practical application, across practice settings and skill levels. CAP17 is your source for fresh, innovative, and balanced content across AP, CP, practice management and advocacy.

The CAP hopes to see many of its allied health colleagues at the Meeting. For further information, please review materials on the CAP17 Website.

Members of the 2017 Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

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