



WHY I CHOSE PATHOLOGY

The journey to pathology often leads to leadership. That's particularly true for Jasmine Saleh, MD, MPH, and Ashley Volaric, MD.

Dr. Saleh is one of this year's Leadership Development Awards honorees (see the full list on page 2). Dr. Volaric was a recipient in 2018.

Born bilaterally deaf into a world of silence, Dr. Saleh was 5 years old when she received a cochlear implant. "My journey has been an obstacle course of overcoming physical hardship, championing emotional turmoil, and battling social stigma," Dr. Saleh said. As is the case with many pathologists, Dr. Saleh notes that her personal experiences provided characteristics that are essential for leadership.

"Travelling this road has instilled in me a strong sense of empathy, compassion, and the ability to be an astute listener who can sensitively respond to others," Dr. Saleh said. She plans to share the stories of her journey "from research at the bench side to that of the bedside, and from the experience of walking through refugee camps overseas to health policy, quality improvement,

and advocacy right here at home."

Like Dr. Saleh, Dr. Volaric has found that pathology provides opportunities to take on leadership roles. "Especially in the realm of global medicine and public health, pathologists are keenly trained to understand population-level disease processes which suits them aptly for leading these kinds of initiatives."

As a resident, Dr. Volaric was among the volunteers at the See, Test & Treat® program in Norton, Virginia in 2017, which she says is just one example of pathologists taking the lead to directly help patients. "We are at the start of becoming public health leaders both in the United States and abroad, and it is exciting to be at the start of my own career and see this unfold," Dr. Volaric said.

Writing about their experiences as new-in-practice pathologists, Dr. Saleh and Dr. Volaric use words like "broad knowledge," "global medicine," "exciting," "passion," "benefits others," "initiative," "innovation," and "quality."

As recipients of the CAP Foundation's Leadership Development Award,



Above: Dr. Jasmine Saleh.
Below: Dr. Ashley Volaric at a See, Test & Treat program.

Dr. Saleh and Dr. Volaric stand with other honorees, setting the standard for physicians who are just entering the practice of pathology.

Dr. Volaric is a resident in the Department of Pathology, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Saleh is a resident in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois.

FOUNDATION HONORS

2019 Leadership Development Awards

The CAP Foundation honors young physicians with the Leadership Development Award, a travel stipend to support attendance at CAP meetings and events where they can learn about the issues that face the specialty and patient care. We asked these outstanding honorees why they chose pathology as a specialty.



Alain Cagaanan, DO

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin

“I saw the specialty as very cerebral and intellectually stimulating. I was especially motivated by the educational opportunities available in the specialty. Now, I’m largely inspired by the utility of pathology in global health.”



Damodaran Narayanan, MBBS, PhD

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin

“Pathology is the cornerstone of clinical medicine. My medical education and research training, my goals to contribute to patient care and perform academic research, and my passion for microscopy, suggested that a career in pathology would be the most fulfilling ‘path’ for me.”



Daniel Forsythe, DO

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin

“During medical school I kept an open mind, thinking that I might come across a specialty that would fit me best. But after my first clerkship rotation with a pathology group there was no doubt in my mind: I was meant to do this for the rest of my life.”



Kenekchukwu Ojukwu, MD, MPP

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California

“I wanted to affect individuals on a population level; to have the option to venture into medical education and research; and to have an avenue to explore policy work. The vast terrain of pathology knowledge allows me to do so effectively.”



Chace Moleta, MD, MS

University of California San Diego Health, San Diego, California

“I could not resist the desire to persistently think about disease at the most basic levels of biology and physiology. As a pathologist I could study and understand the biochemical, molecular, and cellular levels of disease processes while still having an impact on direct patient care.”



Jasmine Saleh, MD, MPH

Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois

“In my short time as a pathology resident it has become abundantly clear to me that attending CAP meetings is fundamental to enable me to further my understanding of health policy, current issues affecting pathology, and the influence of our specialty on quality and patient care.”



Mariam Molani, DO, MBA

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska

“In essence, all roads lead to pathology—whether it is a cancer diagnosis, a unit of platelets, a positive culture, a CBC, or a new therapy-defining molecular assay. I wanted to be at the forefront of this challenging, diagnostic field and impact patient care and management on a large scale.”

Apply for a leadership award:
foundation.cap.org/what-we-fund/leadership-development

Donate to the Foundation:
foundation.cap.org/ways-to-donate

SUSTAINING DONATIONS SUPPORT FREE CANCER SCREENING



BD Brings Preventive Care to Vulnerable People

Generous donors make it possible for the CAP Foundation to serve women in screening and education, enabling breast and cervical cancer screening at See, Test & Treat programs.

For example, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a leading global medical technology company, provides critical funding on a sustaining basis, year after year, for the Charles Drew Health Center (CDHC) in Omaha, Nebraska. See, Test & Treat is only one of many programs BD supports.

“Across the country, providers like CDHC care for millions of people who otherwise have no access to care,” said Ellen Rafferty, manager of Social Investing at BD. “We recognize that these providers operate with limited resources, and we support their ability to use innovative models of care—like See, Test & Treat—to bring high-quality preventive care to our nation’s most vulnerable people.”

BD’s support stretches around the world. “We partner with leading nonprofit organizations and foundations to address unmet health care needs,” said Rafferty, “and we promote the use of best practices and applied research when it comes to tackling health care’s biggest challenges.”

Corporate social responsibility is an essential ingredient in the See, Test & Treat program, according to Gene N. Herbek, MD, FCAP, pathologist at Charles Drew and former board member of the CAP Foundation. “With supporters like BD we have the opportunity to save lives.”

SEE, TEST & TREAT

Merck Representatives Tour ‘Fantastic’ Programs

An oncology diagnostics specialist consultant to Merck, Barry McLaughlin is one of several representatives who recently received behind-the-scenes tours at the CAP Foundation’s flagship program, See, Test & Treat. Merck is one of the major supporters that make the Foundation’s humanitarian program successful. The company focuses on innovation and scientific excellence to deliver vaccines, medicines, and animal health products.

On site at the NorthPoint Health and Wellness See, Test & Treat program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, another Merck representative had a chance to observe the roles played by such CAP members as Bradley Linzie, MD, FCAP. Said Merck’s Joseph Zylstra, “It was fantastic to see Dr. Linzie interacting with patients to educate them about the testing process they were going through in real time.”

Not surprisingly, the Merck consultants were quick to see the program’s impact.

“See, Test & Treat has identified a great opportunity to communicate, not only to the patient but to reinforce the multidisciplinary requirements that are associated with testing,” said McLaughlin.

“Testing is the current and present requirement for many ongoing developing therapies and it’s only going to become more important as we go forward in the future,” McLaughlin continued.

“I can see this expanding to a number of different medical areas where there’s increasingly a requirement for testing.”

While on site, Zylstra got a facility tour from the NorthPoint CEO, Stella Whitney-West. “I was very impressed with the logistics and coordination of the event,” Zylstra said. “You could tell that all the volunteers and workers were very passionate about the mission of the event and were very engaged with the patients.”

See, Test & Treat is an important opportunity for Merck to continue to grow its relationship with the CAP, according to Jeffrey Emch, director, Biomarker & CDx US Oncology Marketing at Merck. “The CAP Foundation can provide medical education materials for pathologists around KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab), Merck’s anti-cancer immunotherapy, as well as relevant immune oncology biomarkers and diagnostics,” Emch said.



Joseph Zylstra, Merck representative, with Stella Whitney-West, CEO, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center.



SEE, TEST & TREAT Reaches a 'Summit'

The ongoing demand for more accessible women's health information and the need for cancer screening among underserved populations came together this spring in Newark, New Jersey. The result was a unique event that joined See, Test & Treat and a day full of informative talks.

The Newark Board of Education created the Women's Wellness Summit to help support the physical, educational, and emotional well-being of their children and family. Understanding that women need to be aware of their own health, the school board partnered with University Hospital in Newark, the main teaching hospital affiliated with Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Looking back at the well-attended See, Test & Treat program held by Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in 2018, University Hospital's community relations department saw that the wellness summit and See, Test & Treat would complement each other.

Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji, assistant professor, Department

Top: See, Test & Treat Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.
Bottom right: See, Test & Treat White Plains Hospital.

of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health, and Debra Heller, MD, FCAP, lead pathologist and professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, worked with community relations to incorporate See, Test & Treat into the summit. The programs merged and about 20 women received Pap tests and screening mammograms from volunteer providers dedicated to supporting See, Test & Treat on that day.

Participants found the summit and the cancer screening worthwhile.

"Health is important," said Denise, a wellness summit attendee and See, Test & Treat patient. "In order to take care of your family, you have to take care of yourself first. We should encourage other women and family members to do the same."

Several See, Test & Treat programs recently have been coordinating with health fairs at such locations as



NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Hampton Roads Community Health Center in Portsmouth, Virginia; and White Plains Hospital in White Plains, New York. But the Women's Wellness Summit in Newark was unique—it featured a series of lectures from experts in their fields.

Collaborative projects between large institutions such as Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Newark of Board of Education can also be effective in strengthening local systems, leading to long-term collaboration and positive impact on the surrounding communities.

Funding opportunities for CAP members: Applications for 2020 See, Test & Treat program grants are accepted June 17 through August 30, 2019. Learn more at: foundation.cap.org/what-we-fund or contact capfdn@cap.org.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

You Don't See a Problem, You See a Patient

It all started in a coroner's office. Early in my development I was exposed to autopsies and I was fascinated. My curiosity and my penchant for problem-solving lured me to the House of Medicine.

This edition of the Foundation newsletter seeks to answer a seemingly simple question: Why pathology? But the answer may be complex. You and your fellow CAP members draw inspiration from diverse experiences, various medical school environments, or perhaps by a practitioner whom you admired.

As the first person in my family to become a physician, or for that matter, a health care professional of any kind, I drew my inspiration in the coroner's office and was attracted to medicine. Early on, I realized that in determining a cause of death, pathologists assemble complex puzzles.

With pathology as my goal, I took full advantage of the curriculum at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. I got a little sidetracked when my academic advisor, the chairman of surgery, took me under his wing and convinced me that I should be a surgeon. He was convincing enough that I started a general surgery residency after graduation.

During my internship I realized that pathology was not only my first love,

but also my calling. I then went to the University of California Davis for my pathology residency and fellowship. I feel that my year of surgery only served to enhance my abilities as a pathologist.

Like many of you, I am a (compulsive) problem solver at heart, constantly finding intellectual stimulation in every single case. At the same time, I have learned that you don't see a problem on a slide, you see a patient.

I believe that you and I went into medicine to make a difference, to help save lives, to treat disease, and to help people become whole again. Together, we can and should be proud of our work in the laboratory and in the health care community at large.

The CAP Foundation provides opportunities for leadership and mentorship. Help me spread the word about the Foundation's good work. Apply for a grant to lead a See, Test & Treat program in your institution. Encourage a medical student to consider going into pathology. Or make a donation to help further our mission.

We pathologists play a critical role in health care team. My early days in the coroner's office taught me that we play an important role, not only in society, but in the entire health care community.

Spread the Word

Follow the Foundation, keep track of our updated See, Test & Treat program schedule, and help share our stories with the hashtag #CAPFoundation or #SeeTestTreat.



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Mission

The CAP Foundation delivers charitable funding to improve patient care by:

- Mobilizing pathologists to lead cancer screening, diagnosis, and access to care in underserved communities.
- Awarding scholarships for training, research, and leadership to help prepare the pathologist leaders of tomorrow.



Our 2018 Annual Report is available at
foundation.cap.org/our-impact.