



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

FOUNDATION

2023 SUMMER MEMBER
NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRESIDENT

More Awards and Grants, More Impact on Pathology and Patients

While we've been tempted to settle into the lazy days of summer, the CAP Foundation has been busier than ever as we are on track to provide the highest number of awards and grants in a single year for 2023. As part of the Foundation's global initiatives, 60 Global Pathology Education Awards will be honored (read more in the global pathology article in this newsletter) in addition to our 50 other grants and awards.

These awards for medical students, residents, and pathologists will bolster leadership, provide individual education, improve laboratory quality, create research opportunities, and support health equity. They will not only impact individual awardees and their careers, but also help ensure a strong, diverse, and reliable future for the specialty.

In addition to our longstanding awards focused on leadership, the CAP Foundation partnered with likeminded organizations to create three new award and grant opportunities in 2023 that specifically target different areas of focus in pathology.

The Forensic Pathology Advanced Training Grant, which is dedicated to the memory of Beth Frost, DO, FCAP, aims to bolster the number of forensic pathologists in the US by providing CAP Junior Members an introduction to the subspecialty with a four-week rotation at a medical examiner office. With support from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the National Association of Medical Examiners, two deserving pathologists will attend their rotations later this year.

Also new in 2023—with support from

Eli Lilly and Company and Loxo@Lilly—are the Clinical Laboratory Investigator Award and the Genomic Testing Process Improvement Award. The first provides CAP Junior Members with a four-week rotation to participate in research projects focused on improving the discovery, quality, and delivery of novel biomarker assays for use in clinical studies. The second offers both CAP Fellows and Junior Members the opportunity to fund genomic testing process improvement projects at their laboratories. All three of these new awards work together to address unique issues impacting pathology,

Not only does the CAP Foundation work to support pathologists and the future of the specialty, but we also make a direct impact on patients. There have been five See, Test & Treat programs so far this year, with another eight scheduled.

Through these programs an estimated 700 patients will receive free breast and cervical cancer screening, among other health and social services. The CAP Foundation is currently accepting grant applications to host a See, Test & Treat program in 2024, so be sure to speak to your colleagues and submit your application by September 1, 2023.

The CAP Foundation is extremely proud of this program and we're thankful to the hundreds of volunteers and supporters who make it possible.

While there are over a dozen pathologists who lead See, Test & Treat programs every year, and an innumerable amount who work every day for the betterment of patient care, we're very excited to honor one pathologist

who has gone above and beyond to make a lasting impact on the See, Test & Treat program. We're happy to honor Varsha Manucha, MD, FCAP, with this year's Gene and Jean Herbek Humanitarian Award and welcome you to celebrate with us at the CAP23 annual meeting.

The CAP Foundation will thank our supporters with a special celebration during CAP23 on October 9 in Chicago. "Broadway and Blues Night"—sponsored by Loxo@Lily—will bring the fun and funk to the House of Blues with a special performance from Hamilton cast members, live Chicago blues, and great food and cocktails. We can't wait to see you there, so be sure to get your tickets when you [register for the annual meeting](#).

Thank you again for your support of the CAP Foundation. Without you, we couldn't have provided these unique programs that work to support patient care and health equity through laboratory medicine.

Sincerely,

Eva M. Wojcik, MD, FCAP
President, CAP Foundation



Eva M. Wojcik, MD, FCAP

Breast Cancer Survivor Reflects on Cambridge See, Test & Treat



Diane Duggan was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021 at See, Test & Treat.

Diane Duggan, a 47-year-old living in the Boston area, spent nearly 30 years as a childcare provider, looking after the needs of children and being an integral part of their families' homes. Unfortunately, due to a lack of insurance and other barriers to care, Diane had no health care home of her own.

That is, before she was connected with services through CAP Foundation See, Test & Treat® and Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), a health care system serving the communities just north of Boston.

Still in the throes of the pandemic in 2020, Diane said she delayed finding a primary care provider but received a call from CHA in September 2021 asking if she'd like to sign up for their See, Test & Treat program in October of that year. The program would provide free breast and cervical cancer screening among other services.

"And I thought, 'Oh my gosh yes, I definitely would,'" Diane said. "A friend of mine had just been diagnosed with stage four breast cancer ... and it was really shocking."

Welcomed at See, Test & Treat

Diane explained that she was not quite sure what to expect before attending the See, Test & Treat program, but

several of her close friends had recently gone through health scares and it seemed like a good idea to take advantage of the free screenings.

"I showed up and it was a sea of volunteers in these great, bright T-shirts, the friendliest people I've ever met in my life who were just so kind, so just willing to help you," Diane said of her experience at the CHA See, Test & Treat.

She added, "You can talk to anyone about anything—they helped me get insurance that day."

The services offered at See, Test & Treat vary between location, but the majority of host institutions partner with other onsite departments or local nonprofits to provide a variety of health, social, and educational services. Not only was Diane able to be screened for breast and cervical cancer, but CHA financial services professionals helped her find an insurance plan that would work for her and become a regular patient at CHA for scheduled exams, mental health services, and more.

Diane explained that while she was a little nervous about the results of her screening, she came away from the event with a sense of relief and optimism. She had done self-checks at home, but had never received a mammogram, she said. The US Preventive Services Task Force recently updated their guidelines to recommend women start being screened for breast cancer at the age of 40.

She said, "I left there just so filled with happiness, which was crazy because I just left a doctor's office."

Timely Diagnosis and Treatment

Fortunately, Diane had not waited any longer to be screened, as the clinicians at CHA reported seeing microcalcifications in her mammogram that would require a biopsy.

In early November 2021, Diane was diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), which is one of the more

common—and thankfully treatable—forms of breast cancer. While there were cancer cells present, doctors were confident that the disease had not yet spread beyond the walls of the ducts into breast tissue.

"Without this program, many underserved or uninsured women may not have had the chance to have breast and cervical cancer screening and the opportunity for early detection of common cancers."

"I know that it was handled very well, and I felt very confident after receiving the news," Diane said. "I felt like OK there's a plan in place, they know what they're doing. I just have to show up and everything will be OK."

Clinicians at CHA got to work building a treatment plan, which would consist of a lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy.

Continued on inside spread



A laboratory volunteer conducts testing at the Cambridge Health Alliance See, Test & Treat program.

Breast Cancer Survivor Reflects (cont.)

After a lumpectomy in mid-December 2021, no invasive carcinoma was found. Diane said, “I felt elated that it was out of my body, and I was ready for the next phase of [treatment].”

From here, clinicians continued with 20 rounds of radiation therapy over four weeks. The treatment course was set, and Diane completed her radiation therapy several months later after which her cancer was deemed to be in remission.

Diane remembers receiving a holiday card from her care team in the months after her treatment. “It felt to me like I was a celebrity,” she said. “For the first time in my health care experience, I didn’t feel like a second-class citizen because I didn’t have insurance and I didn’t have primary care.”

Rebecca Osgood, MD, FCAP, lead pathologist for the CHA See, Test & Treat program, said, “Without this program, many underserved or uninsured women may not have had the chance to have breast and cervical cancer screening and the opportunity for early detection of common cancers.”

Regular Screening and Family History

Despite her scares and successes with

her breast cancer diagnosis, in many ways Diane’s health care journey was now truly beginning. She receives a screening every six months to help ensure her cancer does not return, but she can now also take comfort in a health care home.

“I want to take care of this body that’s taken care of me, because without it I’m nothing,” Diane explained and said prior to this experience she would often put work and other concerns over her own needs.

Through the services she receives through CHA and her new health insurance, Diane regularly sees a primary care physician instead of only visiting an emergency room or clinic when she’s feeling extremely sick.

Also, she’s been able to better process her experience with cancer through mental health services offered through CHA in which counselors helped work through fears and anxieties following her illness.

Finally, she learned key information about her genetic makeup and family history that helped explain her cancer diagnosis. Genetic testing discovered a CHEK2 mutation, which can mean

a predisposition to these types of cancers. Upon this discovery, Diane is undergoing high-risk screening for recurrent breast cancer through alternating mammogram and breast MRI every six months.

Diane said she wants to be an advocate for other women who may face barriers to care or may not know the risks of not seeking regular health care and screening.

“I’ve realized going through this program, people die from undiagnosed cancer,” she said. “The most early detected cancers are now treatable.”

If you are interested in hosting a See, Test & Treat program at your health care institution in 2024, the CAP Foundation will accept applications until September 1, 2023.

Special thanks to Rebecca Osgood, MD, FCAP, who is the lead pathologist for Cambridge Health Alliance See, Test & Treat and interviewed Diane Duggan for this article.



Volunteers at the October 2021 Cambridge Health Alliance See, Test & Treat program.



CAP Foundation Expands Impact Globally



Manisha Shrestha, MD, a 2021 recipient of the Global Pathology Education Award.

For over a decade the CAP Foundation has worked to improve health equity across the United States through its See, Test & Treat® program by providing essential screening and health services to medically underserved communities. And for many years, the Foundation has directly supported early-career pathologists and medical students with leadership and educational opportunities to help develop the future leaders of the specialty.

While the CAP Foundation continues to broaden the reach of these programs, the organization and its supporters have set their sights on expanding beyond the US horizon.

Beginning in 2020 with the [establishment of the Global Pathology Fund](#) from supporter and Board of Directors member Gerald R. Hanson, MD, FCAP, the CAP Foundation has been moving forward with programs and plans to provide pathology-focused assistance in under-resourced countries around the world.

“Even though we’ve been working with a relatively small budget, we’ve had a lot of great applicants and still been able to make a big impact.”

“We live in a global community and as pathologists we understand the importance of an accurate and prompt diagnosis in the care and well-being of each person in need of our services whether they reside in our city, state, country, or around the globe,” explains Gail H. Vance, MD, FCAP, chair of the CAP Foundation Global Pathology Committee. “The CAP Foundation saw an opportunity to expand global pathology capacity and achieve equity in global health and we took it.”

Thanks to the continuing commitment of the CAP Foundation Global Pathology Committee, the initiative has made significant strides by founding and then expanding both the Global Pathology Development Grant (previously titled the Global Pathology Award) and the Global Pathology Education Award.

Dr. Vance said these awards and the initiatives they fund were planned to address different areas while reaching the same goal. “For our global pathology initiatives, each program works to strengthen the next one providing synergy and sustainability of our efforts,” she said.

The [Global Pathology Development Grant](#), now in its second year, provides funding to support impactful, sustainable projects that develop and expand the delivery of pathology services in medically under-resourced countries. This may be achieved through education and training or projects and initiatives that impact patient care, laboratory quality, or enhanced technology and laboratory diagnostics.

In 2022, the CAP Foundation received two dozen applications for Global Pathology Development Grants representing pathology and laboratory medicine initiatives in 14 countries.

“Even though we’ve been working with a relatively small budget, we’ve had a lot of great applicants and still been able to make a big impact,” said Julia Rankenburg, senior manager of programs and fund administration with the CAP Foundation.

Three awards were given to improve care and pathology services in Ghana, Ethiopia, and Vietnam with projects over a wide area of pathology and laboratory medicine, but all directly improving patient care.

The University of Health and Allied Sciences is using the funds to develop

a program to characterize isolates of the *Candida* species to tackle antimicrobial resistance in Ghana. The Open Pathology Education Network is developing a platform for the delivery of pathology education in Vietnam, initially targeting bladder cancer and gynecological pathology. Lastly, the Beckman Research Institute City of Hope is developing a teaching manual for immunohistochemistry to determine receptor status of breast cancer tissue in Ethiopia.

The [Global Pathology Education Award](#), now in its third year, supports pathologists outside the US with virtual attendance at CAP annual meetings to attend educational sessions and offers the opportunity to apply for one year of complimentary International Fellow CAP membership.

The award has grown significantly since its inception in 2020. As part of a pilot of the new award in 2020, three awards were given to practicing pathologists in three different

countries. Word spread in 2021 and 27 applicants from 10 countries applied for the award—the Foundation was able to fund 10 awards. The enthusiastic response continued in 2022, resulting in 35 applications received from 10 countries—15 awards were bestowed.

In feedback to the CAP Foundation, all awardees who attended the annual meeting stated they will make changes to testing and personnel management based on what they learned through virtual education sessions. That sentiment is backed by direct testimonials from awardees.

“Coming from a developing country in South Asia, I do not get exposure to new technology or best lab practices,” said Daisy Maharjan, MD, who practices in Nepal. “This meeting will aid in my mission to improve the quality of laboratory services in this hospital and continue to make an impact on patients' lives.”

The committee is currently developing new programs and awards, as well as helpful resources for pathologists everywhere. This includes education around the CAP cancer reporting protocols in the form of webinars, which was pursued after the committee learned that practicing pathologists in low-resource countries have access to the cancer reporting protocols but may not know fully how to use them.

This further solidified the idea to offer webinars that will provide more basic education on implementing protocols as well as Q&A sessions to learn more about what barriers international laboratories may be facing. Webinars and other resources specifically tailored to international pathologists will help implement a higher level of quality in pathology laboratories everywhere.

Submit Your Grant Applications for See, Test & Treat

The CAP Foundation's request for applications for 2024 See, Test & Treat programs is open now until September 1, 2023. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind, pathologist-led community health event. Talk to your institution about highlighting your care team and making an impact with free cervical and breast cancer screenings alongside other social and health services.

Visit foundation.cap.org/what-we-fund/see-test-treat/ to learn more and apply.

The CAP Foundation would like to thank the individual donors and corporate partners that make pledges of support to these programs. Their generous support will help lead the CAP Foundation into the future.



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