



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

FOUNDATION

2023 WINTER MEMBER
NEWSLETTER



Dr. Wojcik thanks Bryce Portier, MD, PhD, associate vice president of clinical diagnostics at Loxo@Lilly, for their support of the CAP Foundation at Broadway & Blues Night in Chicago.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrating the Foundation and its Supporters this Giving Season

Thanks to supporters like you, the CAP Foundation is finishing 2023 with a lot to be proud of: we distributed the most awards and grants in a single year while continuing to deliver pathologist-led, free health care through See, Test & Treat.

In our continued effort to improve health care equity in the United States and abroad, the CAP Foundation provided 60 Global Pathology Education Awards to international pathologists, which gave them virtual access to top education opportunities at the CAP23 annual meeting.

The 50 other awards and grants provided pathologists, residents, and medical students with unparalleled opportunities to learn about the specialty and its most important issues while developing leadership skills, making connections, and gaining hands-on experience.

We also developed several new awards and grants, most recently the Sparking Interest in Pathology Award, which encourages medical students to acquaint and inspire their colleagues to pursue a career in pathology through guest lectures, networking events, education, and more. Creating pathology

communities for medical students helps build an engaged group of future leaders for the medical laboratory.

The CAP Foundation partnered with 12 health care institutions across the United States in 2023 to host See, Test & Treat programs. Initial data show that these events had the highest patient cancer screening rates since the onset of the pandemic, showing that these programs are helping improve health in underserved communities.

I hope you were one of the 150 Foundation (and *Hamilton*) fans who were able to celebrate our successful year at our Broadway & Blues Night during the CAP23 annual meeting! It was so wonderful to see all of you at a special evening of great music, food, and friends to benefit our cause.

I'm already looking forward to next year, so get ready for a good time with the Foundation while you're in Las Vegas for the CAP24 annual meeting. Since we sold out this year, we'll be sure to make announcements early!

On behalf of the CAP Foundation Board and staff, we are extremely grateful for the support of our individual donors and corporate sponsors. Our success is because of you.

During this season of giving, we hope you will continue to support the mission of the Foundation so that we can continue to empower pathologists to be at the forefront of patient-centered care.

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement with the CAP Foundation. We'll speak again in the new year!

Sincerely,

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



Eva M. Wojcik, MD, FCAP

Grant Funds Pathologists' COVID Research



Brad S. Karon, MD, PhD, FCAP

In the spring of 2020, medical laboratories across the US were overwhelmed as they tried to implement reliable and effective solutions to meet the demand for COVID-19 testing. The CAP Foundation helped fund research for pathologists to conduct key research that would ultimately lead to better results for patients. Highlighted below are two pathologist grant recipients and their research initiatives.

Variability Specifications for Rapid COVID Tests

As diagnostic companies rushed to manufacture and distribute much needed tests for COVID-19, pathologists and other researchers needed to investigate the reliability, variability, and accuracy of these new tests. Brad S. Karon, MD, PhD, FCAP, of the Mayo Clinic, had the background to lead an innovation group to evaluate rapid and point-of-care tests for the novel coronavirus.

"I have extensive expertise evaluating new point-of-care diagnostic tests but

began to interact with many new diagnostic companies that were making rapid or point-of-care molecular tests for COVID-19 as their first diagnostic test available in US," Dr. Karon explained.

Dr. Karon and his laboratory team noticed high variability among different cards and reagents for tests, which is usually a major source of error, he explained. To help address the issue, researchers wanted to combine user feedback on test performance with raw data from users—as opposed to internal testing in a controlled environment—which could aid vendors who were still working to develop and improve tests.

As the team examined the data, they recorded a very high rate of invalid results at 44% reportedly due to issues with the design of the test card, instrument, and software algorithm. Dr. Karon explained that eventually the company redesigned the card port for better sample flow, the fluidics in the card to promote filling of sample wells, the software algorithm to reduce false positives due to wells not filling, and the instrument design to avoid dust build-up on instrument optics.

Thanks in part to funding from the CAP Foundation, Dr. Karon and his team at Mayo Clinic were able to not only improve test performance but also provide a framework for other researchers.

He said, "We hope the study will serve as a template for how point-of-care programs and laboratories can interact with test developers to improve new diagnostic tests during pandemics and in other situations ..."

Informatics Analysis of COVID Serology and Severity

Wade L. Schulz, MD, PhD, FCAP, received a Rippey Grant from the CAP Foundation in 2020 as he recognized research potential during the COVID-19 pandemic that could help determine the performance of testing assays.

"Most recently, my research has focused on the use of real-world data to identify appropriate patient cohorts to be used in outcomes research," Dr. Schulz said. "This proposal allowed us to integrate real-world data along with protocol-driven research to assess the performance of SARS-CoV-2 serology in a longitudinal population."

The project eventually provided Dr. Schulz and his colleagues at Yale School of Medicine with insights that informed their decision to select the right single platform for COVID-19 serologic testing while also validating a series of other assays and their performance—they ultimately decided on the Roche assay but confirmed the two others under review from Disaorin and Euroimmun both achieved good performance.

Dr. Schulz said their proposal provides several takeaways for pathologists and other laboratory professionals. It serves as a reminder that using an informatics-based approach to identify clinical specimens is an effective method for the rapid validation of clinical assays.

He added, "Real-world performance can provide valuable insights into assessing the ongoing performance of these assays but has limitations in terms of inter-assay performance once a laboratory begins to standardize on a single platform."

Dr. Schulz' methods may require further refinement like natural language processing and refined cohort definitions, but the study's outcomes continue to be valuable in their laboratories.

He said, "We have continued to use our informatics-based approach for identifying appropriate individuals to validate multiple clinical assays based on the insights gained from this project."

Learn more about the other awards and grants funded by the CAP Foundation and find out how you can support these initiatives at foundation.cap.org/what-



Wade L. Schulz, MD, PhD, FCAP

Snapshots from 'Broadway & Blues'

On October 9 during the CAP23 annual meeting in Chicago, the Foundation hosted "Broadway & Blues Night" featuring cast performances from the hit Broadway musical Hamilton and a live blues band not to mention great food, drinks, and company. Over 150 CAP members, supporters, staff, and their families attended the sold-out event at the House of Blues. We'll see you at our CAP24 event in Las Vegas on Friday, October 18—stay tuned for more details!





Leaving a Legacy with See, Test & Treat

Over six years ago, my colleague John Baker, MD, FCAP, asked me to volunteer for an upcoming See, Test, and Treat program at Charles Drew Health Center in Omaha. I had heard about the program and respected its goal to deliver free cancer screenings to uninsured and medically underserved patients.

However, it wasn't until the day of the event that I really understood how special the See, Test & Treat program was. Not only for the patients who receive essential care, but for me and my fellow pathologists, clinicians, and volunteers.

I felt an immediate connection with the community when I spoke to a group of Hispanic women. They had many health questions, which I was able to answer in Spanish. It was gratifying to see how comfortable they were, knowing they could relate to a doctor who shared their culture.

We as pathologists do not always have the opportunity to meet our patients or see the direct impact of our work, but See, Test & Treat helps raise our visibility in the community and at our institutions.

It was also at that 2017 See, Test & Treat program that I was introduced to Gene Herbek, MD, FCAP, who founded the program in 2001. I quickly recognized him as not only a leader in pathology and advocate for the underserved, but as a friend and mentor. While we lost Dr. Herbek in 2020, his legacy lives on in See, Test & Treat, as well as with the many people he inspired throughout his life. It was an honor to have worked with such an inspirational man.

I'm so thankful that first Dr. Baker and then Dr. Herbek introduced me to this program back in 2017. I've been volunteering—eventually leading, See, Test & Treat programs—ever since.

In that time, we've provided hundreds of



Gene Herbek, MD, FCAP, (second from left) and Ana Yuil-Valdes, MD, FCAP, (middle) with See, Test & Treat volunteers at Charles Drew Health Center in Omaha.

patients with not only free cervical and breast cancer screening, but with health education, social programs, and introductions into their communities of care.

Every year, the CAP Foundation is able to partner with health institutions across the country to reach over 600 patients who need care. We would like to increase the reach and impact of this program in medically underserved communities.

However, to keep serving patients we need your donations and support.

Please consider supporting the CAP Foundation and its See, Test & Treat program to help ensure many more years of programs with many more patients served.

The See, Test & Treat program has significantly impacted my personal and professional life. Giving back to my community and witnessing the joy of patients receiving personalized attention and care has been a truly gratifying experience.

It is crucial to maintain the legacy of Dr. Herbek and continue supporting at-risk medical communities through the See, Test & Treat program. I hope you'll join me.

Sincerely,
Ana Yuil-Valdes, MD, FCAP

Donate Before the New Year

There are only a few short weeks before 2024! Be sure to make your tax-deductible donation to the CAP Foundation before December 31 and finish the year strong by supporting pathologists and patients.

Visit foundation.cap.org to learn more and donate. Contact Ranya Gabb, operations manager, at rgabb@cap.org with questions.



Ana Yuil-Valdes, MD, FCAP

Three Ways to Help the CAP Foundation Help Pathologists

- Serve as a grant reviewer
- Mentor a pathology resident
- Apply for a CAP Foundation grant or award

Learn more at foundation.cap.org or contact Julia Rankenburg at jranken@cap.org or 1-847-832-7931.



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