



Highlights of the 57th Annual Scientific Meeting

Ritu Nayar, M.D., Chair
Scientific Program Committee

The 57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Cytopathology will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver November, 13-17, 2009.

The Scientific Program Committee thanks the membership for your valuable comments and feedback on last year's Annual Scientific Meeting - hearing your opinions helps us deliver a program that meets your needs. This year we have assembled an exciting program of scientific sessions, courses, workshops, panel luncheons, roundtable discussions and video microscopy tutorials that are aimed at improving diagnostic skills and keeping us updated with the new directions and changes that are affecting health care and our specialty.

As the traditional roles of cytotechnologists and cytopathologists are changing, where will their role in the delivery of patient care be in the future? We are honored to have *Jared N. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D.*, current President of the College of American Pathologists as our *New Frontiers Speaker*, address the Society on the "Impact of Emerging Technologies on the Future of Cytology-Opportunities and Risks."

Informatics (the science of information) has had a significant impact in our daily lives. In our *New Innovations & Trends* session, "The Cytopathology & Informatics Partnership: Current and Future Roles of Informatics in

Cytopathology," moderated by *Kalyani Naik, M.S., SCT(ASCP)*, with panelists *Bruce A. Freidman, M.D.* and *Liron Pantanowitz, M.D.*, will discuss potential ways in which our laboratory information systems and digital imaging might help us meet the challenge of redefining our professional roles as the practice of cytopathology continues to evolve.

As cytologists we look at cells to determine if they may be cancerous. To understand oncogenesis and to develop ways to treat cancers, it is necessary to study the differences between the inner-workings of normal and transformed

cells. Changes in nuclear organization have long been used as markers for the identification of cancer cells. *David L. Spector, Ph.D.* will deliver the **2009 ASC Keynote Address** on "Visualizing the Dynamics of Gene Expression/Silencing in Living Cells." He will discuss the current understanding of nuclear organization and how this organization impacts gene expression and the development of a cell system that allows the direct visualization of gene expression in living cells. Understanding the *in vivo* dynamics of gene expression will provide the basis from which to elucidate spatial and/or temporal alterations that occur in association with various disease states.

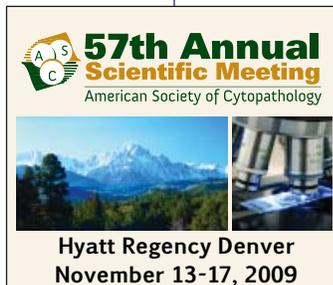
Accurate classification of urothelial



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lesions by cytopathologists continues to elude us, creating frustration for the surgeon and anxiety for the patient. *Dorothy L. Rosenthal, M.D., FIAC* will

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moderate the *State of the Art Symposium* with the aim of “Demystifying Urothelial Cytodiagnosis.” She has assembled an outstanding panel of speakers including *Leopold G. Koss, M.D. (by video tape)*, *Victor E. Reuter, M.D.*, *Jean B. deKernion, M.D.* and *Angelo M. De Marzo, M.D., Ph.D.* This Symposium will present the current cytologic situation, which depends predominantly upon morphology. Resolution of an abnormal cytologic sample is the job of the surgical pathologist, but such is not an easy task. Faced with such uncertainty, a urologic surgeon will describe how he balances the reality of pathology interpretations with management of his patient both for screening and for post-treatment monitoring. Each of the panelists will outline their specialty’s unmet needs. With the stage thereby set, the new world of molecular diagnostics will be explored. After you attend this session, you may not look at urines the same way again!

As a result of an impending cytotechnologist (CT) shortage and cost saving incentives, there is growing pressure on labs to increase CT screening productivity. This may be accomplished by reducing QA/QC measures to a minimum or imposing pre-determined productivity expectations. Currently, there are no available guidelines for maximum CT productivity for image guided Pap test screening, except those cited by the manufacturers. Higher productivity may lead to an increased error rate, and CLIA-mandated quality measures, by themselves, may fail to detect poor CT performers. This will be the focus of this year’s *Current Issues in Cytology* session, “How Many Are Too Many? Cytotechnologist Workload Limits and Quality Indicators in the Age of Image Assisted Paps.” Moderated by *Tarik M. Elsheikh, M.D.*, leading experts in the field will share their views on the state of the CT profession, what constitutes a reasonable/realistic screening rate, and

minimal requirements for an effective QA/QC program. The panelists include *Ann T. Moriarty, M.D.*, *E. Blair Holladay, Ph.D.*, *SCT(ASCP)^{CM}*, *Fern S. Miller, M.S.M.*, *CT(ASCP)*, *Andrew A. Renshaw, M.D.*, and *R. Marshall Austin, M.D., Ph.D.* There will be ample opportunity for audience participation with questions, comments and rebuttals.

Dr. Syed Ali will moderate the ever-popular *Diagnostic Cytology Slide Seminar*. He has assembled an experienced group of cytologists to participate: *Shirley E. Greening, M.S., J.D.*, *CFIAC*, *William J. Frable, M.D.*,

Diane D. Davey, M.D. and *Thomas A. Bonfiglio, M.D.* As always, this promises to be a FUN way of learning how others approach a variety of cases. Selected images and case histories for this unknown case seminar will be available to view and diagnose on the ASC Web site (www.cytopathology.org) from September until November. The results will be compiled and presented during this Seminar. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this online activity, even if you are unable to attend the Meeting. All responses will be anonymous. You can participate individually or as a group and make it an enjoyable experience for all. The final diagnosis will be posted on the ASC Web site after the Annual Scientific Meeting.

This year, the Scientific Program Committee received 182 scientific abstracts - **136 posters and 14 platforms** have been scheduled for presentation by trainees, cytotechnologists and pathologists. Abstracts will be available on the ASC Web site as well as published in *Cancer Cytopathology*. All scientific session talks will also be available on the ASC Web site after the Meeting.

Since their debut in 2004, the 90-minute *Video Microscopy Tutorials (VMT)* have become one of the most popular learning formats at our Annual Scientific Meeting. For 2009, we are pleased to offer 30 VMT sessions,

distributed over the five days of the Meeting. Because of their limited capacity and intimate, yet informal format, these tutorials offer participants an opportunity to meet the experts face-to-face to see and discuss glass slides projected by state of the art digital equipment. Sign up early for these sessions! Five *Panel Luncheons* will be offered Saturday through Monday, and *Roundtable Discussions*, a new format introduced last year (eight tables/topics with nine people/table) will be offered on Monday. A total of 15 *Workshops*, each of two hours duration (without a break), will be presented in three sessions on Tuesday, concurrently with three sets of Tutorials.

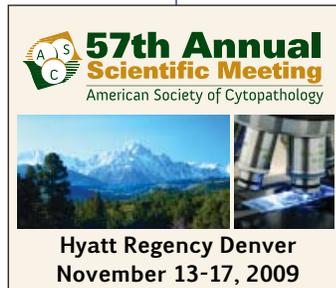
The two-part *Cytomorphology Special Course*, introduced in 2007 will be offered again this year with new topics/speakers and ample space. The course focuses on basic morphologic skills: Part 1 will cover exfoliative cytology topics and Part 2 FNA topics. The course will be moderated by *Dr. Richard DeMay* and the other experienced faculty include *Kristen Atkins, M.D.*, *Manon Auger, M.D.*, *F.R.C.P.(C)*, *Jamie L. Covell, B.S.*, *CT (ASCP)*, *Dina R. Mody, M.D.*, and *Gladwyn Leiman, M.D.*

In lieu of the 2009 Program Faculty Seminar (PFS), the Society will hold a 1.5 day summit on the *Future of Cytopathology*. The Summit will be held on November 12-13 at 7:30 a.m., prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting. Summit attendees will participate in group activities, facilitated by our consultant Jean Frankel and guided by a discussion paper currently under revision by the Multidisciplinary Steering Group, to develop possible answers to the following question:

What skills will be needed to support the practice of cytopathology in the future, and what kinds of professionals will be best suited to address these needs?

The goal of the Summit is to achieve a group consensus for the direction of

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our future development, which will be recommended to the ASC Executive Board for their review. The *State of the Society* at the Annual Meeting will be a summary of the findings from the Summit.

On a less scientific note, all registrants are invited to two *networking opportunities* this year. **The President's Welcome Reception** on Saturday, November 14th at 5:00 p.m. marks the official opening of the ASC Exhibits. Reconnect with colleagues and long-time friends as well as forge new friendships during this reception with our exhibitors. Based on the success the past two years, the ASC will once again host a **Wine & Cheese Social**, immediately following the Poster and Platform Presentation Awards on Monday,

November 16th at 5:15 p.m. Attend this elegant networking reception to commemorate your Meeting experience, mingle with other attendees and celebrate the professional achievements of our award winners, members and those who make the ASC what it is today!

This year, the Meeting begins on Thursday, November 12th, with the Future of Cytopathology Summit (limited capacity). Friday will

be a full day with the Cytomorphology Special Course, and VMT sessions. The Meeting ends at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday with workshops and VMTs. *Note that your basic registration fee gives you access to all six Scientific Sessions, Platform and Poster Presentations, and two networking social events.*



I'd like to extend my appreciation to the members of the *Scientific Program Committee* (Syed Ali, Kristen Atkins, Jill Caudill, Jamie Covell, Nirag Jhala, Aparna Mahajan, Kalyani Naik, and Eva Wojcik) and the *ASC National Office staff* (Elizabeth Jenkins, Christy Myers, Jodi Smith, JoAnn Jenkins, Deborah MacIntyre, and Toni Clark) for their efforts and enthusiasm towards assembling this exciting program and bringing it to fruition. And of course, many thanks to all the dedicated faculty/presenters who will contribute their time and expertise to the ASC's educational endeavors.

I look forward to seeing you in Denver - we intend to give you a great educational experience and also provide you with the ability to use your credits for continuing medical education and maintenance of certification. Registration information is available **now** on the ASC Web site. 





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