

The Bulletin

Volume XLVII | Number 1

JANUARY 2010

THE ASC BULLETIN® IS PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY



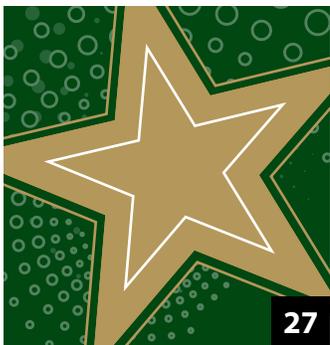
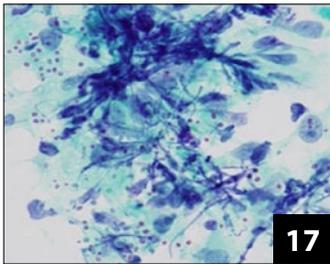
Comments from the Editor, ex-officio	7
57th Annual Scientific Meeting	10
Reminder for all 57th Annual Meeting Registrants	16
Case Study	17
Executive Board and Officers	18
ASC Executive Board Report	19
2010 ASC Awards Call for Nominations	21
Call for Nominations: Executive Board and Officers	22
Views from the Summit	23
The ASC Foundation Column	26
Make a Star of Your Mentor	27
57th Annual Scientific Meeting Corporate Partners	29
2009 Advocacy Auction Wrap-up	30
Cytoteleconference Series	32
Book Review	33
News from the ASCP Board of Certification	34
Forthcoming Events	37

It is a great privilege and honor to serve as President of the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), an organization that I joined during my fellowship thirty years ago and one that has been a great part of my professional life ever since. The ASC has evolved during the past three decades from predominantly an educational society to one that is involved in every aspect of cytopathology and cytotechnology professions. Our 25 committees and task forces are actively involved in educational programs, organizing the Annual Scientific Meeting, monitoring governmental policies, establishing liaisons with other professional organizations, supporting cytotechnology schools, fundraising and awarding research grants, and shaping the future of our profession.

Unquestionably, the most important issue facing our Society is the future of our profession, particularly cytotechnology. Automated screening, HPV testing, HPV vaccination and changing cervical cancer screening guidelines are expected to result in fewer Pap tests and a decline in demand for cytotechnologists. This has led to the closure of some cytotechnology schools and the potential for closures of a few others. In the meantime, advances in ancillary tests, particularly molecular techniques, have opened new opportunities for cytotechnologists. Rapid and decisive actions



**Hormoz Ehya, M.D.,
President**



Contents

- 1 Message from the President**
Dealing with the future of our profession
- 7 Comments from the Editor, ex-officio**
Donna Russell introduces the new *Bulletin* Editor
- 8 Moving forward...**
Comments from the New Editor
- 10 57th Annual Scientific Meeting**
Awards and Honors
- 16 Reminder for all 57th Annual Scientific Meeting registrants**
- 17 Case Study**
Ultrasound-guided Fine Needle Aspiration of Left Neck Lymph Node
- 18 Executive Board and Officers 2009-2010**
- 19 ASC Executive Board Report**
A review of the Executive Board Meeting during the Annual Scientific Meeting
- 21 2010 ASC Awards Call for Nominations**
- 22 Call for Nominations: Executive Board and Officers**
Nominations should be submitted by February 28, 2010
- 23 Views from the Summit**
A summary of the Future of Cytopathology Summit
- 25 Invitation to Apply for Geraldine Colby Zeiler Awards for Cytotechnology Students**
- 26 The ASC Foundation Column**
Expanding the role to emphasize the global impact of our field
- 27 Make a Star of Your Mentor**
- 29 57th Annual Scientific Meeting Corporate Partners**
- 30 2009 Advocacy Auction Wrap-up**
Call for Presentations
Call for Abstracts
- 32 Cytoteleconference Series 2010-2011**
- 33 Book Review**
ASCP Quick Compendium Companion
for Molecular Pathology
- 34 News from the ASCP Board of Certification**
ASCP BOR and NCA form a single certification agency
- 37 Forthcoming Events**

are necessary to cope with market forces and adjust to the changes in diagnostic pathology.

A few years ago, the ASC embarked upon a new initiative to identify these factors and prepare the profession for the future. These efforts led to the recent “Future of Cytopathology Summit” that was held in conjunction with our Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Many of the cytotechnology and cytopathology leaders took part in this two-day event. Presidents of five other professional organizations (American Society for Cytotechnology [ASCT], American Society of Clinical Pathologists [ASCP], Association of Molecular Pathology [AMP], College of American Pathologists [CAP], and the Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology [PSC]) attended the Summit and participated in deliberations. The “Future of Cytopathology Steering Group” led by Dr. Barbara Crothers and Ms. Lynnette Savaloja did an admirable job organizing the Summit, which was moderated by our professional consultant, Ms. Jean Frankel. The Steering Group will tabulate and summarize the Summit recommendations in the next few weeks and present them to the Executive Board. After approval by the Board, the product will be referred to a new task force, which will take a comprehensive look at the implications of the Summit recommendations. The Future of Cytopathology Task Force co-chaired by two of our well respected leaders, Dr. George Birdsong and Ms. Sue Zaleski, will evaluate the recommendations in terms of licensing, regulatory and reimbursement issues, educational implications, as well as laboratory error and patient safety factors. The task force will establish liaisons with other pathology and cytotechnology organizations to seek their input and support for action. The task force will submit the final document to the Board, which will subsequently charge the Long Range Planning Committee with incorporating the recommendations into the Society’s Strategic Plan. We will keep the membership informed throughout this process by periodic articles in *The ASC Bulletin*.

While dealing with the future of our profession will have a high priority, there are other important issues that will keep the committees, the Board and me quite busy during my tenure. Two years ago, you honored me by your vote of confidence that resulted in my election to the highest office of this great Society. In my election statement, I made six pledges and now it is time for me to implement them. I will address these issues one by one:

- 1. Reform the leadership election process.** A decade ago changes in the Society bylaws led to democratization of our election process. However, in the past few years many of our members have expressed dissatisfaction with the process. A lack of transparency and perception of political considerations in the nominating process has disenfranchised some of our members. We must make every effort to ensure that the nominating system is fair, objective and transparent, and is based on a record of service and loyalty to the Society. I have formed a “President’s Advisory Panel” that is co-chaired by two of the most experienced and prominent members of our Society, Drs. Prabodh Gupta and Shirley Greening, and includes several other well-respected leaders. This panel, in collaboration with the Nominating Committee, will reassess our election system and make necessary recommendations to the Executive Board. In return, I ask the membership to take a more active role in choosing our leaders by participating in elections. This year only 16% of the eligible voters cast their ballots. We have made the voting process simple, quick and environmentally sound. It only takes a few minutes to log in to our Web site, read about the candidates and cast a vote. I hope a greater proportion of the membership participates in the election next year.

The Future of
Cytopathology Task
Force....will evaluate the
recommendations in terms
of licensing, regulatory
and reimbursement issues,
educational implications,
as well as laboratory error
and patient safety factors.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

To be successful in our educational and professional objectives we need close collaboration with other pathology and cytotechnology organizations that share our mission.

- 2. Promote closer ties with other societies.** To be successful in our educational and professional objectives we need close collaboration with other pathology and cytotechnology organizations that share our mission. Under the leadership of my predecessors, Drs. Dina Mody and Ann Moriarty, we have made great progress in this regard. The Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology presented a panel luncheon at our recent meeting in Denver. During the upcoming meeting of the US-Canadian Academy of Pathology, the ASC and PSC will present two joint companion symposia instead of competing with one another. In the past few years, the ASC and the International Academy of Cytology have held joint seminars at their respective scientific meetings. The recent Summit brought us together with CAP, ASCP, ASCT and PSC to exchange ideas. We will make every effort to expand these collaborations. We will continue to have a strong presence at the American Medical Association through our representatives to the House of Delegates (Drs. David Wilbur and Dina Mody), Relative Value Scale Update Committee (Dr. Margaret Neal) and CPT Advisory Committee (Dr. Carol Filomena).
- 3. Provide safeguards to prevent undue influence by commercial interests.** As a profession we are the beneficiary of the products of the industries that develop and manufacture our microscopes, reagents, staining machines, liquid-based technologies, computers, automated screeners, digital cameras, antibodies, molecular probes, etc. As a Society, we welcome the companies to our meetings and encourage their contributions to our Foundation. However, we must ensure that our policies, guidelines, recommendations and educational programs are not influenced by corporate donations. I will ask the “President’s Advisory Panel” and “Ethics and Conduct Committee” to review our conflict of interest policies and if necessary, make recommendations to strengthen the policies. I will also recommend to the Board the expansion of the Ethics and Conduct Committee’s charges to oversee compliance with our conflict of interest policies.
- 4. Discourage secrecy and encourage open communication with membership.** There is no room or reason for secrecy in a professional medical society such as ours. All members are entitled to know about all affairs of the Society. We will make every effort to keep an open communication channel between the member and the leadership. I will be available to discuss any Society issues with any members. We will use *The ASC Bulletin* and Listserv to communicate. I will ask the Scientific Program Committee and the National Office to look into the feasibility of including a town hall meeting during the Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston to provide a format for the members and officers to exchange ideas.
- 5. Improve the process of appointing chairs and members to key committees.** The success of our goals and objectives is mainly the result of hard work of the committee chairs and members. In order to maximize participation of our members in the Society affairs, I have tried to avoid appointing one person to more than one committee, with only a few exceptions when a member’s particular expertise is needed in more than one area. Committee chairs have been selected from those who have shown a record of excellent service and strong commitment to the Society. It is important to encourage our members to volunteer for committee work. We do have a committee resource database for members to put their names and interest on the list; however, I found the system less useful than anticipated. I will charge the National Office with creating a more dynamic volunteer resource system that allows the members to register their names and include a few

continued from page 4

important points about their experience. Also, the National Office will develop individual profiles to include the number of years one has been an ASC member, number of meetings attended, committees served and participation in education activities (presenting papers, lectures, workshops, etc.). These two resources will enable the future presidents to make better informed decisions when they make committee appointments.

- 6. Expand the opportunities to engage former leaders in the current affairs.** The knowledge and experience of the past leaders are the greatest assets of our Society. I have implemented new measures to increase the participation of our former presidents and Board members in Society activities. In addition to forming a new “President’s Advisory Panel,” I have included at least one former leader in each committee as chair, member or “Senior Advisor.” I am also planning to expand the agenda for our annual luncheon with Past Presidents and Cytotechnology Advisory Committee chairs. I do hope that my successors continue these initiatives in the future.

Education has always been one of the most important missions of our Society... the Executive Board approved the creation of a Continuing Education Oversight Committee to coordinate efforts among our education programs.

Our finances have not escaped the overall decline in the global economy. A significant reduction in our investment income, coupled with a lower Annual Scientific Meeting attendance, which mirrors that of other professional organizations, have resulted in a projected budget deficit in this fiscal year. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ed Cibas, and Executive Director, Ms. Beth Jenkins, will work closely with the Executive Board and the Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Dr. Michael Cohen, to reverse this trend.

A larger membership will strengthen our finances and our ability to achieve the Society’s mission. I am happy to report that under the leadership of Dr. Mary Schwartz, the Membership Committee succeeded in increasing our members for the first time in several years by implementing the “Member Get a Member Program.” We will need your help to make this effort even more successful. I invite you to be the ambassadors of your Society by contacting your friends, colleagues and trainees, informing them about the great educational programs our society offers, and encouraging them to join the ASC. If you are a laboratory director or supervisor, please try to convince your administrators to provide funds in the budget for your cytotechnologists’ membership, Annual Scientific Meeting attendance and subscription to our educational programs. Explain to them that there is no better investment for improving the quality of your laboratory’s patient care mission.

Education has always been one of the most important missions of our Society. In the past few years we have introduced new innovative programs to our Annual Scientific Meetings. We have also introduced new online educational programs such as Progressive Evaluation of Competency (PEC), Self-Assessment Modules (SAM) and eJournal Club. For the purpose of better cooperation and coordination of efforts among our educational programs, the Executive Board approved my proposal to create a Continuing Education Oversight Committee, chaired by Dr. Sana Tabbara and staffed by the chairs of four educational committees: Educational Planning, PEC, Cytoteleconference and eJournal. The chairs of Scientific Program Committee and Cytopathology Program Directors Committee will serve as ex-officio members.

The Board also approved the creation of a new Public Affairs Committee that is charged with promoting our profession and Society. The committee chair, Dr. Rosemary Zuna, and I will be open to suggestions and ideas from the membership.

While implementing all these initiatives in one year might seem too ambitious, I am confident that with the support of our highly competent and dedicated Board, committees and the National Office staff we will accomplish these goals.