The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) moved back to Orlando, Florida after four years for the 56th Annual Scientific Meeting at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa in the Walt Disney World® Resort. The hotel, conveniently located near Downtown Disney, provided an ideal environment for attendees to enjoy scientific sessions, microscopic tutorials, workshops, panel luncheon seminars, roundtable discussions, special courses, and social events throughout the five-day Meeting. ASC awards presentations were made throughout the Meeting at key venues.

Immediately following the State of the Society Address on Saturday, November 8th, ASC President Dina R. Mody, M.D. presented the Society’s most prestigious awards: President’s Award, Excellence in Education Award, Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement and Papanicolaou Award.

**President’s Award**

The President’s Award was established in 1992 and is presented annually to an ASC member. Selection of the recipient is at the discretion of the current ASC President, Dr. Dina Mody, who chose Barbara D. Benstein, Ph.D., SCT(ASCP)CM as the 2008 recipient. Dr. Benstein is Professor and Program Director of the Cytotechnology Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. She has been an ASC member for 30 years and served on numerous committees, notably as Chair of the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC) and as a member of the ASC Executive Board. She received the ASC Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1996 and the Excellence in Education Award in 1999. Throughout her career, Dr. Benstein has been active in numerous professional societies and presented workshops, teleconferences and lectures at state, regional and national meetings.

**Excellence in Education Award**

The Excellence in Education Award, established in 1998, is presented annually to a cytotechnologist or pathologist in recognition of meritorious service or accomplishment in the field of cytology education to include the education of cytotechnologists, pathology residents and/or cytopathology fellows. The recipient of the 2008 Award is Edmund S. Cibas, M.D.

As Director of Cytopathology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital since 1988, Dr. Cibas continues to build a legacy of excellence in teaching that has its roots in Boston but extends to the national and international level. He has taught short courses and workshops on a national level at professional societies and organizations throughout the United States, and since 1988 has directed the annual continuing medical education course, “Advances in Cytology,” which attracts an international audience. The son of Lithuanian immigrants, his teaching contributions extend to Lithuania where cervical cancer screening is still in development. He has visited cytopathology laboratories, delivered lectures on cervical cytology and established a continuing relationship with cytologists from Lithuania, many of whom have done visiting clerkships at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

**Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement**

The Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement, established in 1969, is presented annually to an ASC Cytotechnologist member. Selection of recipients is in recognition of meritorious service or accomplishments to the field of cytology. The 2008 recipient of the Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement is Donna K. Russell, M.S., CT(ASCP)HT.

Ms. Russell, a cytotechnologist and histotechnologist, is a Senior Cytotechnologist and Supervisor of the Cytopathology Residency Training Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, New York. She has been an active ASC member for 20 years, and currently is Editor of The ASC Bulletin and a member of the CPRC. She has co-authored or authored numerous sci-
cientific papers and publications, and has had prominent roles in other cytology organizations and presented numerous workshops, panel luncheons at regional and national meetings, and teleconferences in diagnostic cytopathology and other related topics.

The Papanicolaou Award

The Papanicolaou Award was established in 1958 and is the highest award given by the American Society of Cytopathology. It is presented annually to a physician or Ph.D. member in recognition of meritorious contributions in the field of cytology. This year the Papanicolaou Award recipient is Celeste N. Powers, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Powers is Professor and Chair of the Division of Anatomic Pathology at the Medical College of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been an active member of the ASC since 1989, and most notably was a member and officer of the Executive Board, culminating as President in 2004. Dr. Powers has been a regular presenter at most ASC Annual Scientific Meetings and teleconferences. She is also active in other professional organizations, including the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, serving as a member of the Executive Board of both organizations.

The ASC Foundation Awards

During the ASC State of the Society Address, Dr. Lydia Howell, ASC Foundation President, announced recipients of the ASC Foundation Awards: Cytotechnologist Scholarship, Patient Advocacy Grant, Cytopathology Research Seed Award, and the ASC Cervical Cytopathology and HPV Partnership Investigator Award.

The Cytotechnologist Scholarship

The ASC Foundation established this scholarship in 2004 to stimulate an interest in continuing education in the field of cytopathology, provide a venue for cytotechnologists to meet and interact with fellow cytotechnologists and cytopathologists, and foster the spirit of volunteerism within the American Society of Cytopathology. The $2,000 scholarships are awarded to Cytotechnologist ASC Members in their first or second year of the profession to defray costs to attend the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting. The following individuals are the 2008 recipients of the ASC Foundation Cytotechnologist Scholarship and will attend the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, Colorado:

- Xiaoyu Ding, M.S., CT(ASCP), Southeastern Pathology Associates, Brunswick, Georgia
- Angelean L. Etzel, CT(ASCP), University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin
- Katherine B. Mycek, CT(ASCP), University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Handy Oen, CT(ASCP), Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York
- Sara A. Olson, CT(ASCP), Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Howell introduced the 2007 Cytotechnologist Scholarship awardees, who were in attendance: Nicholas Hoover, CT(ASCP), Joshua Jeanty, CT(ASCP), Danling Jin, CT(ASCP) and Teresa Kologinczak, CT(ASCP).

Patient Advocacy Grant

The ASC Foundation Patient Advocacy Grant was initiated in 2006 and awards up to $5,000 to a qualified, ongoing or new project for advocacy efforts for patients with cervical and other gynecological cancers.

This year, two grants were awarded, each for $5,000. Bin Yang, M.D., Ph.D., from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, received a grant to provide Pap tests combined with HPV testing for an underserved and unscreened minority ethnic group in Guizhou, China. Allen C. Rinas, M.S., CT(ASCP), from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received a grant to provide cervical cancer screening and follow-up for underprivileged minority women in North Carolina.

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Cytopathology Research Seed Award

The ASC Foundation awards $30,000 to a qualified young cytopathologist profession, who is an ASC Member with no more than five years since completion of training, to conduct important research in cytopathology and attend the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting to present his or her data. The goal of this Award, which is presented every two years, is to stimulate innovative translational research using material obtained from routine cytology specimens with the aim of improving the quality of work done by cytologists, thereby enhancing patient care. This includes, but is not limited to, application of new technologies to cytopathology.

The 2008 recipient of the Cytopathology Research Seed Award is Bin Yang, M.D., Ph.D., from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for his proposed research plan, "Combined Genetic and Epigenetic Analyses for Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma in Fine Needle Aspiration Samples."

ASC Cervical Cytology and HPV Partnership Investigator Grant

The ASC Cervical Cytology and HPV Partnership Investigator Grant consists of a two-year $50,000 research award with $25,000 paid annually to the recipient. The Grant is designed to fund investigators in the discovery of new knowledge related to cervical cancer screening, and specifically to projects related to the clinical implementation of new cytoligical screening technology, HPV vaccine and/or HPV testing. Projects can involve health services or translational research, and those that apply existing technologies, procedures, and/or methods in an innovative technique are encouraged.

Ming Guo, M.D., from M.D. Anderson Cancer in Houston, Texas is the 2008 recipient for his research plan, "The Efficacy of the Selected HPV Genotyping in Predicting High-Grade Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia in Women with Pap Results of Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance (ASC-US), a Clinical Validation Study."

2008 Keynote Address, Guest Speaker and New Frontiers Lecture

Three highlighted areas of the Scientific Session this past year included the Keynote Address, Guest Speaker and New Frontiers Lecture.

The Keynote Address offers Meeting attendees the opportunity to hear first-hand insights and visions from a leader in the field of medicine. Douglas R. Lowy, M.D., received the Keynote Address Award. The topic of his Address, "HPV Vaccine: Past, Present and Future," focused on the strengths, limitations and implementation for the current vaccine, and described some candidate second generation vaccines that, if successful, may overcome some of the limitations of the current vaccine.

Dr. Lowy is the chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology in the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). His research includes papillomaviruses and the regulation of normal and neoplastic growth. The papillomavirus research is carried out in close collaboration with John Schiller, with whom he has co-authored more than 80 papers in the past 20 years. In the 1980s, he studied the genetic organization of papillomaviruses and identified the oncogenes encoded by the virus. More recently, he has worked on papillomavirus vaccines and the papillomavirus life cycle. His laboratory has been involved in the initial development, characterization, and clinical testing of the preventive virus-like particle-based HPV vaccines. It is for this body of work that Dr. Lowy and John Schiller received the 2007 Dorothy P. Landon-American Association for Cancer Research Prize for Translational Cancer Research.

Dr. Lowy is listed by the Institute for Scientific Information as one of the most highly cited authors in microbiology, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He received the 2007 Medal of Honor for basic research from the American Cancer Society. In addition, he and John Schiller received the Novartis Clinical Immunology Prize and were selected as the Federal Employees of the year by the Partnership for Public Service.

The Guest Speaker this year, Jeffrey L. Myers, M.D., participated as a panelist of the State of the Art Symposium, “Take a Deep Breath! Current Concepts in Lung Cancer,” before presenting his topic, “Innovation: Core Competency in Cytopathology.” Dr. Myers provided a
broad overview of how innovation, narrowly defined, can make a difference to your future in cytopathology.

Dr. Myers is the James French Professor and Director of the Division of Anatomic Pathology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His research reflects broad interests in diagnostic surgical pathology with a focus in non-neoplastic lung diseases. He has contributed over 100 publications to the peer reviewed literature, over a dozen book chapters, and is Co-Editor and author of a major textbook on lung pathology. Dr. Myers was a member of the Mayo Clinic staff where he served for nearly a decade as Chair of the Division of Anatomic Pathology.

Throughout his career, Dr. Myers has held various institutional and national leadership positions, and was the first Chair of the Mayo Clinic Innovation Work Group, a group charged with maximizing success in leveraging opportunities for innovation in health care. He also served as Chair of the Clinical Practice Innovation-10 program, a program focused on providing resources for clinically oriented innovation projects. He has served as a visiting professor and invited speaker on over 250 occasions including a number of presentations focusing on innovation as a core competency in medicine in general and pathology in particular. At Michigan he works closely with members of the College of Engineering and Pathology Data Systems to design new solutions for age-old problems in pathology practice.

The New Frontiers Lecture provides updates in the latest developments, which may come in the purview of the cytology professional. The 2008 New Frontiers Lecture recipient, Elliot K. Fishman, M.D., presented “3D Medial Imaging: An Interesting Journey,” that included his experience in the development of medical imaging from his work with Pixar, Silicon Graphics, and Siemens Medical Systems, and the role of medical imaging beyond “classic applications.”

Dr. Fishman is Professor of Radiology and Oncology, and Director of Diagnostic Radiology and Body Computed Tomography (CT) at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Fishman’s clinical and research interests have focused on medical imaging with specific emphasis on 3-Dimensional Imaging and CT. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Fishman continued to help develop 3D imaging and has been a leader in the development of interactive 3D renderings. Today, this is a major part of radiologic diagnosis with a significant impact on patient care and management. Dr. Fishman’s work in CT has spanned the past 25 years and has resulted in over 900 peer-reviewed publications; he has also been the author or co-author of eight textbooks. Dr. Fishman is a member of various organizations and is a past president of the Society of Body CT/MR.

Dr. Fishman was recognized for his excellence in education and teaching when he received three Aunt Minnie Awards: as Outstanding Educator in 2002 and 2007, and as Outstanding Researcher in 2004. Radiologists throughout the world choose the recipients of the annual Aunt Minnie Awards and Dr. Fishman is the first person ever to receive both awards. In addition, in April of 2007, Medical Imaging named Dr. Fishman the “top radiologist” in the nation.

Abstract Awards Presentation

During the Annual Scientific Meeting, the Current Concepts and Technology Committee and the Awards Committee reviewed Posters and Platform Presentations eligible for four annual abstract awards - Geno Saccomanno New Frontiers in Cytology Award, new ASC Foundation Future of the Profession Award, Cytotechnologist Scientific Presentation Award, and the Warren R. Lang, M.D. Resident Physician Award. The Awards Presentation occurred on Monday, November 10th following the Diagnostic Cytology Seminar. All award recipients received a certificate and $750.00.

The Geno Saccomanno, M.D. New Frontiers in Cytology Award is given to the author of the scientific paper that best describes new methods, or modifications of existing methods, for characterizing or measuring cells or their components. Dr. David Chhieng, Chair of the Current Concepts and Technology Committee, presented the 2008 Award to Gino Piparo, M.D., first author, on behalf of other authors Marilyn M. Bui, M.D., Ph.D., William Brazelle, Ph.D., Jennifer Gemmer, M.S., and Soner Altiok, M.D., Ph.D. from H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida for Platform Presentation #10, “Multiplex Analysis of Intracellular Signaling Pathways in Lung Cancer FNA by Microbead Suspension Arrays.”

New this year, the ASC Foundation Future of the Profession Award is presented to an author of a platform or poster presentation addressing the issues regarding the evolving role of cytopathologists and cytotechnologists in our changing environment. Ms. Jacalyn...
The **Warren R. Lang, M.D. Resident Physician Award** is presented to the resident or fellow in an approved training program who submits the best scientific paper in cytology for either a platform or a poster session. Ms. Papillo presented the 2008 Warren R. Lang, M.D. Resident Physician Award to **E. D. O’Sullivan-Mejia, M.D.** from Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia for Poster #81, “Preservation of Cytologic Specimens for Future Use in Ribonucleic Acid Based Molecular Testing.”

**Presidential and Executive Board Members Recognition**

During the ASC Annual Business Meeting, it has become a tradition for outgoing Executive Board members and officers to be acknowledged and applauded. Daniel F.I. Kurtycz, M.D. and Gary Gill, B.S., CT(ASCP) completed their four-year term as Executive Board members, and David Kaminsky, M.D., completed two terms or six years as Secretary-Treasurer, ending a 15-year commitment as an Executive Board member or Officer.

Incoming ASC President, Ann T. Moriarty, M.D., was escorted to the platform by ASC Past Presidents, Diane D. Davey, M.D. and George Birdsong, M.D. for the formal transition from the outgoing President, Dr. Mody. Dr. Moriarty presented Dr. Mody with a Certificate of Merit and gift to commemorate her year as President of the ASC. She thanked all attendees for helping make this year’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando a success and then shared a short summary of her plans for the upcoming year as ASC President. Details of Dr. Moriarty’s plans are included in the “Message from the President” on the cover page of this issue.

*http://www.cytopathology.org/website/article.asp?id=1938*