The ASC Cytopathology Program Directors Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome our membership back to the Program Directors (PD) Listserv. The committee hopes that this venue will function as a mechanism to engage our PDs and other members of ASC with an interest in the cytopathology education of residents and fellows. We envision the topics that are most beneficial to this group include ACGME accreditation and milestones, faculty development, education, curriculum, and assessment for residents and fellows.

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to share with us your best practices, novel ideas, and any concerns that can help our membership as a whole. We are approaching a new era in cytopathology training of residents and fellows. In addition to the changing environment of the health care system, Milestones and the Next Accreditation System (NAS) are right around the corner. This presents new challenges to our community of educators, but also provides new opportunities. We sincerely hope that our effort will foster collaboration and unite us to create next generation Cytopathologists who are ready to conquer future challenges.

Please send us your thoughts!!

Marilyn M Bui, MD, PhD and Leslie G Dodd, MD

Message from the Chair

The Cytopathology Program Directors Committee’s (CPDC) mission is to assist cytopathology fellowship programs and cytopathology fellowship program directors to comply with ongoing and new requirements from the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Board of Pathology (ABP), as well as provide resources for education of cytopathology fellows and residents.

One of the major responsibilities of the CPDC is to plan one or more Strategies in Cytopathology Education Sessions (SCEs) each year at the American Society of Cytopathology’s Annual Scientific Meeting. For 2014, the CPDC is planning two SCE sessions for the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting. One session will focus on the final version of the Cytopathology Milestones along with strategies for incorporating the Milestones into the assessment of fellows within cytopathology fellowship programs. The other session will focus on Clinical Competency Committees (CCCs), with specific emphasis on the requirements of a CCC, suggestions for efficiency and planning, and mock CCC experiences allowing simulation of all aspects of the required elements of a CCC meeting. Also for the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting, the CPDC will be planning the annual Career Session for cytopathology fellows and cytotechnologists in conjunction with the CELL Resource Committee.
The CPDC is also committed to maintaining and assisting communication between programs and with the ASC regarding cytopathology fellowship education and accreditation. With that goal in mind, the CPDC recently updated the ASC Listserv for cytopathology fellowship program directors as the ASC transitioned to a new listserv provider. The new ASC Cytopathology Fellowship Program Directors Listserv is asclistserv.pd@talk.cytopathology.org.

The CPDC added all current fellowship program directors to the Listserv, but if you are interested in joining the Listserv, please contact the ASC at asc@cytopathology.org. All interested cytopathology educators are welcome to participate in this service. Already this year, the ACGME has used this Listserv to distribute a draft copy of the Cytopathology Milestones and a survey requesting feedback from program directors. Additional updates from the CPDC will be forthcoming throughout the year through the Listserv enabling us to keep our community aware of resources and educational opportunities for fellowship programs.

In addition to updating the ASC Cytopathology Fellowship Program Directors Listserv, the CPDC is working to update the ASC Web site for fellowship programs. In the future, we hope to provide a list of resources that will be available online through the ASC and the ACGME. We hope this list will become a valuable tool providing cytopathology fellowship program directors additional informative and educational resources.

Finally, the CPDC works to create resources and tools to assist program directors with education and accreditation. Over the last few years, the CPDC members have collaborated to create a new educational product for cytopathology fellowship programs. The educational product is titled “Problem Based Learning Program for Cytopathology Education,” and will be available for purchase through the ASC as ready-made problem-based group and individual learning exercise to cover gynecologic and non-gynecologic cytology topics. This product will emphasize active learning and learner-centered discussions, similar to that used in many medical schools. In active-learning curricula, faculty take on the role of facilitating the application of knowledge, rather than act as traditional dispensers of first-order material in sessions with learners (residents and fellows). Such discussions not only ensure content knowledge, but also facilitate the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

For the future, the CPDC will be working to develop other educational and accreditation tools to help cytopathology fellowship programs and directors. We welcome suggestions from our community as we seek to serve the cytopathology fellowship program community. Feel free to contact us at asc@cytopathology.org or through the ASC Cytopathology Fellowship Program Directors Listserv with your ideas, thoughts and comments.

Deborah Chute, MD

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