



**Donald Karcher, MD**

## **MESSAGE REGARDING THE 2016 CAP BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION**

Dear Colleagues,

I'm running for election to the Board of Governors of the College of American Pathologists (CAP). For years, I've been very active as a chair and/or member of several CAP committees and workgroups, and one CAP council, and involved in many College activities. These activities have dealt with a variety of issues important to the College and the future of pathologists and pathology practice, including regulatory control of pathology and laboratory medicine, payment issues for pathologists, preparing pathologists for emerging new value-based health care delivery and payment models (ACOs, MACRA, MIPS, etc.), ensuring pathologists' leadership in the use of informatics and health information technology, and improving the training of pathology residents and fellows to be better prepared for modern practice. I would very much welcome the opportunity to continue to work on these and other important issues and to serve the College and our members as a CAP Governor.

From my past work with the College, and my long experience as an actively practicing pathologist (in both academic and community hospital-based private practice), department chair, and elected leader in the academic pathology community, I believe I could bring a high level of relevant knowledge and an important perspective to addressing the many challenges currently facing our profession and could use my experience to help the College and pathologists seize the opportunities available to us. Medical and pathology practice are changing, as the emerging value-based health care system takes hold and as new technology becomes part of daily practice. For the past six years, I've led the College's efforts to prepare pathologists for new value-based care

delivery and payment models, and have lectured extensively at a national level on this topic. I've also worked at multiple levels within the College and with other organizations on laboratory informatics-related educational and policy activities. In addition, as an academic pathologist and President of the Association of Pathology Chairs, I've worked extensively on academic pathology issues and provided liaison between the College and the academic pathology community. I believe my experience in these special areas can be a great help to the Board of Governors, the College, and our members.

Below are some details about my career, my current and past activities in the College and other organizations, and some of the important issues facing pathologists and the CAP.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

Professor and Chair of Pathology  
Director of Laboratories  
George Washington University Medical Center  
Washington, DC

## **EDUCATION**

- Medical School – Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans
- Internship and Residency – Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

## **RECENT AWARDS AND HONORS**

- CAP Pathologist-of-the-Year, 2015
- CAP President's Honors, 2013

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

- College of American Pathologists
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology
- International Academy of Pathology
- Society for Hematopathology
- American Society for Investigative Pathology
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Academy of Medicine of Washington, DC

## CAP COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

### **Current**

- Chair, ACO Network
- Chair, Value-Based Care Strategy Steering Group
- Chair, House of Delegates, District of Columbia Delegation
- Co-Chair, CAP/APC/API Informatics Curriculum Core Team
- Member, Council on Government and Professional Affairs (CGPA)
- Member, CGPA Policy Roundtable
- Member, Pathology Workforce Workgroup
- Member, *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine* Executive Advisory Board

### **Past**

- Chair, ACO Steering Committee
- Member, ACO-HIT Workgroup
- Member, DIHIT/CGPA Health Information Technology (HIT) Policy Workgroup
- Member, Enterprise Strategy for Informatics Advisory Group
- Member, OPPE-FPPE Task Force (developed CAP *Evalumetrics*<sup>™</sup>)
- Member, Quality Practices Committee
- Member, TPOSC Module III: Practice Models and Economics Workgroup

## CAP EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- CAP Annual Meeting Workshop Faculty – 2011-2016 (total of 13 workshops)
- CAP Annual Policy Meeting Faculty – 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015
- CAP House of Delegates Meeting Faculty – 2012 (both Spring and Fall meetings), 2013
- CAP Resident Forum Faculty – 2013, 2014, 2016
- CAP Webinars – 2013 (2 webinars), 2016

## SERVICE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### **Current**

- President, Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) – term ends July 2016
- Council (Board) Member, APC
- Board Member, Intersociety Council for Pathology Information
- APC Representative, Pathology Roundtable
- CAP Representative, Accountable Care Learning Collaborative
- Member, Education Committee, American Society for Investigative Pathology
- Member, Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- Member, Advocacy Task Force, CFAS, AAMC

**Past**

- Councilor-at-Large, APC
- Chair, APC Advocacy Committee
- Chair, APC Health Information Technology Committee
- Member, National Pathology Workforce Summit Steering Committee
- Member, AAMC Group on Educational Affairs
- Member, AAMC CFAS Value Proposition Working Group
- Member, AAMC CFAS Leadership Development Committee
- Advisor, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program Requirements
- Advisor, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program Milestones

**MAJOR ISSUES FACING PATHOLOGY AND THE CAP**

- **Payment challenges** – Pathologists have faced payment issues for many years and continue to encounter many challenges in this area. The College must continue to advocate strongly for fair payment for the critical diagnostic, consultative, and laboratory directorship services we provide.
- **Regulatory challenges** – Over the years, there have been many examples of proposed federal, state, and local over-regulation of pathology and clinical laboratory services. The College must continue to protect pathologists and the clinical laboratory from excessive regulation at all levels.
- **New value-based care delivery and payment models (ACOs, MACRA, MIPS, etc.)** – As the value-based health care system continues to develop, the College must help prepare its members for these emerging value-based delivery and payment models.
- **New technology** – The College must help ensure that pathologists continue to lead in the development and use of new diagnostic and information management technology.
- **Pathologist workforce** – The College must closely monitor the balance between the supply of and demand for pathologists and be prepared to address any imbalance.
- **Pathologists' scope-of-practice** – The College must do all it can to prevent other providers from taking over traditional and/or new innovative services that are more appropriate for pathologists to perform.
- **Communication of the value of pathology and pathologists to key stakeholders** – The College must clearly and effectively communicate the value pathologists bring to quality patient care and the overall health care system. This messaging should be focused on policymakers, payers, health care organizational leaders, the press, other providers, and patient advocacy groups.
- **CAP organizational challenges and opportunities** – The College must continue to improve its systems and strengthen its focus to address the challenges facing the

pathology community and take advantage of available domestic and increasingly global opportunities. The College must also carefully manage its financial resources to ensure that it can continue to effectively fulfill its many missions.

**IF ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CAP BOARD OF GOVERNORS, I WOULD WORK HARD TO . . .**

- Ensure that pathologists' scope-of-practice and payment are protected
- Prepare pathologists for coming changes in health care delivery and payment and help pathologists thrive in the emerging value-based health care system
- Keep pathology at the cutting edge in the use of innovative new technology in laboratory diagnosis and information management
- Facilitate communication of the value of pathology and pathologists to key stakeholders (I have a special personal interest in improving communication with patients and patient advocacy groups.)
- Maintain an appropriate balance between the supply of and demand for pathologists and ensure that the next generation of pathologists is well-prepared for modern practice
- Continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the College and the academic pathology community
- Keep the College as the quality and practice standard setter in pathology and laboratory medicine, a maximally effective advocate for pathologists, and a valuable resource for our members

I would very much appreciate your support and your vote in the coming election.

Respectfully yours,  
Don Karcher

