



# Colorado Society of Clinical Pathologists

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KELLY LEAR-KAUL, M.D.

To all CSCP Members:

I am honored to serve as president of our Society this year. It is a bit atypical for a forensic pathologist to be active in the Society, as I am somewhat outside of the "usual" practice of anatomic and/or clinical pathology, but I have been associated with the Colorado Society of Clinical Pathologists for 10 years (since my residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center), and feel that the connection through the Society with other pathologists within the state is invaluable. Over the past several years the Society has become a more conscientious organization, with more fiscal responsibility and the ability to attract highly respected speakers for CME activities. For this, great thanks are due to all of the individuals committed to the executive board, and particularly our past presidents most immediately including Drs. Mike Argyres, Meenakshi Singh, and Jan Woods. As the Society has become much more financially stable, we have been enabled to bring improved educational opportunities to the members, including the Fall Meeting and Stars in the Mountains, which this year will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For the summer of 2008, we are excited to bring Drs. John Goldblum (soft tissue tumors), Elizabeth Brunt (liver pathology), and Kevin Leslie (pulmonary pathology) to the Stars meeting in Vail for the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, we hope many of you can join us. If you do plan on attending, please register early so we can plan accordingly. The Stars meeting continues to attract a steady number of in state and out-of-state pathologists; to avoid conflict with the Fourth of July weekend, we have scheduled this year's meeting for mid-July in hopes of an even greater turnout. Thanks are due to Dr. Steve Groshong for his work securing speakers as Education Program Chair for the past two years. As always, we encourage feedback and suggestions from members for desired speakers and topics, as we hope to be able to best serve the educational needs of the Society members.

The Stars 2007 meeting in Vail was again a success, attracting 63 attendees, including 24 out-of-state pathologists, and 8 pathology residents, as well as 13 exhibitors. The speakers, Drs. Robert Kurman, Robert Petras, and Victor Reuter re-

ceived positive reviews and in return they had very affirmative things to say about the conference and the setting. The Fall Meeting had 45 attendees and Dr. James Connolly gave a useful session on the approach to breast pathology.

If you missed the 2007 Fall Meeting, you may not yet know that Dr. Robert Shikes was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Pathologist Award. Unfortunately, Dr. Shikes was unable to attend the meeting, but look for an eloquent summary of Dr. Shikes' career and contributions to medicine in this newsletter, submitted by Dr. Singh. Generations of medical students and pathology residents, myself included, have been educated and entertained by Dr. Shikes' enthusiasm for pathology and the history of medicine, and it is an honor to recognize him for all he has done in his long career.

Also at the Fall Meeting we introduced the new concept of holding a short business meeting with the membership of the Society, in hopes of opening lines of communication between the Executive Board and the Society members. This will hopefully provide a direct way to provide you with updates on what the executive committee is working on for the Society and give members a chance to bring up any concerns, topics, or educational needs that should be addressed. In addition, one push for this year has been to make necessary changes in the Society By-Laws, a process which requires the changes to be ratified by the general membership. Look for a copy of the By-Laws with the proposed changes highlighted to soon be sent electronically or available on the CSCP website along with an electronic ballot ([www.cscpweb.org](http://www.cscpweb.org)).

One of the areas of great interest to all pathologists is the challenge of direct billing and the proliferation of pod labs across the country and within Colorado. This issue is at the top of the CAP's agenda nationwide, and several states have been successful in preventing abuses of pathology billing procedures. Unfortunately, other states have not had success and the federal government has been unable or unwilling to enforce the Stark law. The Society's current Vice-President and political liaison, Dr. Christopher Bee, and Past President Dr. Michael Argyres,

2007-08 VOLUME 22

### President

Kelly Lear-Kaul, M.D.

### First Vice President

Christopher Bee, M.D.

### Past President

Michael Argyres, M.D.

### Secretary/Treasurer

George Clarke, M.D.

### Program Chair

Steve Groshong, M.D.

### Member at Large

Jason Hicks, MD

### Ex-Officio

Cosimo Sciotto, M.D.

Meenakshi Singh, M.D.

### CAP Delegates

Christopher Bee, M.D.

Meenakshi Singh, M.D.

Jim Small, M.D.

### Administrator

Karla Rehring

### CSCP Office

2552 Alton Street

Denver, Colorado 80238

303.870.8720

[cscpmgr@hotmail.com](mailto:cscpmgr@hotmail.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDUCATION	3
PROGRAM UPDATE	
PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	4
2006 DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGIST	5
POLITICAL UPDATE	6
TREASURER'S REPORT	7
CAP RESIDENT FORUM REPORT	8

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

have been active is addressing these issues with CMS, the State Attorney General, and the Legislature; the CAP and the CSCP also opted to jointly hire a lobbyist for advice on how to proceed and best address these issues in Colorado. Dr. Bee provides a summary of legislative activities within this newsletter.

As a Society, we finished 2007 with 112 active members, 6 retired members, and 10 resident members. This is a modest increase from the 109 active members, 5 retired members, and 9 resident members we saw at the end of 2006. Frankly, as a Society, our activities are member-driven and funded through the modest annual dues. We do need for each of you to renew your membership for 2008 and encourage colleagues who are not members to join. As the state society representing Colorado under the umbrella of the College of American Pathologists, we need to truly be representative of the pathologists practicing within the state. This will not only give us the ability to continue to provide top-notch educational opportunities, it will improve the Society's political power in representing a majority of practicing pathologists statewide. We also encourage every member to be active in Society activities and educational programs, and for those with interest to serve on the executive board. Action outside of the Society is also imperative; be active in the CAP advocacy network, contact your local and state representatives to make your voice heard in issues that directly affect the health care system and the practice of pathology.

To conclude, it has been another active year for the Society on the education and political fronts. We hope to continue our efforts on relevant legislation including the opposition of pod labs and encouraging the passage of the Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act (H.R. Bill 1237 and Senate Bill 2510). We strive to continue to bring the members interesting and appropriate educational opportunities. We are looking for ways to bring these opportunities to venues outside of the Denver metro area, and further encourage pathologists outside of the Front Range to participate in and help with Society programs. Thank you all for supporting the Society and please feel free to contact our Administrator Karla Rehring, myself, or any of the Board members with input.

Kelly C. Lear-Kaul, MD  
CSCP President

### NEW CSCP MEMBERS

Galen

Mirna Knight

Trent Panze

Eversole

Russel Nash

Daniel Schaffer

## 5280 MAGAZINE NAMES TOP DOCTORS FOR 2007

### 2007 TOP PATHOLOGISTS

**GREGORY A. ACHENBACH, JAMES HOPFENBECK, KARIM SIRGI, AND JOHN TRUELL**

5280 CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF THOUSANDS OF DENVER AREA PHYSICIANS ASKING  
"WHOM WOULD YOU TRUST WITH YOUR HEALTH OR THE HEALTH OF A LOVED ONE?"

RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY RESULTED IN THE NOMINATIONS OF THESE PHYSICIANS IN 5280 MAGAZINE'S  
"TOP DOCS" LISTING IN THE SPECIALTY OF PATHOLOGY.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE OUTSTANDING METRO AREA PATHOLOGISTS!**



## EDUCATION PROGRAM BY STEVE GROSHONG, M.D.

With the New Year, we are looking forward to the Fifth annual Stars in the Mountains seminar series, that will take place on July 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> at the Vail Marriott Resort and Spa in Colorado. Not only does this give our participants an amazing educational opportunity, but the beautiful natural setting, wide variety of outdoor activities and full spectrum of spa services at the Resort guarantee that both the participants and their families will have an exciting weekend in a pristine mountain community.

5th Annual  
**stars in the  
 Mountains**  
 presented by the  
 Colorado Society of  
 Clinical Pathologists



July 11, 12, & 13, 2008



Vail, Colorado

**Featured Speakers:**

**John Goldblum, M.D.**

**Elizabeth Brunt, M.D.**

**Kevin Leslie, M.D.**

Our program for the 2008 Stars meeting will focus on three areas: soft-tissue tumors, liver pathology and nonneoplastic lung disease. Dr. John Goldblum from the Cleveland Clinic is a world-recognized expert in soft-tissue tumors and will provide in his first two lectures an approach to the common soft-tissue tumors we are likely to see in practice. Following that, we will hear about the changing concepts in one of the most commonly-encountered tumor types, the lipomatous tumor.

Dr. Elizabeth Brunt of Washington University in St. Louis is almost synonymous with steatohepatitis having developed the staging and grading scheme for this liver disease. However, her expertise in liver disease is far-reaching and she will be sharing with us her overview of common liver pathology, metabolic diseases as well as neoplasms of the liver.

Dr. Kevin Leslie of the Mayo Clinic is the author of the recent popular textbook 'Practical Pulmonary Pathology' which condenses his vast knowledge of interstitial lung disease into a scheme that is accessible to every surgical pathologist. He will be sharing his practical approach to both transbronchial and wedge biopsies in a series of lectures on Sunday morning.

Following the Stars meeting in the summer, we are looking forward to a Saturday morning lecture on November 8, 2008 by Dr. Peter Banks. Dr. Banks is a leader in hematopathology, a topic we have not addressed in our most recent educational opportunities, but also an area of pathology that can affect almost any organ in the body and is of interest to every practicing pathologist.

As we look forward to these exciting presentations in 2008, we are already beginning to plan for our programs in 2009. The CSCP exists to serve our members, and we would welcome any and all feedback from our events as well as suggestions for either topics or speakers for upcoming programs. Feel free to contact us at any time and share your thoughts with us. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in person in Vail this summer.

*Dr. Groshong is Education Program Chair for the CSCP. He is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, fellowship trained in surgical pathology and has subspecialty expertise in Pulmonary Pathology. He is currently an Assistant Professor at National Jewish, Denver, Colorado.*

**PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MICHAEL ARGYRES, M.D.****Past-President's Report: A Time Capsule**

January 1, 2008

The past twelve months have been tumultuous for many pathologists, and much of the world's population. On the world scene we have been bombarded by media images of religious, tribal and political violence. Global warming has been accepted as an inevitable consequence of our increasing consumption of fossil fuels. Subprime mortgages are defaulting at alarming rates, creating huge banking losses, a credit crisis, and unstable financial markets.

Many pathology groups have lost market share to pod laboratories or contractual joint ventures. We have been spread thinner by the expansion of surgery centers and new hospitals. We have witnessed or been party to mergers and acquisitions. Reimbursement continues to decline, as we are forced into unfavorable contracts by a heavily consolidated health insurance market. Congress has failed to act to correct the flawed SGR formula that further erodes reimbursement. We have gained little or no ground in our struggle for part A compensation; in fact, most of us continue to lose ground in the fight for appropriate reimbursement for part A services from hospitals and insurance companies.

The good news? Your society, in conjunction with the College of American Pathologists, continues to lobby at the state and federal level on these and other issues that impact our practice. The Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) has been made acutely aware of the increasing problem of self-referral practices in the area of anatomic pathology. Medicare's proposed rule for 2008 effectively abolishes pod laboratories. The more pressing problem of so-called contractual joint ventures has not yet been officially addressed by CMS, the Office of Inspector General or congress. Contractual joint ventures are part of a complex web of referral and reassignment practices that exist throughout the healthcare system. All parties involved recognize that the practice of medicine cannot exist without internal and external referrals for certain procedures or services. The challenge lies in creating legislation to curb abusive practices without impeding appropriate referral patterns.

The larger problems facing healthcare --- an aging population, increased costs of providing care, increasing numbers of uninsured, excessive administrative costs, fragmentation of care, etc. --- face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. There are two primary models for reform emerging from governor Bill Ritter's 2008 commission on health care reform: a single payer system, and reforms based around insurance subsidies. Those in favor of a European-style universal, single-payer system are countered by concerns about bureaucracy and the inevitable rationing of care that such systems create. Reform based largely on insurance subsidies faces two big obstacles: many people who qualify the most generous (even 100%) subsidies still fail to sign up for insurance, and many that can afford insurance fail to purchase it even when 'mandatory.' It is my personal opinion that health care reform will be a painfully slow and incremental process, no matter how vociferous the cries for comprehensive, sweeping reform.

As Rome burns, so to speak, our society and its members continue to practice with the same diligence, attention to detail and pursuit of excellence that we always have. At the individual level we continue to provide care to patients without regard for insurance or ability to pay. I am both proud and humbled to have served this society for the past several years. As I pass the baton to the future board members of the CSCP I do so with confidence that no matter what may happen in the world or in our profession, by continuing to put our principles and our patients first we will prevail.

**STARS '08 MEETING UPDATE**

- ◆ Lectures will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings—July 11, 12, & 13
- ◆ Meeting fees will be \$360 for CSCP members and \$500 for non-members
- ◆ Nine CME credit hours
- ◆ Room rates at Vail Marriott Resort and Spa will start at \$179
- ◆ Go online to [www.cscpweb.org](http://www.cscpweb.org) to register and to find topics, schedule and hotel information.

## 2007 DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGIST AWARD

~ ROBERT SHIKES, M.D. ~

By Meenakshi Singh, M.D.

Distinguished Pathologists are selected by their peers in recognition for their contribution to Pathology in the State of Colorado. During his 40 years in the Department of Pathology at the University of Colorado Denver, Dr. Shikes contributed significantly to medical education. He has worked with the last 4,000 graduates of the School of Medicine and with hundreds of residents in the Department of Pathology. One of his goals has been to ensure that the graduates of this school – whatever field they choose in Medicine – know the value of Pathology and its contributions to new knowledge and to patient care.

Bob came to the University of Colorado as a resident in Pathology in 1965, joined the faculty in 1968 as an Instructor, and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2006 – 41 years later. His areas of research and diagnostic pathology include Perinatal, Placental and Pediatric Pathology and Cardiovascular Pathology. He has contributed to three of the University of Colorado’s major milestones, viz., Biliary atresia and neonatal hepatobiliary disease, Intrauterine fetal surgery and pioneer studies of amniocentesis. In more recent years he is known for his authorship of books and talks about the history of medicine in Colorado. He has received numerous awards for “Excellence in Teaching” and for excellence as a course director. Recently he was awarded the annual CU President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. His contributions to medical education nationally include serving on the National Board of Medical Examiners’ committees. He has been active in providing CME courses in Colorado on Pediatric Pathology for many national societies. He participated in the NIH/National Library of Medicine’s pioneer project to create a computer-based teaching program in Pathology education.

In recent years, many medical schools have transferred from the old, course-based curriculum to a new integrated curriculum in which there are no departmental courses. This transition has given Pathology short shrift in some medical schools. Dr. Shikes has played a major role in the transition to the integrated curriculum at the CU-SOM and at CU, Pathology continues to be a major player in the education of our medical students.

We honor Bob with this year’s Distinguished Pathology Award. Congratulations! All of us who have benefited from your commitment to pathology education and practice thank you.

### MASTER LIST OF CSCP DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGISTS



Thomas Merrick, M.D.	2006	Sara Winter, M.D.	1998
George Warren, M.D.	2005	Hank Toll, M.D.	1997
Thomas Vincent, M.D.	2004	Geno Saccomanno, M.D.	1996
Richard Stienmier, M.D.	2003	Robert H. Fennell, Jr., M.D.	1995
Gary Miller, M.D., PhD	2002	Harlan Firminger, M.D.	1994
John Reid, M.D.	2001	Morgan Berthrong, M.D.	1993
D.M. Clark, M.D.	2000	Elmer Koneman, M.D.	1980's
Giles Toll, M.D.	1999		

Please submit your nominations for the Distinguished Pathologist Award to the CSCP office by June 15, 2008.

## POLITICAL UPDATE

CHRISTOPHER BEE, M.D.

The number of important political issues facing pathologists has continued to increase every year since I began serving as your political liaison for the CSCP over three years ago. While some of these issues are important for the future of our profession as a whole, others can have serious and immediate impact on our livelihood and the nature of our individual practices right here in Colorado.

Just like in 2007, thanks to a last ditch effort of Congress, an across-the-board 10% reduction in Medicare reimbursement was avoided. This short-term fix, however, only takes us through the middle of 2008, and still does not address the flawed SGR formula. We will continue to face these attacks on Medicare reimbursement until this formula is fixed. In addition, despite these last ditch efforts of Congress, pathologists will still see a nearly 5% reduction in the professional component reimbursement for an 88305, a trend that seems will continue while the technical component reimbursement continues to rise.

The direct billing issue in Colorado has not been resolved, as we have been forced to seek a new remedy that does not involve an opinion from the Attorney General. I am currently working with the Federal and State Affairs Committee of the CAP to work on a new strategy to deal with this issue in our state. Some progress on this issue was made at a national level as CMS established an anti-markup provision in the 2008 Physician Fee Schedule which prohibits clinicians from marking up the technical or professional components of anatomic pathology services for Medicare patients if these services are not performed in the physician's office. While this provision was specifically drafted to put an end to the pod lab, it does not stop the practice of contractual joint ventures whereby large physician groups can establish their own histology labs under the in-office ancillary testing exemption of the Stark Law. One only has to look to Denver to see these contractual joint ventures in action, as both a large urology and gastroenterology practice have established their own histology laboratories to capture a new revenue stream for their physicians. While direct billing legislation won't stop this particular practice, the CAP and other national organizations continue with their efforts to remove anatomic pathology from the list of in-office ancillary testing exemptions.

As in 2007, other issues which still have not been resolved include cytology proficiency testing, a long term solution for the TC grandfather for independent laboratories, licensure for medical technologists, pay-for-performance, recertification, MUE's, and the Medicare competitive bidding project. Unless a ruling is made in the near future based on a law suit filed by several smaller laboratories, San Diego will be the first city in the country to participate in the competitive bidding project for clinical laboratory services. Initial estimates by several laboratory analysts show that this type of project could be devastating to the clinical laboratory market in San Diego, and the next geographic market required to participate in this project is likely to be named in the near future.

In conjunction with the CAP, APF, ASCP, and Colorado Medical Society, I will continue to do my best to keep you informed of the issues that have the most potential to impact our practices. As of January 1, 2008, I am now also a member of the Professional Affairs Committee of the CAP. Since this committee is charged with dealing many of the issues mentioned above, this puts me in a good position to keep the CSCP and its membership up to date on these issues and to see how they are playing out in many different areas of the country. If you have specific questions about any of these issues, please feel free to contact me at (970) 218-5640 or [beechristopher@msn.com](mailto:beechristopher@msn.com). If I can't answer your question directly, I will try to find an answer quickly or put you in touch with a resource that has more experience with your particular question/concern. All the best in 2008.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bee, M.D.

*Dr. Bee is the Vice President and Political Liason for the CSCP. He is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, as well as Hematopathology and fellowship trained in Hematopathology. Dr. Bee came to Colorado in 2003 after completing four years of active duty in the United States Air Force as Staff Pathologist at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. He currently serves as the Medical Director for Northern Colorado Cytology Services in Greeley, CO.*



THE CSCP IS CURRENTLY SEEKING CSCP MEMBERS INTERESTED IN FILLING OUR ALLOTTED CAP HOUSE OF DELEGATE (ALTERNATE) POSITIONS.

CONTACT THE CSCP OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**TREASURER'S REPORT BY GEORGE CLARKE, M.D.**

It is an honor to serve as your CSCP secretary-treasurer for 2007-2008. The CSCP Board is very dedicated to the success of this society and its financial future.

For the CSCP, revenue sources are membership dues and registration fees from our annual summer and fall educational seminars. We are able to recruit national expert guest lecturers to our meeting because of your membership and involvement. Please make sure your 2008 membership dues are paid. If you know of new pathologists and/or new pathology residents who are not members, you can always refer them to our website, [www.cscp.org](http://www.cscp.org), for information including a new membership application.

Our annual summer and fall meetings continue to be successful and a good source of revenue. Our fourth annual 2007 Stars in the Mountains meeting featured speakers Drs. Kurman, Petras, and Reuter. Dr. James Connolly presented information on "Selected Topics on Breast Cancer" at our 2007 Fall meeting. Our educational series continues in 2008 with Drs. Goldblum, Brunt, and Leslie for Stars in the Mountains at the Vail Marriot Resort July 11, 12, & 13<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Peter M. Banks is set to speak in the fall on Hematopathology.


We appreciate your continued support and attendance at CSCP meetings. I wish everyone the best for 2008.

*Dr. George Clark is the current treasurer of the CSCP. This is his second year as a member of the board.*

**SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 8TH, 2008  
FOR A MORNING LECTURE BY DR. PETER M. BANKS**

Dr. Banks is a leader in hematopathology, a topic we have not addressed in our most recent educational opportunities, but also an area of pathology that can affect almost any organ in the body and is of interest to every practicing pathologist.

The Meeting will be from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, CO

**"WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CSCP" KARLA REHRING, ADMINISTRATOR**

I am beginning my fourth year with the CSCP. I have the pleasure to work with a great board on organizing our meetings. Dr. Mike Argyres finished his work on the board and we thank him for her many years of commitment to the CSCP. He was very involved in current issues affecting the practice of Pathology and always available to contribute to the needs of the CSCP.

We are so excited for our Fifth Annual Stars in the Mountains meeting. If you have not registered for 2008, I encourage you to visit the website. Detailed information about Stars 2008 and our other educational meetings can be found here.

If you are interested in becoming more active in the CSCP please let me know or if you have ideas for improving Society communication or service to members. You can contact me by email at [cscpmgr@hotmail.com](mailto:cscpmgr@hotmail.com) or by phone at 303.870-8720.

*See you in Vail this July for Stars 2008!*

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 SPONSORS

