2013 Housestaff Specialty Conference:
What do we use to prepare for the ABP AP and CP certification examinations?

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Boards Preparation Survey

• Survey of fellows and graduates, who recently took the ABP exams
  – Survey sent to entire group of pathology program directors
  – 165 participants

Outline of Survey

• Demographics
• Anatomic Pathology
• Clinical Pathology
  – Residency Program
  – Books
  – Websites
  – Courses
• Summary

1. How many residents are in your program?

```
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40
<10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 >30
```

```
24 25 34 23 21 36
```
2. What is the approximate number of surgical pathology accessions per year in your institution?

- <20,000: 21
- 20-40,000: 66
- 40-60,000: 35
- >60,000: 36

3. What was your residency program track?

- AP/CP: 132
- AP only: 20
- CP only: 10
- Other: 3

4. What is the number of years of pathology training you had completed at time of taking the American Board of Pathology (ABP) Exam?

- 3: 28
- 4: 116
- 5: 15
- >5: 6

5. What fellowships, if any, had you completed at the time of taking the ABP exam?

- None: 71
- Sgx: 21
- Cyto: 5
- Heme: 6
- Neuro: 2
- Clinical: 7

5. Surgical Pathology Subspecialty Fellowships

- General: 15
- G/Liver: 2
- Gyn: 1
- Renal: 1
- Thoracic: 1
- Bone/ST: 1

5. Clinical Pathology Fellowships

- Molecular: 3
- Transfusion: 2
- Micro: 2
6. Do you plan to take additional subspecialty boards?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>76</td>
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7. What additional subspecialty board do you plan to take?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyto</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derm</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heme</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfusion</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Did you take the AP exam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Did you pass?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP/CP</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Did you take the CP exam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Did you pass?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP/CP</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey participants demographics

- Programs of many sizes represented
- Predominately AP/CP 4 year track
- Most took the exam at the end of 4th year
- A small proportion had taken a year of fellowship, usually in general surgical pathology
- Most intended to do additional fellowship training

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY
11. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Residency Program

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

- **Didactics**

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

- **Slide Conferences**

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

- **Slide study sets**

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

- **Board prep lectures by faculty**

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

- **AP rotations**
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
- ASCP Resident Inservice Exam (RISE)

12. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Books

12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
- Lefkowitch AP Boards Review
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Roberts *Pathology Board Review, Pearls of Wisdom*

![Bar chart for Roberts Pathology Board Review](chart)

- Very Useful: 3
- Useful: 11
- Not Useful: 4
- Did not use: 117

3/18/2013

Ahmed AP Board Review

![Bar chart for Ahmed AP Board Review](chart)

- Very Useful: 5
- Useful: 7
- Not Useful: 2
- Did not use: 121

12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Robbins Review of Pathology

![Bar chart for Robbins Review of Pathology](chart)

- Very Useful: 23
- Useful: 38
- Not Useful: 11
- Did not use: 64

12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Surgical Pathology Textbooks

![Bar chart for Surgical Pathology Textbooks](chart)

- Very Useful: 41
- Useful: 71
- Not Useful: 9
- Did not use: 14

12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

IARC WHO Classification of Tumors

![Bar chart for IARC WHO Classification of Tumors](chart)

- Very Useful: 20
- Useful: 50
- Not Useful: 10
- Did not use: 67

12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Cibas Cytology

![Bar chart for Cibas Cytology](chart)

- Very Useful: 54
- Useful: 27
- Not Useful: 3
- Did not use: 53
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**DeMay Cytology**

![Graph showing usefulness](image1)

12. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: **Books**

![Graph showing usefulness](image2)

13. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for **Anatomic Pathology** board preparation: **Websites**

![Graph showing usefulness](image3)

13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Johns Hopkins Sgx Path Unknown Conference**

http://pathology2.jhu.edu/sp

![Graph showing usefulness](image4)

13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Pathology Outlines**

http://www.pathologyoutlines.com

![Graph showing usefulness](image5)
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Student Doctor**
http://forums.studentdoctor.net

- Very Useful
- Useful
- Not Useful
- Did not use

13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**PathMD**
http://pathmd.com

- Very Useful
- Useful
- Not Useful
- Did not use

13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Pathology Resident WIKI**
http://pathinfo.wikia.com/wiki/Pathology_Resident_Wiki

- Very Useful
- Useful
- Not Useful
- Did not use

13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**University of Utah**
http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/webpath.html

- Very Useful
- Useful
- Not Useful
- Did not use

13. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation:

**Websites**

- Very Useful
- Useful
- Not Useful
- Did not use
14. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Courses

14. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
   The Osler Institute Pathology Review Course

14. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
   ASCP Resident Review Course

14. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
   CME Info Pathology Board Review

14. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Courses

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
15. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Residency program

15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

- Didactics
  - Very Useful: 45
  - Useful: 54
  - Neutral: 13
  - Useless: 7
  - Very Useless: 4
  - Not Offered: 0

- Interesting Case Conference
  - Very Useful: 28
  - Useful: 47
  - Neutral: 19
  - Useless: 4
  - Very Useless: 8
  - Not Offered: 17

- Board Prep Lecture by Faculty
  - Very Useful: 41
  - Useful: 40
  - Neutral: 4
  - Useless: 6
  - Very Useless: 2
  - Not Offered: 30

- CP Rotations
  - Very Useful: 43
  - Useful: 53
  - Neutral: 8
  - Useless: 13
  - Very Useless: 5
  - Not Offered: 0

- ASCP Resident Inservice Exam (RISE)
  - Very Useful: 18
  - Useful: 59
  - Neutral: 18
  - Useless: 22
  - Very Useless: 6
  - Not Offered: 0
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Residency program

16. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Books

16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Mais Quick Compendium of Clinical Pathology

16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Mais Quick Compendium Companion
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

- Schexneider Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management
  - Very Useful: 11
  - Useful: 16
  - Not Useful: 15
  - Did not use: 52

- Galagan Color Atlas of Fluids
  - Very Useful: 9
  - Useful: 24
  - Not Useful: 7
  - Did not use: 82

- Glassy Color Atlas of Hematology
  - Very Useful: 24
  - Useful: 30
  - Not Useful: 1
  - Did not use: 69

- Koneman Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology
  - Very Useful: 54
  - Useful: 45
  - Not Useful: 6
  - Did not use: 19

- Wager Clinical Administration for Pathologists
  - Very Useful: 0
  - Useful: 6
  - Not Useful: 1
  - Did not use: 117

16. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation:

- Books
  - Very Useful: 0
  - Useful: 6
  - Not Useful: 1
  - Did not use: 117
16. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Books**

17. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Websites**

17. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Blood Bank Guy**
   http://www.bbguy.org

17. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Student Doctor**
   http://forums.studentdoctor.net

17. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **PathMD**
   http://pathmd.com

17. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Laboratory Online Continuing Education**
   http://labCE.com
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
Pathology Resident WIKI
http://pathinfo.wikia.com/wiki/Pathology_Resident_Wiki

18. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation:

18. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
The Osler Institute Pathology Review Course

18. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
ASCP Resident Review Course
18. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
CME Info Pathology Board Review

19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Residency Program**
- Peer Study Group
- Advice from senior trainees

19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Books**
- ASCP Quick Compendium Surgical Pathology
- ASCP Quick Compendium Companion
- Cheng Essentials of Anatomic Pathology
- Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology
- Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytology
- Washington Manual of Surgical Pathology
- Sternberg Diagnostic Surgical Pathology Review
- Holladay Cytopathology Review Guide
- Gattuso Differential Diagnosis in Surgical Pathology

19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Websites**
- ASCP PRISE Modules (Pathologist Recertification Individualized Self-Assessment Examination for MOC by ABP)
- ASCP CheckPath (CME)
- Johns Hopkins Cytology Unknowns
- Sinard Outlines in Pathology
- Pathpedia
- Surgpath4u

19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Courses**
- Oakstone Board Review
- Utilize resources from review course without attending live sessions
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Other**

- CAP PIP (Performance Improvement Program in Surgical Pathology)
- California Tumor Tissue Registry slide sets

20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Residency Program**

- Advice from senior trainees

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20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Books**

- IARC WHO Hematopathology
- AABB Practical Guide to Transfusion Medicine
- CAP Color Atlas of Hemoglobin Disorders
- Hart Color Atlas of Medical Microbiology
- BOC Study Guide for Clinical Lab Certification Examination
- Harr Clinical Laboratory Science Review

20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Websites**

- ASCP PRISE modules
- Pathpedia
- UCSF: Fungal morphology
- Brigham and Women/Vanderbilt/Washington University: Transfusion Medicine Question of the Day

20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Courses**

- Oakstone Board Review
- Utilize resources from review course without attending live sessions

21. What are the TOP THREE resources you would recommend for **AP** board preparation?

![Bar chart showing the top three resources recommended for AP board preparation.](chart.png)
22. What are the TOP THREE resources you would recommend for **CP** board preparation?

![Bar chart showing resource recommendations]

- Course: 48
- M&J: 59
- M Companion: 19
- Henry's: 10
- Koneman: 17
- BB Guy: 16

Have there been other similar surveys???

### CAP survey
- Online survey June 2011
  - Follow-up to surveys conducted in 2006 and 2009
  - 194 respondents
  - New in practice (0-5 yrs) and passed

### Survey comparison

#### Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our survey</th>
<th>CAP survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>80% AP/CP 4 year track</strong></td>
<td><strong>88% took AP/CP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most took the exam at the end of 4th year</td>
<td>85% recommended taking exam at the end of 4th year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of participants passed the exam</td>
<td>All respondents passed with 81% passing AP/CP on their first try</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey comparison
Demographics

**Our survey**
- What fellowships have you completed
  - Surgical Pathology
- What fellowship do you plan to do
  - Cytopathology
  - Hematopathology
  - Dermatopathology

**CAP survey**
- What fellowships have you completed
  - Surgical Pathology
  - Cytopathology
  - Hematopathology

11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: **Residency Program**

15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Residency program**

Survey comparison
Our survey: RISE

Survey comparison
CAP survey: Performance on the RISE is strongly correlated with performance on boards
Survey comparison

Top 3 AP Resources

Our survey
• Course
• Lefkowitch
• Slide review

CAP survey
• Lefkowitch
• Osler course
• Johns Hopkins Surgical Pathology
  Unknown Conference

Top 3 CP Resources

Our survey
• Course
• Mais
• Mais companion

CAP survey
• Osler course
• ASCP course
• Koneman

CAP survey:
How far in advance of exam did you begin studying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-2m</th>
<th>3-6m</th>
<th>7-12m</th>
<th>&gt;1yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAP survey:
During the time that you were studying, about how many hours per week did you spend studying on average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-5h</th>
<th>6-10h</th>
<th>11-15h</th>
<th>16-20h</th>
<th>&gt;20h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CAP survey:
For those who participated in review course, how far in advance do you recommend others take a review course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-6m</th>
<th>7-12m</th>
<th>&gt;1yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAP survey:
Identify the most challenging topics on exam

AP
• General pathology and laboratory management
• Congenital and genetic diseases
• Molecular pathology

CP
• Chemical pathology
• Medical microbiology
• Laboratory management
Our survey
23. What additional resources are needed for ABP examination preparation?

• Luck
• Motivation
• “Psychological counseling”
• Question bank
  — Question formats, practice with virtual pictures
• Outline or syllabus from ABP
  — Direction/focus for exam preparation
  — Distribution of topics