APF, ASCP Join Forces to Deliver Lab Management Education

SAN FRANCISCO (Nov. 1, 2010) — The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and the American Pathology Foundation (APF) announced on Monday, Nov. 1, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in the development and delivery of pathology laboratory management educational services.

“ASCP is dedicated to delivering a progressive educational portfolio for pathologists and laboratory professionals,” ASCP President John E. Tomaszewski, MD, FASCP, said during the President’s Reception at ASCP’s 2010 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

“APF brings considerable expertise in laboratory management. Together we can deliver high quality programs to a wider audience.”

APF is a non-profit professional society devoted to the business and management of pathology. The Foundation focuses on providing quality educational programs and practice management resources for its members to help them stay current with scientific, legislative, political, and marketplace developments affecting the practice of pathology. As the world’s largest society for pathologists and laboratory professionals, ASCP’s mission is to advance excellence in education, certification and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists and laboratory professionals.

“It’s a natural partnership,” said APF President David C. Hoak, MD, FASCP.

“Pathology and laboratory medicine can only benefit from this collaboration.”

Under the terms of the MOU, APF will conduct its 2011 meeting in conjunction with ASCP’s 2011 Annual Meeting in October in Las Vegas. During that meeting, APF will conduct a co-branded track, providing laboratory and practice management education for practicing pathologists, residents and fellows in training programs, and practice managers. These continuing medical education programs will be co-sponsored by APF under ASCP’s direct provider status with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). APF will also provide laboratory management questions for ASCP’s Resident-In-Service Examination (RISE), as it has done during the past three years.

APF, ASCP, and the Association of Pathology Chairs/Program Directors Section (APC/PRODS) have already taken the lead in developing a curriculum for laboratory management. Over the past year, a group of volunteers from the three organizations drafted a Laboratory Management Curriculum and Competencies, which was presented at the July 2010 APC/PRODS Annual Meeting in Seattle. The curriculum is designed for pathology residency programs and may be tailored to suit individual program needs. The document is available at: https://www.apfconnect.org/files/News/LabManagementCurriculum.pdf

Dr. Hoak said the MOU between APF and ASCP will also provide the framework for both organizations to explore additional future educational products and services, jointly developed and co-branded, for the benefit of their respective memberships.

“The annual meetings in 2011 and the Laboratory Management Curriculum for residents are two very big steps down this collaborative path,” he added.