



## Residents Forum Delegate Guide

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the CAP Residents Forum! The Residents Forum (RF) meeting is a great venue where pathology residents from across the country come together to learn about, discuss and take action on important issues that affect us.

Plan to attend each of the Residents Forum meetings. The meetings are held twice per year in an engaging all-day Saturday session. For first time attendees (and even those who have attended RF meetings in the past), understanding the proceedings at an RF meeting can be a little confusing at times. To help prepare you for what to expect, the Residents Forum Executive Committee (RFEC) has created the following guide in order to enhance your experience and participation at the meeting.

There are four main goals of the RF meeting – networking, education, discussion, and action. Most aspects of the meeting fall under one of these categories.

### **NETWORKING**

Probably the most fun part of the RF is meeting and getting to know your colleagues from around the country.

- In addition to the RF meeting itself, there are two receptions – one the evening before and one the evening after the RF meeting. The CAP provides the refreshments...you provide the company!
- The meetings include opportunities to meet CAP Fellows and engage in career networking.

### **INFORMATION**

One of the main benefits of the RF is learning about all the issues, happenings, and opportunities pertinent to practicing pathologists and resident pathologists.

- *Informational presentations* – Each RF meeting has at least one informative session concerning topics such as job market, academics vs. private practice, and the future of pathology. Sometimes the RF simply invites a speaker to share his or her experiences with the residents.
- *Updates* – Throughout the meeting, there will be updates on a variety of activities, both within the CAP and outside the CAP (e.g., the AMA). These updates are meant to expose you to and keep you informed about the broad range of issues and happenings in pathology and medicine.

### **DISCUSSION**

Perhaps the most important part of the RF is the opportunity to discuss issues important to you. You'll find out you're not the only one who may have challenges in your residency program, fellowship application, studying for the boards, and finding a job.

- *Breakout sessions/Open forum*– This is your chance to talk with your fellow residents about anything and everything that affects you as a resident in pathology. The forum breaks up into



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small groups to discuss problems and brainstorm solutions. Most Delegates find the breakout sessions both productive and therapeutic!

- *Town Hall Panel Discussion* – We bring in a panel of representatives from the CAP, Association of Pathology Chairs, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, American Board of Pathology, and other organizations. You can ask the leaders questions about residency training, pathology boards, fellowships, etc. Often, some of the questions brought up during breakout sessions can also be asked here.

### **ACTION**

The Residents Forum is a chance to talk about issues and is also an opportunity to make things happen! Residents Forum—through involvement of Delegates like you—has been directly responsible for things such as the establishment of a standardized application for pathology fellowships, the placement of Junior Members on every Committee within the CAP, and myriad targeted networking opportunities.

- You will learn much more about the CAP and the RF during the meeting. Also, click on the “Get Involved” section of the CAP website and [www.cap.org/residents](http://www.cap.org/residents) for great resources on CAP offerings for you as a Junior member.
- We encourage you to bring the meeting back to your colleagues by telling them about the speakers, discussions and decisions made during Residents Forum. The Residents Forum Executive Committee provides you with a short PowerPoint presentation that walks you through the meeting highlights and makes it easy to share the information.
- Enjoy the meeting! If you have any questions, just ask! The Residents Forum Executive Committee and CAP staff are always available and happy to answer your questions (send to [cwells@cap.org](mailto:cwells@cap.org)).

The Residents Forum Executive Committee and CAP Staff  
[www.cap.org/residents](http://www.cap.org/residents)