

# [Lab workforce crisis takes top spot](#)

written by CAP TODAY

April 17, 2022

April 2022—There are sudden crises like the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. And then there are the simmering crises that can be temporarily overshadowed but inevitably re-emerge to command notice. In New York and in many other states, the decades-long shortage of laboratory staff—especially medical technologists and histotechnologists—has gone from simmer to rolling boil.



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# [First IQCP template set up for molecular tests](#)

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April 17, 2022

April 2022—Drawing on five years of experience and laboratory feedback, a collaborative team has revised the microbiology IQCP templates and created the first template for the quality control of a commercial cartridge-based molecular test system.



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# [Supply price hikes now as common as](#)

# shortages

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

April 2022—Staffing, supply chain, and significant supply price increases. Two continuing problems and one new. When Compass Group members met online March 1 with CAP TODAY publisher Bob McGonnagle, that trio of issues took center stage. Here's what they had to say.



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# Liver pathology: autoimmune hepatitis, PBC, or overlap?

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

April 2022—Don't be afraid of livers. Maryam K. Pezhouh, MD, offered that advice in a CAP21 presentation on autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cholangitis, and overlap syndrome, part of a session on common queries in liver pathology. "You don't need to know everything when you're looking at the liver," said Dr. Pezhouh, associate clinical professor of pathology at the University of California, San Diego. "But you need to know what your clinician and your patient are asking."



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# Getting paid: policies, pressures, and a power struggle

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

April 2022—All things billing, revenue, income, and business-related were tossed around when representatives of four billing companies met online Feb. 14 with CAP TODAY publisher Bob McGonnagle. With them were Vachette Pathology founder Mick Raich and Al Lui, MD, of Innovative Pathology Medical Group, Torrance, Calif. The No Surprises Act, pathologist shortage, pharmacies, and SARS-CoV-2 testing post-pandemic were just some of what came up. Artificial intelligence too. “In the next two or three years, the payers are going to use AI to deny claims,” Raich predicts. “They’re going to know which claims are less likely to be appealed when they’re billed.” And that will only make more difficult an already tough situation. In the past year, says Kyle Fetter of Xifin, “there’s been an increase in the use of the CO-252 rejection/denial code.” Chris Condon of APS Medical Billing agrees, saying the job of the carrier “is to figure out ways to not pay pathologists.”



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# The impact of diagnostics on antimicrobial decisions

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

April 2022—A study published last fall examined antimicrobial prescribing in gram-negative bloodstream infections based on three rapid diagnostic panels and using what’s known as the DOOR-MAT framework. The study’s findings were explained in a CAP TODAY webinar on stewardship interventions to optimize the management of gram-negative bacteremia. It was presented last December and made possible by a special educational grant from BioFire.

## [AMP case report: \*ETV6/FLT3\* fusion gene detected in a patient with T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

April 2022—Genetic alterations of the gene *FLT3*, especially internal tandem duplications in the juxtamembrane domain and point mutations in the tyrosine kinase domain, are commonly seen in patients with newly diagnosed myeloid leukemias. However, chromosome rearrangements involving the *FLT3* gene are extremely rare in hematologic malignancies. The *FLT3* gene has only a few known partner genes, including the gene *ETV6*, which encodes a transcriptional repressor. *ETV6* has a wide variety of translocation partner genes, several of which are tyrosine kinase genes.

## [From the President's Desk](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

### **What you'll get from the Leadership Summit**

April 2022—The end of this month marks the start of one of my favorite CAP events: the Pathologists Leadership Summit. If you're not familiar with it or haven't signed up to attend, I'd like to give you a sense of why it's so important. Back in the early 2000s, I attended what was known as CAP Advocacy

School. At that point in my career, I had seen many physicians who felt discouraged, frustrated, and helpless about the state of physician payments and government health care regulations, and I understood those feelings. Advocacy School offered a solution. What struck me about this program was the message that we were not powerless. Through this meeting, the CAP taught me that my government representatives would be interested in what I had to say as an expert physician. I was partnered with Richard Hausner, MD, a seasoned pathologist advocate.



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## [Clinical pathology selected abstracts](#)

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April 17, 2022

- Awareness of donation-related iron depletion among high-risk blood donors
- Performance of surrogate tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2-neutralizing antibodies



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## [Anatomic pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
April 17, 2022

- Histological regression in melanoma: impact on SLN status and survival
- CERTAIN study results: use of adjunctive p16 IHC in cervical biopsies



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