

[From the President's Desk: Gratitude all around](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2020

November 2020—Despite the circumstances that forced us to shift to a virtual event for our annual meeting this year—and my sincere hope we will never have to do so again—I couldn't be more proud of how everyone in the CAP worked hard to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the best experience possible for all of our pathologists. As I write this, the annual meeting has just concluded. While every conference we hold requires tremendous effort, this was a different event, a different horse race. The work and persistence that went into making our virtual meeting a success were extraordinary.



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[FDA authorizes at-home COVID-19 test](#)

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Nov. 18, 2020—The FDA issued an emergency use authorization to Lucira Health for its COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit, the first COVID-19 diagnostic test for self-testing at home and that provides rapid results.



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Clinical pathology selected abstracts

written by CAP TODAY

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November 2020—Smoking is a leading cause of death in the United States and is associated with many postoperative complications, including increased transfusion needs. Toxins in tobacco that create free radicals that damage the arterial walls and make them more susceptible to rupture and bleeding may be the link between smoking and surgical bleeding. Smoking also impairs tissue healing after surgery, most likely due to reduced oxygenation and altered function of inflammatory cells during the healing process. This may impact bleeding risk in the immediate postoperative period. The authors conducted a study in which they queried the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) Participant Use Data File 2007–2016, which contained data from up to 680 U.S. hospitals, to test the hypothesis that smoking is associated with a higher risk of bleeding in various surgical procedures.



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Molecular pathology selected abstracts

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November 2020—Sporadic vascular malformations are congenital malformations of arteries, veins, capillaries, or lymphatic vessels, or a combination of these, and are associated with significant morbidity. The majority of them are caused by postzygotic somatic pathogenic variants in oncogenes in the PI3K-MTOR and RAS-MAPK pathways, including within *PIK3CA*, *TEK*, *MAP2K1*, *BRAF*, and *KRAS*. Investigators have assessed whether therapeutic agents targeting these pathways should be used to augment or replace traditional surgical management. But because these somatic variants are restricted to cells within the tissue of vascular malformations (VM), it is necessary to conduct genetic testing on the surgically resected tissue to qualify patients for trials of targeted therapies. Approximately 10 percent of cell-free DNA (cfDNA) originates from endothelial cells.

[Anatomic pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
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November 2020—Neuroendocrine neoplasms range from well to poorly differentiated and indolent to highly aggressive. The site of origin in metastatic neuroendocrine neoplasms has therapeutic and prognostic implications. SATB2 is a transcriptional regulator involved in osteoblastic and neuronal differentiation and a sensitive and specific marker of colorectal epithelium. The authors conducted a study to evaluate the expression of SATB2 in neuroendocrine neoplasms from various primary sites and its utility as a marker for determining the site of origin of these neoplasms. SATB2 IHC was performed on 266 such neoplasms, including lung small cell carcinomas (n=39) and carcinoids (n=30), bladder (n=21) and prostate (n=31) small cell carcinomas, and gastrointestinal/pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms of various primary sites (n=145) consisting of well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (WDNET, n=124) and poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas (PDNEC, n=21).

[Pathology informatics selected abstracts](#)

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November 2020—Telepathology is a leading application for digital pathology. The ability to easily share a digital image in practice offers pathology laboratories clinical, operational, and financial benefits. This is best demonstrated by the longstanding success of telepathology in allowing pathologists to remotely perform intraoperative consultations—that is, to read frozen sections. Neuropathologists were one of

the first specialists to leverage digital pathology for this clinical use. The authors, all of whom were from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, performed teleneuropathology at their institution, which implemented the practice 17 years ago.



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Q&A column

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Q. What can laboratories expect to see after a medication such as Narcan is given for an opioid overdose? [Read answer.](#)

Q. There are conflicting views among my colleagues regarding the meaning of initial competency assessment. Some think that using a training checklist for new staff counts as the initial competency assessment because we are signing off that staff are competent to perform patient testing and report results. Others believe an initial competency assessment is done shortly after training is completed, followed by the mid-cycle/six-month competency assessment and annual competency assessment. Please clarify. [Read answer.](#)

Q. How do you calculate RDW-SD and RDW-CV values in dimorphic anemia cases on the Sysmex XN-3000? Most of the dimorphic anemia cases report a masked parameter. [Read answer.](#)



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Newsbytes

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November 2020—As LigoLab was designing a direct-to-consumer portal for laboratory testing early this year, company CEO Suren Avunjian turned his focus to when in 2021 he would release it, not knowing what was around the corner. But as the number of COVID-19 cases grew to pandemic proportions, Avunjian realized he could and should redesign the portal to streamline SARS-CoV-2 testing.



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[Put It on the Board](#)

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November 2020—In an Association for Molecular Pathology survey, 62 percent of U.S. labs reported using only commercial testing kits with FDA EUA for SARS-CoV-2 molecular testing. Five percent reported using laboratory-developed tests only, 26 percent said they were using a combination of LDTs and EUA commercial kits, and six percent reported using LDTs, IRB-approved/non-EUA assays, and commercial kits. Less than one percent reported using a combination of LDTs and IRB-approved/non-EUA assays or a combination of IRB-approved/non-EUA assays and commercial kits.



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[GreenarrowDx, a new digital marketplace](#)

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Our new digital marketplace is designed for the readers of CAP TODAY and the

companies that serve them. Our new GreenarrowDx initiative, a joint venture with longtime friend of CAP TODAY and industry expert Russ Wedemeyer, and his team, will allow you to discover and search for new instrumentation, reagents and supplies for your laboratory. You can contact all vendors directly and participating companies will be listing their demos and webinars for your selection. Companies can even arrange for you to send RFIs and RFQs directly through our safe and secure channel. We aim to provide specific, critical data points that enable you to survey and designate offerings highlighted for your needs. We want to provide the information you need to quickly confirm and narrow searches, make initial contacts, and maintain both renewed and new companies. Let me suggest you sample our new offering but look in particular at the covid testing resources. Then stay to survey all that you can accomplish at [GreenarrowDx](#).



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