

[Study to uncover new lab test ordering insight](#)

written by CAP TODAY

September 19, 2025

September 2025—Enrollment is underway now for a new CAP study that will make it possible for individual and integrated laboratories to compare inpatient analyte volumes and identify ordering practice problems. “This study is the first by the CAP that will allow system laboratories to evaluate a quality metric—inpatient test utilization—across all laboratories within their system and in comparison to like system laboratories across the U.S. and beyond,” says Richard Brown, MD, former chair and now advisor to the CAP Quality Practices Committee, whose members developed the study.



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[From the President's Desk](#)

written by CAP TODAY

September 19, 2025

September 2025—It's hard to believe that my two-year term as president of the CAP is already at its end. By the time you read this column, Jim Zhai, MD, will have been sworn in as our new president at the CAP annual meeting in Orlando. Serving as CAP president has given me amazing opportunities that I'm sure I would never have experienced otherwise. Perhaps the most rewarding has been the chance to meet hundreds of pathologists in the U.S. and across the globe and to witness firsthand the great work they're doing for our profession, for the CAP, and particularly for our patients. The worldwide community of pathologists is truly impressive.



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[Idylla CDx MSI test gets FDA premarket approval](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

Sept. 18, 2025—Biocartis' Idylla CDx MSI test, developed in partnership with Bristol Myers Squibb, has received FDA premarket approval.



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[Clinical pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025—Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection can lead to post-acute sequelae, or a condition known as long COVID. The World Health Organization defines long COVID as any symptoms that typically present within three months of acquiring COVID-19 and that persist for at least two months. Long COVID generally manifests as fatigue, pulmonary symptoms, and cognitive dysfunction. The biological mechanisms of long COVID are not well understood. Changes in the serotonin system may lead to cognitive changes, while mitochondrial changes may lead to fatigue, and complement and platelet activation to vascular disease.



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[Anatomic pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025—The efficacy of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 antibody-drug conjugate therapy for treating HER2-low breast cancers necessitates more accurate and reproducible HER2 IHC scoring. The authors conducted a study to validate the performance and utility of a fully automated artificial intelligence (AI) solution for interpreting HER2 IHC in breast carcinoma. In the two-arm multireader study of 120 HER2 IHC whole slide images from four sites, four surgical pathologists assessed HER2 scoring with and without the aid of an AI solution. Both arms of the study were compared with high-confidence ground truth established by agreement of at least four of five breast pathology subspecialists according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists (ASCO/CAP) 2018 and 2023 guidelines. The mean interobserver agreement among the ground truth pathologists across all HER2 scores was 72.4 percent (n=120).



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[Molecular pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025—When someone dies suddenly and unexpectedly, a forensic autopsy is often performed to identify the manner and cause of death. However, up to 30 percent of autopsies fail to identify any underlying anatomic or toxicologic etiologies, and the autopsy classification may be sudden unexplained death. This is particularly concerning in young people, in whom the cause could be an inherited genetic condition that could also affect family members. Therefore, postmortem genetic testing, also known as a molecular autopsy, may have utility in identifying underlying inherited diseases that could contribute to death. In many cases, sudden death is due to cardiac factors, but the type of cardiac dysfunction may depend on age.

Q&A column

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025

Q. Some of my laboratory staff are reluctant to reach out to the CAP with accreditation questions on checklist requirements because they fear that doing so will lead CAP inspectors to scrutinize those related items more closely during the next inspection. How does the College manage information from these phone calls? [Read answer.](#)

Q. An oncologist recently told me to perform a platelet count on a sodium citrate (blue top) tube even though the platelet results from the EDTA tube were valid—no platelet flags, a Q-flag value of zero, a normal platelet histogram, and no clumps seen on slide review. Based on this evidence, this patient is not an EDTA clumper and using the blue-top tube isn't indicated or recommended, as far as I know. What is the science behind this request? There were platelet clumps in the blue-top tubes (platelet instrument flags and clumps seen on the slides from the citrate tubes), which further invalidated these results in my opinion as a licensed laboratory scientist. [Read answer.](#)

Newsbytes

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025—In his previous role as a pathologist at Seattle's Virginia Mason Medical Center, Dick

Hwang, MD, PhD, was looking for a way to make his life—and his colleagues’ lives—easier. So he reached for something he hadn’t used in a while: his doctorate in computational biology. It was 2014, and Virginia Mason’s pathology group had just rolled out M*Modal Fluency Direct speech-recognition software as an optional tool for dictating diagnostic data. Dr. Hwang and many of his colleagues embraced the new software, but they soon realized that it meant they’d be spending a lot of time editing and formatting data. Entering a final diagnosis required, for example, typing “1.{tab}{caps lock},” dictating “cecum and ascending colon comma polypectomy,” then typing “: {caps lock}{return}{backspace}A.{tab}”—just as a start.



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[Put It on the Board](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 19, 2025

September 2025—CAP president Donald Karcher, MD, in a July 25 letter urged the chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House appropriations subcommittee on labor, health and human services, education, and related agencies to apply pressure to obligate and award already approved funding for the CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. “Even though Congress approved FY 2025 funding in March, the CDC has not issued notice of awards to provide funding to state and local health departments for the remaining FY 2025 funds,” he said. “State and local health departments are challenged to continue their work without knowing if they will be reimbursed. State health departments and grantees are on the verge of shutting down programs and furloughing staff.”



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Letters

written by CAP TODAY

September 19, 2025

September 2025—It has come to the attention of the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants that some pathologists and pathology fellows assume the pathologists' assistant profession is widely licensed, since we are comparable to the nationally licensed physician associates. This is a misconception that I, chair of the AAPA legislative subcommittee, and the AAPA Board of Trustees would like to address with the pathology community.



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