

[Familiar but newer: ICI-associated colitis](#)

written by CAP TODAY

July 19, 2025

July 2025—For all the words that have been devoted to the topic of how to meditate, the path to enlightenment can be disarmingly simple: start by noticing. Likewise, there is a fairly simple set of instructions for untangling one of the vexing problems associated with immune checkpoint inhibitors. Though the drugs can create impressive antitumor response, they can also lead to immune-related adverse events (known as irAEs), including colitis and gastritis, which manifest as histologic changes that can be seen in both the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract. Left unaddressed, severe reactions can disrupt treatment. It's complicated. And it's not. The first step, says Raul S. Gonzalez, MD, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and director of the gastrointestinal pathology service, Emory University School of Medicine, is cultivating a certain mindfulness. "We need to have knowledge that checkpoint inhibitors can cause immune-related adverse events such as gastritis and colitis, to be aware that these things happen," says Dr. Gonzalez.



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[Too few phlebotomists—is Aletta the answer?](#)

written by CAP TODAY

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July 2025—It was one of those infamous winter days in Chicago. The phlebotomy staff were calling off work, and Gregory S. Retzinger, MD, PhD, had reached his breaking point. Phlebotomists tend to be in short supply, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where Dr. Retzinger is medical director of pathology clinical services, is no exception.



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[For coagulation labs, a deep dive into key testing variables](#)

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July 2025—The variables that affect coagulation testing are plentiful, from preanalytic to postanalytic. In a CAP course last year, the presenters walked through a handful that are central to patient safety.



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[For infectious disease, plasma microbial cf-DNA testing](#)

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July 2025—There are a few approaches to using DNA sequencing for infectious disease diagnosis, from ribosomal amplicon sequencing to sequencing of microbes found in infected body fluids.



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How high school students are learning about labs

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July 2025—Two years into its program to introduce high school students to laboratory careers, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., is seeing the hoped-for interest and demand. Discover Mayo Clinic Lab Explorers Program is the name, and the program is open to students in grades nine through 12. “Over the last two years, we’ve had roughly 100 students participate, and both times we opened registration it was full within three to five days,” says Liana Michelfelder, talent solutions specialist with the Mayo Clinic human resources workforce development team. In the program’s second year, which took place this year in April, she says, there was a 60-student waiting list. “So we are seeing strong results so far,” Michelfelder says.



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Pathology student interest groups—what makes them work

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July 2025—Seventy-eight percent of those responding to a survey said their institutions have a pathology student interest group, and they said the most effective ways to engage and retain students are hosting regular events; providing mentorship, leadership, and shadowing opportunities; and offering participation incentives. Using social media and online platforms was reported to be less effective. “A surprise in the findings was the student respondents’ desire to have more faculty engagement. So while students may want to start an interest group and are engaged, they have a hard time getting these off the ground if they don’t have faculty support,” says coauthor Kalisha Hill, MD, MBA. “We’re finding that when the faculty are engaged with these student interest groups, they are much more successful.”

Shorts on Standards: ISO/TS 23824 can help take anatomic pathology quality to another level

written by CAP TODAY
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July 2025—The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) published a new technical specification, ISO/TS 23824 (Medical Laboratories—Guidance on Application of ISO 15189 in Anatomic Pathology), on the application of ISO 15189 to anatomic pathology. Although structured around the clauses of ISO 15189, the document offers useful guidance, ideas, and concepts applicable to any AP laboratory, including every AP laboratory in the United States that has to comply with CLIA '88 or CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program requirements.

AMP case report: Identifying the signal in the signal: incidental detection of B-cell lymphoproliferative disorder-related variants

in the molecular profiling of a spindle cell sarcoma

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July 2025—We report the case of a 75-year-old female who initially presented with a 10-cm left pretibial mass on MRI. A biopsy revealed a high-grade spindle cell sarcoma with myofibroblastic differentiation. PET CT showed intense uptake in osseous lesions at the scapula, vertebral bodies, iliac bones, sacrum, and femoral head. A sacrum biopsy confirmed metastatic spindle cell sarcoma. The patient underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy. A follow-up CT scan several months later revealed new liver and lung metastases, prompting molecular analysis of the sacrum specimen.



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‘Stick to the basics’: service, quality, and cost

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July 2025—What’s new from Roche, Hologic, and Siemens Healthineers, and how they aim to lighten for labs the burden of the workforce shortage. CAP TODAY publisher Bob McGonnagle spoke about these and other things with three company representatives in an online roundtable, and Stan Schofield, Compass Group managing principal, told them what three questions companies must answer to get a laboratory’s business. Their June 2 conversation follows.



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From the President's Desk

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July 2025—Whether we're in academic or private practice, hospital labs or independent labs, as pathologists we share a broad set of common responsibilities and challenges. But a select group of us has an additional set of considerations for how to practice because of who and where they serve. In this month's column, I'd like to shine a light on military pathologists and pathologists who serve our veterans in the Veterans Affairs health system—all of whom are supporting the defense of our country.



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