

New protocols on deck as pathology helps reshape cancer staging

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—It's a familiar campus lament. New editions of textbooks in some academic fields have become notorious for providing little more than a few extra paragraphs of text or a few more references and altered pagination—mainly, students suspect, to serve as a damper on the textbook resale market. What is happening with a key text in the field of cancer care, however, is in marked contrast. The changes contained in the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual of the American Joint Committee on Cancer, slated to take effect Jan. 1, 2018, are the opposite of cosmetic.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

AMP case report: Isolated hepatic neuroendocrine tumor expressing albumin mRNA and arginase-1, December 2016

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—CAP TODAY and the Association for Molecular Pathology have teamed up to bring molecular case reports to CAP TODAY readers. AMP members write the reports using clinical cases from their own practices that show molecular testing's important role in diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. The following report comes from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

What molecular diagnostics laboratory systems offer

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—As personalized and predictive medicine have progressed from not-in-my-lifetime to now available, health care information technology vendors have faced the challenge of how to manage a mass of molecular data and direct molecular testing processes. CAP TODAY asked vendors of molecular diagnostics lab information systems to explain what their products contribute to the flourishing field of molecular testing. Here are their responses.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

Recent approvals and the pipeline

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) is now FDA approved as monotherapy for patients with untreated metastatic NSCLC, both squamous and nonsquamous histologies, that express PD-L1 at a high level of 50 percent or more, says Dr. Roger Dansey, who headed up Keytruda development at Merck Research Laboratories. “We do not have data at this point that would say whether a cutpoint lower than 50 percent in the first-line setting would be of equal value in terms of response to Keytruda,” he says.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

Molecular Pathology Selected Abstracts, 12/16

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—ANXA1 as a predictive biomarker for resistance to trastuzumab in breast cancer: Treatment with the HER2-targeting antibody trastuzumab (Herceptin) is a key component of therapy for women with HER2-positive breast cancer. However, a subset of women with advanced disease shows initial or acquired resistance to therapy, although the mechanisms that control this resistance are largely unknown. Some studies have suggested that activation of the PI3K/mTOR signaling pathway may be responsible for trastuzumab resistance.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

Anatomic Pathology Abstracts, 12/16

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—Reproducibility of NEPTUNE descriptor-based scoring system with various types of images: The multicenter Nephrotic Syndrome Study Network, or NEPTUNE, digital pathology scoring system uses a novel and comprehensive methodology to document pathologic features from whole-slide images, immunofluorescence, and ultrastructural digital images.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

[Clinical Pathology Abstracts, 12/16](#)

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—Process optimization to improve immunosuppressant drug testing turnaround time: The routine use of immunosuppressant medications is critical for patients receiving solid organ transplants. Monitoring immunosuppressant (ISP) drug concentrations helps guide safe and effective dosing. ISP drug monitoring is performed using mass spectrometry or immunoassay methods.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

[Q&A column, 12/16](#)

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

Q. Are there guidelines on microsatellite instability analysis by immunohistochemistry on colorectal adenocarcinomas? Specifically, should immunohistochemical stains for the mismatch repair enzymes be performed on all colorectal adenocarcinomas regardless of the clinical or pathological findings? A medical group recently requested these studies on all colorectal adenocarcinomas.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

Newsbytes, 12/16

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

December 2016—The benefits of building a dedicated LIS support team: Too many cooks in the kitchen may be a problem, for which building more than one “kitchen” may be a solution. That’s the message Kathy Davis, manager of pathology informatics at the University of Michigan Medical Center, conveyed in an LIS management presentation at the 2016 Pathology Informatics Summit.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.

Put It on the Board, 12/16

written by CAP TODAY
December 16, 2016

SeraCare develops first multiplexed cardiomyopathy reference material: SeraCare Life Sciences has launched a multiplexed reference material for inherited disease testing by next-generation sequencing.



©2026 CAP TODAY, all rights reserved.