

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization www.aipna.net

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APRIL 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

It is with profound gratitude and deep humility that I assume the role of President of the Association of Indian Pathologists of North America. To lead an organization defined by excellence, service, and a rich legacy of contribution to pathology is truly an honor.

AIPNA represents far more than a professional association. It is a collective vision brought to life by visionary pathologists who have advanced diagnostic medicine, shaped academic thought, and elevated patient care across North America and beyond. We are

united not only by our shared heritage, but by a common purpose—to push the boundaries of knowledge, to mentor and uplift one another, and to serve as ambassadors of integrity, innovation, and compassion in medicine.

We stand at a transformative moment in the history of pathology. Technological advances, precision diagnostics, artificial intelligence, and molecular innovation are redefining our field at an unprecedented pace. In this era of rapid evolution, pathologists are not behind the scenes—we are at the very center of modern medicine. AIPNA is committed to ensuring that our members lead this transformation with confidence, creativity, and clarity of purpose.

Our vision for AIPNA is bold and inclusive:

- To be a leader in pathology education and thought leadership at a global level
- To nurture and inspire the next generation of pathologists through meaningful mentorship
- To foster collaboration across institutions, disciplines, and borders
- To champion diversity, equity, wellness, and professional fulfillment
- To give back through service, scholarship, and global outreach

As we move forward, our greatest strength will remain our people—seasoned leaders, early-career physicians, trainees, researchers, and volunteers—each bringing unique perspectives and boundless potential. I encourage every member to engage actively: share your voice, contribute

your expertise, mentor generously, and help shape the future we envision together.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Committee, Council members, and countless volunteers whose dedication fuels AIPNA's momentum. Their leadership and selfless service inspire confidence in what we can accomplish as a community.

Together, let us reimagine what is possible. Let us lead with purpose, innovate with courage, and serve with compassion.

With respect and optimism,

VIKAS MEHTA, MD

PRESIDENT, AIPNA

AIPNA GBM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



WHAT IS AIPNA: PATHOLOGISTS WITHOUT BORDERS!

The dinner and gala was enjoyed by one and all. Drs. Rajendra Singh and Akanksha Gupta gave inspiring talks and explained their fortuitous paths as successful pathology entrepreneurs. Dr. Zhai was felicitated as the first IMG CAP President. Sanjay Kakar expounded on the success of the mentor mentee program and Anand Lagoo gave away the best abstract prizes.



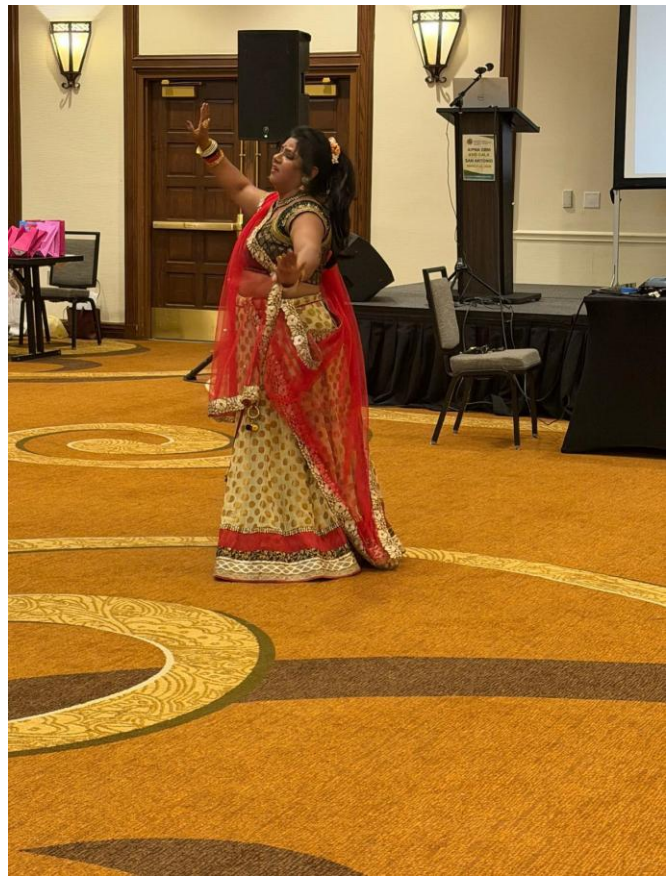
We welcome friends of AIPNA from India. Drs. Bharat Rekhi (Tata Memorial Hospital) and Seema Kaushal (AIIMS- New Delhi) Hard at work- Drs. Deepak Dhonti, Preeti Malik, Renuka Malenie, Swati Satturwar





AIPNA members networking and meeting friends







Talented AIPNA members and friends dancing solo and group



CAP CEO Akshay Patel, President -Dr. Jim Zhai and Board of Governor- Dr. Raj Dash with Nina Dash in attendance

AIPNA BEST ABSTRACT PRIZES

First Prize (Shared)

- Wei Fan, Boston University
- Stanislav Fridland, Northwestern

Honorable Mention

- Anne Dharamraj, University of Florida
- Ahlam Ali, Montefiore School of Medicine
- Sonalben Italiya, Baylor
- Aadhyyanth Allu, NYU





LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: ANIRBAN MAITRA



Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA) is Delighted to Present the Friend of AIPNA Award to Professor Anirban Maitra, MBBS, M.D. In recognition of his exceptional achievements and groundbreaking, pioneering work in the field of pancreatic cancer; for his leadership in numerous national and international oncology research initiatives; and for his long-standing association with and contributions to AIPNA. Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

Dr. Anirban Maitra: Professional Profile

Dr. Maitra is the **Co-Director of the NYU Langone Gastrointestinal Cancer Center**, having joined in August 2025. He is a world-renowned physician-scientist specializing in pancreatic and gastrointestinal oncology.

Career Milestones

- **Johns Hopkins University:** Professor of Pathology and Oncology at the Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center (until 2013).
- **MD Anderson Cancer Center:** Professor and Distinguished University Chair, focusing on translational molecular pathology.
- **Current Role:** Co-Director, NYU Langone Gastrointestinal Cancer Center.

FELICITATING JIM ZHAI: FIRST IMG CAP PRESIDENT



FRIEND OF AIPNA AWARD: BHARAT REKHI



Left: Dr. Bharat Rekhi being presented the award by our Patron Dr. Jaishree Jagirdar

Right: Exceptional Service to AIPNA award presented to Dr. Sanjay Kakar by our past president Dr. Ashraf Khan

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA) is Delighted to Present the Friend of AIPNA Award to Professor Bharat Rekhi, M.D., Professor and Pathologist, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India, for his seminal research contributions in Bone and Soft tissue Pathology, his scholarly approach, and editorial leadership in all fields of pathology Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO AIPNA: SANJAY KAKAR

- Faculty at most AIPNA int CMEs in India

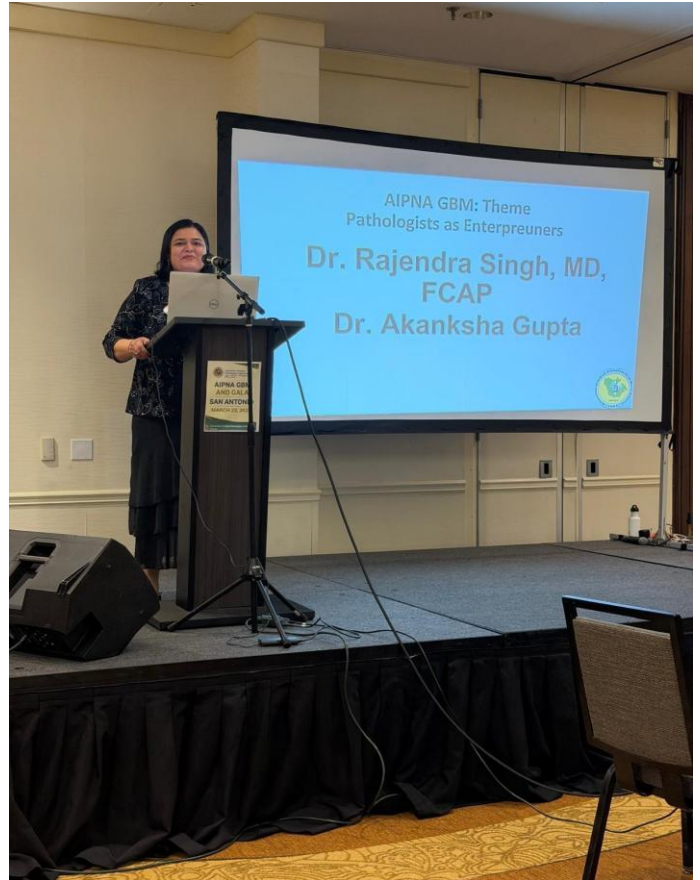
1. 2024 Bylaws Revision
2. 2023-2026 Mentor Mentee Program

President Elect, AIPNA

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA) is Delighted to Present Outstanding Service to AIPNA Award Presented to Dr. Sanjay Kakar In recognition of his exceptional service and unwavering dedication to the mission and objectives of AIPNA,

including his leadership in revising the Constitution and Bylaws and in establishing the Mentor-Mentee Program, strengthening the organization and fostering the next generation of pathologists. Date San Antonio, Texas

AIPNA GBM THEME: PATHOLOGISTS AS ENTREPRENEURS



Drs. Rajendra Singh and Akanksha Gupta gave inspiring talks and explained their fortuitous paths as successful pathology entrepreneurs.

Attendees were treated to captivating presentations from two leading figures in the field: Dr. Rajendra Singh of Path Presenter and Dr. Akanksha Gupta of Ace My Path. Delivering highly inspiring talks, both distinguished speakers detailed the fascinating, often fortuitous paths that led them from clinical practice to becoming successful pathology entrepreneurs. By sharing their unique journeys, they beautifully illustrated how a deep-seated passion for pathology can organically evolve into groundbreaking platforms that revolutionize how medical professionals learn, share, and collaborate globally.

EDUCATION: AIPNA YEAR IN REVIEW

- AIPNA Companion Mtg, USCAP, Boston, March 2025
- AIPNA Companion Mtg, CAP, Orlando, Sept 2025
- AIPNA ASC Companion Mtg, St Louis, Nov 2025

- **AIPNA ASCP Mtg, Atlanta, Nov 2025**
- **AIPNA IAPM, Jammu, India, Dec 2025**
- **AIPNA Regional Path Mtg, Goa, Jan 2026**
- **AIPNA INT CME, Amritsar, Feb 2026**
- **AIPNA MPAI, Kolkatta, Feb 2026**
- **AIPNA USCAP Companion Mtg, March 2026**

For Junior Members: Year in Review

- **Mentor Mentee Program**
- **Best Abstract Awards @ CAP and USCAP**
- **Opportunities for Junior Faculty at Companion meetings**
- **USCAP, CAP, ASCP, ASC**
- **Meetings in India**
- **APCON, CYTOCON, IAPM**

AIPNA - NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT: 2026-2027

- **President: Dr. Vikas Mehta**
- **President Elect: Dr. Sanjay Kakar**
- **Past President: Dr. Megha Joshi**
- **Exec Director: Dr. Renuka Malenie**
- **Newsletter Editor: Dr. Akanksha Gupta**
- **Associate Newsletter Editor: Dr. Lakshmi Harinath**
- **Secretary: Dr. Rahul Jawale**
- **Jt Secretary: Dr. Dinesh Pradhan**
- **Treasurer: Dr. Vijayalakshmi Padmanabhan**
- **Jt Treasurer: Dr. Rajal Shah**
- **Canadian Representative: Dr. Prashant Jani**
- **Trainee reps: Dr. Swati Bhardwaj/Dr. Ramkumar Subramaniam**
- **Trustees: Drs. Nirag Jhala, Megha Joshi, Ashraf Khan, Anand Lagoo, Srinivas Mandavilli, Rajal Shah, Bakul Dalal, Vijayalakshmi, Padmanabhan**
- **Patrons: Drs. Vinay Kumar, Jaishree Jagirdar, Sharda Sabnis**

All committee leads are part of the Executive Committee.

Committee Leads were decided in the meeting held on 14th of April.

AIPNA COMMITTEES

- AIPNA ICP Education Committee: Drs. **Darshana Jhala**, Nirag Jhala, Srinivas Mandavilli, **Sarangarajan Ranganathan**
- AIPNA Resident/Fellow Education Committee: Lead-Drs. **Ramya Masand**, Karuna Garg
- Mentorship Committee: Dr. **Sanjay Kakar**
- USCAP Companion Mtg: Drs. **Romil Saxena**, Rifat Mannan
- CAP Companion Meeting: Drs. **Megha Joshi**, Vikas Mehta
- ASC Companion Meeting: Drs. **Renuka Malenie**, Nirag Jhala
- IAP Companion Meeting: Drs. **Nirag Jhala**, Ashraf Khan
- AFCS Companion Meeting: Drs. **Darshana Jhala**, Nirag Jhala
- Abstract Review Committee: Drs. **Anand Lagoo**, Rifat Mannan, Binny Khandakar, Sagar Dhamane
- Digital/Web Committee: Drs. **Binny Khandakar**, Snehal Sonawane, Indu Agarwal, Rifat Mannan, Rajendra Singh
- Newsletter Committee: Drs. **Akanksha Gupta**, Lakshmi Harinath, Vikas Mehta, Bakul Dalal, Megha Joshi
- Events Committee: Drs. **Renuka Malenie**, Preeti Malik, Dinesh Pradhan, Shilpa Jani, Deepak Donthi, Neha Varshney
- Entertainment Committee: Drs. **Darshana Jhala**, Nirag Jhala, Megha Joshi, Kamaljeet Singh, Vikas Mehta
- Sponsorship Committee: Drs. **Vikas Mehta**, Megha Joshi, Rajan Dewar, Anil Prasad, Rajendra Singh
- Molecular Committee: Drs. **Ravi Kolhe**, Priti Lal
- Membership Committee: Drs. **Kamaljeet Singh**, Dhanpat Jain, Vikas Mehta

PATH SOCIETIES SUPPORTED/ NURTURED/ FOUNDED BY AIPNA MEMBERS

- **Renal Path-** Drs. **Surya Seshan and Sharda Sabnis**
- **Molecular Path-** Drs. **Rajan Dewar, Priti Lal**

- Pediatric Pathology- Drs. Sarangarajan Ranganathan, Vijay Joshi, Anand Lagoo
- Gynec Path- Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli
- GI Pathology- Drs. Sanjay Kakar, Dhanpat Jain, Vikram Deshpande, Dipti Karamchandani

TREASURER'S REPORT

A/C	6548	5140
STARTING BALANCE	24,110.99	25,751.00
INCOME	21278	
EXPENSE	17016	211.34
ENDING BALANCE (DEC 31, 2025)	23,162.40	25,539.66
ENDING BALANCE (FEB 3, 2026)	35,187.40	25,539.66

AIPNA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN JAN 2025



Goal: Support career development and networking of junior members (trainees and junior faculty)

Program outline:

- Form mentor-mentee pairs that will match a junior member (trainee or junior faculty) with a senior member based on subspecialty interest
- Senior member (Mentor) will help to guide the junior member (Mentee) with advice regarding career options, research, etc.
- Mentor and Mentee should meet at USCAP or another meeting, or over phone/Zoom. Subsequent meetings can be at 6-12 month intervals depending on the mentee's needs.

2025-26 MENTOR-MENTEE PAIRS

MENTOR	MENTEE
DARSHANA JHALA	Reenal Patel
RENUKA MALENIE	Asma Arshia
MAMTA GUPTA	Madhurya Ramineni
KARUNA GARG	Hansini Laharwani
DHANPAT JAIN	Sonalben Italiya
AMITABH SRIVASTAVA	Sujani Madabhushi
SANJAY KAKAR	Dilshad Dhaliwal
PARUL BHARGAVA	Ritika Bhat

MENTEES
SAIMA HALEEM SIDDIQUI
GAYATRI KINI
AFREEN KARIMKHAN
EJAS PALATHINGAL BAVA
NUPUR SHARMA

To participate in the program, please send a message to sanjaykakar@ucsf.edu

2026-27 Mentees (Mentors being assigned)

DR. BHARAT THYAGARAJAN, MD PHD, IS NAMED AS THE CHAIR OF LABORATORY MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.



Dr. Thyagarajan earned his MBBS from Grant Medical College, India and his PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota. He is a Board-certified clinical pathologist with a primary appointment as a Professor in LMP.

Recently he served as the Vice Chair for Translational Research and Director of the Division of Molecular Pathology and Genomics. His work in Hispanic and Latino population genetics and molecular markers of aging is very well known. He was instrumental in advancing the work of the Advanced Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (ARDL), strengthening our capacity to translate cutting-edge science into high-impact clinical diagnostics.

A noted expert in molecular biomarkers and the genetics of aging, Dr. Thyagarajan has made

significant contributions to the field through his leadership of large-scale clinical trials and national research initiatives, such as the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the Long Life Family Study (LLFS). His work in the development and validation of molecular assays has been instrumental in advancing our clinical diagnostic capabilities.

OBITUARY: BHARTI BHUSNURMATH (NEE NAGRANI)



MBBS- Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi

MD Pathology- PGI, Chandigarh

Cardiac Pathology, Pediatric Pathology (first Sr Resident under late Prof. VV Joshi)

19 years at PGI, Chandigarh, 4 years at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, 27 years at St Georges university (SGU) Grenada

Created active clinical problem-based learning platforms in pathology that enhanced the USMLE performance of students greatly. Several workshops and CMEs to spread these ideas.

AIPNA- 1997-2020, Secretary, Co-Chair Education committee, Executive committee Actively helped organize AIPNA meetings at USCAP and CAP

Established excellent pathology lab at SGU Grenada and free service to community for 25 years

Established pathology residency program at SQU Muscat and got it and the lab accredited by the Royal College of Pathology, London

International Clinical Tutor Teaching Fellowship Program at SGU Grenada. Trained hundreds of international medical graduates- helped them move to US, Canada, UK, Australia

Network of Visiting Professors from AIPNA, US, Canada, UK, Australia and Africa

Elective for medical students at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University- Karad- over 400 students in ten years 2010-2020

Known for her kind, affectionate nature, great mentor for hundreds of students, tutors, residents

Worked quietly, diligently and studiously avoided lime light Many

AIPNA leaders were family for her over the decades Passed away

unexpectedly in August 2025

We miss her dearly!

WELLNESS CORNER

April is Earth Month, a time to celebrate nature while raising awareness about environmental responsibility and climate change. It is also Stress Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing understanding of stress, its causes, and healthy coping strategies. One activity that beautifully combines both themes is gardening.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

- Audrey Hepburn, *Famous actress and fashion icon*

Beyond lifting mood, just 30 minutes of gardening can serve as a full-body workout, improving flexibility, strength, and endurance. It is a proven stress buster and a deeply fulfilling hobby that reconnects us with nature.

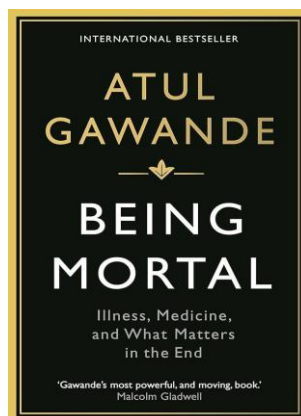
Did You Know?

- Sunflowers are not a single flower, but hundreds of tiny florets that later develop into seeds.
- The word *pineapple* comes from early European explorers who thought the fruit resembled a pinecone with apple-like flesh. Pineapples are the only edible members of the bromeliad family.
- Potatoes were first cultivated in Peru about 7,000 years ago.
- Many plants can be used as natural dyes - onion skins, tea bags, and walnut shells can all be used to color fabric. One of the oldest blue dyes comes from *woad*, used for more than 6,000 years.

Reference: 15 Fun Facts About Gardening - The Happy Gardening Life

AIPNA encourages members to explore or continue gardening and to share their tips and experiences with fellow readers through the newsletter.

Book Recommendation of the Month



Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End – Atul Gawande

A deeply reflective and compassionate book that explores aging, serious illness, autonomy, and what it truly means to live well until the end. *Being Mortal* challenges the medical community and all of us to rethink how we approach care, dignity, and quality of life.

AIPNA is happy to present Dr. Vikas Mehta on “life outside of pathology”



“Hello, friends!

If you know me well, you know I spend much of my day looking at the two giant screens in my office (we’ve gone digital!) and occasionally into the microscope. As pathologists, we’re trained to zoom in—to study the cellular details that reveal the larger story. But today, I want to step away from the lens. I want to zoom out and talk about the bigger picture: the people, the connections, and the beautiful things that grow when we nurture them.

As I step into the role of President of AIPNA (Association of Indian Pathologists in North America), my vision extends far beyond administrative goals or metrics. It is about community. I want every pathologist to feel they have a professional home, a sounding board, and a family. Watching AIPNA evolve into a vibrant, supportive network has been one of the great joys of my life.

This same energy guides me in the committee rooms at the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and at Chicago Pathology Society meetings. Whether we’re discussing policy, education, or the future of our field, my goal is always to find common ground. When we unite our voices, we don’t just strengthen our profession—we improve the lives of the patients who depend on our diagnoses.

Outside the hospital and beyond board meetings, you’ll usually find me in my garden, trading my lab coat for a pair of gloves. There is a profound, quiet magic in gardening. The more time I spend with my hands in the soil, the more I realize how similar it is to build a community. You can’t force a garden to bloom overnight, just as you can’t force a professional network to become a family. You prepare the soil, plant the seeds, create the right environment, and then, you nurture.

And when I need to let my imagination soar—especially during my commute in Chicago rush hour—I turn to high fantasy and science fiction. From *The Lord of the Rings* to *The Wheel of Time* to *Dune*, these epic worlds offer the perfect mental reset after hours spent focused on microscopic realities. My current favorite, *The Captive’s War*, explores the resilience of



First Harvest of the season



humanity under alien subjugation. These stories of fellowships and alliances often mirror the communities we build in real life—just with fewer dragons, wizards or lasers.



My beautiful wife



My Twins

None of these roles—leadership, long hospital hours, community building, or even tending my garden—would be possible without the bedrock of my life: my family. I am blessed to come from a deeply supportive family that has always encouraged me to reach higher. My wonderful wife and our twins—a daughter and a son—are my real-world fellowship. They keep me grounded, keep me laughing, and remind me daily of what truly matters. Everything I build, I build with their love and support behind me.

Whether I'm helping cultivate the next generation of pathologists through AIPNA, collaborating with colleagues at CAP, pruning roses in my backyard, turning the pages of a fantasy epic, or simply spending time with my wife and kids, the philosophy remains the same: life is about connection. It's about planting seeds—and sharing stories—that grow into something beautiful and enduring.

So the next time you see me—whether at a CAP meeting, an AIPNA gathering, or anywhere else—please come say hello. Let's pull up a chair, share a story, and see what we can grow together."

Warmly,

VIKAS MEHTA MD, FCAP

PRESIDENT, AIPNA

"Thank you Dr. Mehta for giving us a glimpse into your life. Combining gardening, reading and nurturing relationships are essential pillars that restore energy and provide motivation to persist and endure through challenges in life. We really appreciate you taking your time and sharing your thoughts with us".

Warm Regards,



LAKSHMI HARINATH, MD, MPH

ASSOCIATE EDITOR, AIPNA NEWSLETTER

ABHI GHOLAP, FOUNDER CEO OF OPTRASCAN PRESENTED HIS PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY DURING AIPNA GALA EVENT.



OPTRASCAN: ADVANCING DIGITAL PATHOLOGY AND AI-DRIVEN DIAGNOSTICS

At the AIPNA USCAP 2026 session, OptraSCAN presented its vision of transforming pathology through an integrated ecosystem of digital slide scanners, AI-powered image analysis, and cloud-based platforms.

The presentation highlighted how OptraSCAN is addressing key challenges in pathology—cost, scalability, and diagnostic variability—by offering high-quality imaging solutions at an affordable price point. Their patented composite imaging technology and AI-driven workflows enable enhanced visualization and standardized analysis across multiple applications.

Key innovations discussed included:

- **AI-based image analysis for IHC biomarkers and H&E morphometry**, enabling a *scan-analyze-pre-segregate* workflow where cases are automatically categorized into ASCO/CAP-aligned scoring groups. This allows laboratories to run large batches overnight, with pathologists reviewing and signing off on pre-segmented cases—significantly improving efficiency and turnaround time.
- **Cytology Scanner + AI (CytoSiA)**, trained on thousands of annotated slides, enabling a *scan-analyze-triage* approach. Slides are automatically classified into normal vs abnormal, with further sub-segmentation into infection-related changes and epithelial abnormalities (low-grade vs high-grade lesions)—streamlining screening workflows and prioritizing clinically significant cases.
- **AI-assisted tuberculosis (TB) screening**, designed to analyze the entire smear rather than selected fields, reducing the risk of missed bacilli. This approach enables more comprehensive, standardized, and scalable detection, particularly in high-burden settings where consistency and throughput are critical.
- **Fluorescence imaging scanners and advanced assays**, expanding diagnostic capabilities beyond traditional brightfield pathology and enabling support for specialized applications and next-generation biomarker workflows.

The company also emphasized its growing global footprint, with 150+ installations across leading institutions worldwide, and ongoing regulatory efforts including ISO 13485, CE-IVDR, and upcoming US FDA pathways.

Overall, OptraSCAN's approach focuses on combining affordability with advanced AI-driven diagnostics, aiming to make digital pathology more accessible while improving diagnostic accuracy and efficiency at scale.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



"Welcome to the vibrant April 2026 edition of the AIPNA Newsletter! We are still glowing from the phenomenal success of our General Body Meeting at the USCAP conference in San Antonio, Texas, which brought us together for a fabulous evening of joy, networking, and music. Guided by the empowering theme of "Pathologists as Entrepreneurs," the event celebrated our community's boundless innovation and vision. We proudly introduced our 2026-2027 Executive Committee led by our new President, Dr. Vikas Mehta, and honored distinguished colleagues, including presenting Lifetime Achievement Awards to Dr. Anirban Maitra and Dr. Bharat Rekhi, and the Exceptional Service to AIPNA award to Dr. Sanjay Kakar. We also joyously felicitated Dr. Jim Zhai as the first IMG CAP President.

Amidst our celebrations, we take a moment to deeply remember the late Dr. Bharti Bhusnurmath, whose legacy as a kind, affectionate mentor will forever remain in our hearts. As we embrace April, a month that beautifully coincides with both Earth Month and Stress Awareness Month, we invite you to explore the rejuvenating power of nature. In our Wellness Corner, Dr. Mehta illustrates how the quiet magic of gardening can serve as a profound stress buster, reminding us that cultivating a garden is much like nurturing our own professional community. Speaking of growth, our Mentor-Mentee Program continues to flourish, expertly pairing junior faculty and trainees with senior members to guide their career journeys and foster the next generation of pathologists. Whether you are exploring new AI-driven diagnostic workflows with partners like OptraSCAN or simply planting seeds in your backyard, we hope this issue inspires you to connect, innovate, and thrive."

AKANKSHA GUPTA, MBBS, MD, FASCP, FCAP

LEAD NEWSLETTER EDITOR, AIPNA