



Association of Indian Pathologists in North America

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is here, and I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather. AIPNA committees are meeting regularly and working diligently to serve our members and develop new services and initiatives. It was a genuine pleasure meeting many of you at the CAP House of Delegates meeting and Pathology Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., in late April (see photos).

In this issue, we outline our Mentorship and Observership initiatives and encourage all of you to participate as mentors or mentees. Please also spread the word about the available observerships. We invite our readers and members to share their hobbies and passions outside of pathology with us. Please send us pictures of your favorite activities—reading, gardening, acting, dancing, art, poetry, or whatever you are passionate about—and we

will publish them. We want to showcase you in all your glory.

Warm Regards,
Megha Joshi, MD
President, AIPNA

MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE



The mentorship initiative is the brainchild of Dr. Sanjay Kakar, member at large at AIPNA. Key features of the mentor-mentee programs are as follows.

Goal: AIPNA has launched a Mentorship program for trainees and young faculty to support their career development and networking.

Program outline:

1. AIPNA will enable formation of mentor-mentee pairs that will match a junior member (trainee or junior faculty) with a senior member.
2. The senior member (Mentor) will help to guide the junior member (Mentee) with advice regarding career

options and other related matters.

3. Once the junior members express interest in the program, the list of potential Mentors will be shared with them, who can then choose the Mentor based on their interests.
4. The Mentor and Mentee should meet (preferably in person) at USCAP or another meeting, or over phone/Zoom. Subsequent meetings can be at 6-12 month intervals depending on the mentee's needs.
5. Other aspects:

1. Suggested topics that can be discussed in these meetings are listed below.
2. The program is not intended to secure fellowships at the mentor's institution.
3. Only open to US/Canada-based AIPNA members.

Mentor-Mentee Discussion Topics

A. Networking:

Introduce the mentee to experts in the field both within AIPNA as well as nationally and internationally at meetings.

B. Career planning and Academic Pursuits:

1. Career planning based on the mentee's interests.

2. Potential research topics, abstract submissions, manuscript publishing and research collaboration.

3. Potential brief observership to advance subspecialty career interest.

4. Involvement with societies and committees at national and international level.

5. Submission of courses for national meetings (USCAP, CAP, ASCP).

We have the following mentees who have signed up so far:

Mentor	Mentee
Megha Joshi	Subramaniam Ramkumar
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

Implementation

The program has already been launched, and the initial set of mentor-mentee pairs have been formed. Interested mentees should email Sanjay Kakar (sanjay.kakar@ucsf.edu) about their interest to participate. The mentorship program is not just for the residents but also for new in practice, and those wanting to bring about a career change. Many of the senior pathologists have been practicing for 30-40 years and wish to share their wisdom to the new generation.

The following mentors have signed up for the program:

Mentor	Institution	Subspecialty interest
Bakul Dalal	Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada	Hematopathology
Megha Joshi	Winchester Hospital, Winchester MA	Breast, Thyroid, and Placental Pathology
Nirag Jhala	Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center and Rutgers Cancer Hospital, New Jersey, NJ	Cytopathology, GI Pathology
Darshana Jhala	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	Cytopathology, Telepathology
Vijaylaxmi Padmanabhan	Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX	Cytopathology, GU Pathology, Quality Improvement, Patient Safety
Rajal Shah	UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX	GU Pathology
Priti Lal	Univ of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	GU Pathology
Srinivas Mandavilli	Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT	Gyn and Soft Tissue Pathology
Dhanpat Jain	Yale University, New Haven, CT	GI/Liver Pathology
Sanjay Kakar	UCSF, San Francisco, CA	GI/Liver Pathology
Amitabh Srivastava	Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York	GI Pathology
Mamta Gupta	NYU, New York	Gyn Pathology
Renuka Malenie	Cleveland Clinic, OH	Cytopathology
Karuna Garg	Cleveland Clinic, OH	Gyn Pathology
Vikas Mehta	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL	GU Pathology
Kamaljeet Singh	Brown University, Rhode Island	Breast and Gyn Pathology
Sarangarajan Ranganathan	Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH	Pediatric Pathology

OBSERVERSHIP INITIATIVE: EMPOWERING PATHOLOGISTS THROUGH GLOBAL TRAINING



The observership initiative was formulated by Dr. Megha Joshi, to meet the demands of international medical graduates applying for residency programs. Dr. Jaishree Jagirdar volunteered to sponsor the program for the next three years with two observership awards of \$500 per observer. We are looking for generous donors to support this very important initiative. We are also looking for senior pathologists who can offer an observership for 1-2 months at their institute for aspiring residency applicants.

GOAL OF PROGRAM:

Allow visiting fellow(s) to observe novel methods, study new areas of interest not available at their home institute and/or pursue research, under guidance of AIPNA member, The observership award is for residency applicants also.

It is highly encouraged that this endeavor results in an abstract and publication.

Frequency: 1-2 fellows per year

Duration: 1-2 months

Amount granted: \$500/- per fellow (fellow is expected to pay additional costs out of pocket).

TIMELINE:

Applications Open: October 1.

Deadline for applications: January 1.

Review by committee and announcement of decision with awards and certificates given during AIPNA Board Meeting at the annual USCAP meeting in February-March.

Fellowship: any time period in the 12 months period following decision. If they need to delay beyond 12 months, then they can apply in writing for a one-time extension which may be granted for a period of another 12 months.

Six months after competition of fellowship, submit 1-2 pages of summary to state what they learnt and how they applied it at their home institute. Any outcomes including publications are highly encouraged to ensure the success of this program.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES:

Applying candidates must

- Have completed MD or DNB Pathology.
- Be employed at an academic institute.
- Be at the rank of associate professor or lower.
- Document health insurance coverage in United States or indicate willingness to purchase one.

- Indicate preferred time period / periods to visit USA.
- Be responsible for obtaining the US visa required.
- Must be able to provide up to date documentation of vaccinations necessary at the institute that the applicant is applying to (Check institution specific requirements for visiting fellows/observers).
- Not be a previous recipient of this award.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED:

1. Curriculum vitae.
2. A statement of purpose indicating what they plan to accomplish and how it will help them in their endeavors (Note: No more than 2 pages, single spaced, with standard 11 or 12-point font and 1 inch margins).
3. At least two reference letters from current place of work (excluding department chair).
4. Letter of support from their home institution department chair.
5. Letter of support from AIPNA mentor stating their ability to support the prospective candidate's training, duration that they can allow observer / trainee, and that they have necessary clearance from the host institute. Applicant should directly contact the mentor via the contact information provided in the listing and initiate this process.
6. Any funding already approved from any other agency including their own institution and the approved amount.

Email completed application to info@aipna.net or observership chair

SELECTION PROCESS:

All applications will undergo a review by 2 or more screeners. Merit grading of the application done by screeners will be forwarded to the Chair / Director of the AIPNA pathology Visiting Observership Program who will make the final selection. Final selection will be ratified by the Executive Committee of AIPNA.

Two observers got award certificates and cash prizes at the USCAP AIPNA GBM meeting in March 2025 in Boston.



DR. PRITHVIRAJ K. SOLANKI, MBBS, DNB

Observership with **Dr. Dhanpat Jain** at Yale University School of Medicine, CT

Education:

- MBBS from Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur, India
- DNB Pathology (AP/CP) from Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune, India
- Fellowship in Oncopathology from Tata Medical Center, Kolkata, India.

Current Affiliation:

- Senior Resident, Department of Pathology, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India.

US Observerships:

- Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT (September - November 2024)
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DR. SUBRAMANIAM RAMKUMAR, MD, DIP.RCPATH

Observership with **Dr. Megha Joshi** at Winchester Hospital, MA

Education:

- MBBS & MD in Pathology from PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Coimbatore, India., Diplomate Member of Royal College of Pathologists, UK.

Current Affiliation:

- Anatomic and Clinical Pathologist, Nazareth Hospital, Shillong, Meghalaya, India.

USA Observerships:

- Winchester Hospital, Beth Israel Lahey Health (August 2024 & March 2025)
 - Wexner Medical Center, Ohio State University (September 2024 & November 2024)
 - University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (October 2024)
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2026 observership awards will be given after the completion of observership in 2026



DR. SACHIN RAMESH CHAUDHARY, MBBS, MD

Current Affiliation:

- Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur, India.

Professional Qualifications:

- MD Pathology, PDF Neuropathology, PDCC Renal Pathology and Hepatopathology

Previous Affiliations (Last 5 Years):

- Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences, New Delhi, NIMHANS, Bangalore, IKDRC-ITS, Ahmedabad, Megavision Pvt Labs, Pune, Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata
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WE HEAR FROM THE SUCCESSFUL PREVIOUS OBSERVER AWARDEES

From **Dr. Shilpa Venkatraman**, who matched at **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard medical school)**

1. How did you first get in touch with AIPNA? How did you hear about AIPNA?

I had heard of AIPNA during my pathology residency in India and also presented a poster in the 2019 AIPNA

meeting at Bhopal. But I became an AIPNA member in 2023 when I started working with Dr. Megha Joshi.

2. How did AIPNA help you in your journey for residency match?

AIPNA helped me in my journey by offering mentorship support, networking, and the opportunity to do an observership in pathology at the Winchester Hospital, Massachusetts. I received feedback on my residency application, suggestions to ace my interviews with confidence and also help me appreciate the smallest of differences in pathology practice in the USA. (in comparison to my residency in India.)

3. Who were the main pathologists who helped in your journey? Dr. Megha Joshi, Dr. Laura Harris and Dr. Sumita Gokhale

4. What do you specifically remember that you learned with your journey with us?

I learned that on top of the steps scores and my resume, networking and mentorship are important facets of pathology practice in the USA, which will go a long way in my career. I was part of routine pathology sign outs, and additionally, I also learned a lot on quality control, CAP inspection, lab management and the pros and cons of both Large academic centers as well as community level pathology practice. I was also part of the wellness Wednesday Walk, which gave me a unique perspective into mental wellness amid a busy lifestyle. It felt like a family and I felt very welcome to be a part of their routine.

5. Will you recommend AIPNA to other young match aspirants?

Absolutely. Being a member offers amazing opportunities to network, learn, work with eminent pathologists in the USA. It helps build our profile to

shine in the residency match. The mentorship program is also very helpful in identifying the right residency programs that would be our best match based on our interests and career prospects. The exposure we gain from working with these mentors also boost our confidence in the residence interviews.

6. Do you think youngsters can benefit from the established AIPNA network; now 30 plus years in the making? The benefits of being an AIPNA member goes beyond the residency match and there is much to gain and offer at every level of our career. The mere fact that AIPNA has been around for 30 years is in itself a testament to its success. I would encourage all young and budding pathologist of Indian origin to become a member of AIPNA as early as possible to flourish and prosper together.

7. How can the young budding pathologists build on this network? Any suggestions to AIPNA how to go forward?

I would recommend having a “pathologist in training” representatives as part of the broader AIPNA leadership to represent the trainees on a regular basis, which can be in the form of small case reports, columns in the monthly newsletters, and small snippets into their lives as trainees to encourage networking with peers at an early stage in their career. Encouraging the members to share their articles that have been recently published will also strengthen AIPNA an encourage more young members to get to know other members whom they would like to work with and share similar interests.



During the Wellness Wednesday Walk



Match Day - 2024

HOUSE OF DELEGATES (HOD) MEETING AND PATHOLOGY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, APRIL 2025

The meeting was a huge success with record presence of delegates at the HOD meeting. Our very own Vaishali Pansare on the HOD steering committee did a great job of interviewing the Board of Governors and Manimala Roy and Vaishali Pansare accompanied Chairs of Councils at the very interesting round tables. Dr. Ravi Kohle distinguished himself at the AI panel discussion and Dr. Raj Dash was excellent promoting himself as a Board of Governor candidate.

Many AIPNA members participated actively in the question-and-answer sessions, Manju Nath, Swati Bharadwaj, Neha Varshney, Gaurav Sharma to name a few. We request you to participate in the College offerings, meet your senators and Congressmen and women on the hill to ask support for bills like Conrad 30 that affect J1 waivers. It was heartening to see our Resident Forum chair; Ashley plead for the plight faced by International Medical Graduates at meetings with Massachusetts Senator and Congresswomen aides.

A plea to contest for spots on the House of delegates steering committee as Member at Large. Fill your applications today. Also support Vaishali Pansare for Vice Speaker and Manimala Roy for Secretary of the House of Delegates in the upcoming elections.



Photo Booth for Hill Day Preparation



Massachusetts delegation asking for relief on Medicaid and Medicare



Ravi Kohle at the AI Panel Discussion



Ritu Nayar at the HOD breakfast



AIPNA members incl. Neha Varshney with president elect Jim Zhai



Manimala Roy & Vaishali Pansare with HOD steering committee members



Dr. Swati Bhargava, past RFEC chair with Dr. Megha Joshi



Dr. Gaurav Sharma asking important questions with regards to IMGs



Dr. Vaishali Pansare conducting round tables



Dr. Swati Bhargava representing IMG residents and fellows



Dr. Suganthi Soundararajan and Dr. Manju Nath



Dr. Manimala Roy proudly serving HOD steering committee



Board of governor candidates, including Dr. Raj Dash being interviewed by AIPNA member, Dr. Vaishali Pansare, secretary HOD steering committee

WE HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS – DR. MONALISA SUR, CANADA



“Dr Kum Cooper moved to the US in year 2000, a year before we moved to Canada from SAIMR / university of Witwatersrand South Africa. Kum was the head of anatomical pathology in WITS university after his training from Durban and PhD from Uk. I trained and worked with him in Univ of Wits from 1993- 2000 Amazing teacher and mentor and a wonderful and humble human being and a brilliant pathologist. So happy to see this well-deserved award going to him.” 🙏

- **Dr. Monalisa Sur**, F.R.C.Path, F.R.C.P (C), M.R.C.Path, Dip R.C.Path, M.Med, FC.Path (SA), DCP, MBBS
Professor at Pathology and Molecular Medicine
McMaster University
Juravinski hospital and Cancer Centre

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Sept 2025: CAP AIPNA meeting
 2. ASC AIPNA meeting in NOV 2025.
 3. IAPM: Jammu India, Dec 2, 3, 4, 5, 2025
 4. FEB, 2026: Int CME, AIPNA ICP meeting in Amritsar, India
 5. OCT 2026: IAP in Japan
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



What truly defines AIPNA is its people. This issue highlights the core of AIPNA's mission: fostering growth and connection. I am incredibly proud to showcase our impactful initiatives, particularly the Observership and Mentorship programs, which are making tangible differences in our members' careers. The dedication of our members was also powerfully demonstrated by the strong AIPNA presence at Hill Day in Washington D.C. It is this collective engagement and wealth of expertise within our community that makes AIPNA so vital. Beyond the programs and events, it's the shared passion and expertise that make AIPNA special. I'm excited to see us continue to grow and support each other, and I hope this newsletter reflects that spirit.

- **Akanksha Gupta, MBBS, MD, FASCP, FCAP**
Founder & CEO, Ace My Path
Lead editor, AIPNA Newsletter
