



SHORT COMMUNICATION

Papanicolaou Address: Why the next generation should take this journey and overcome constraint

Lydia Pleotis Howell, MD*

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine University of California, Davis Health, Sacramento, California

Received 15 January 2018; received in revised form 12 March 2018; accepted 26 March 2018

KEYWORDS

Career development;
Mentorship;
Sponsorship;
Artificial intelligence;
Screening guidelines;
George Papanicolaou;
Future of cytopathology

Cytopathology is experiencing many forces that are changing and constraining current practice, including the need for cost efficiencies, new technologies, expectations for higher quality and faster turnaround time, and a diminishing workforce. Two “hot topics” that will have considerable influence on the changes in the future practice of cytopathology are artificial intelligence and optimization of cervical screening intervals and methods. The future growth and success of the cytopathology subspecialty will require using constraint as a catalyst to achieve transformative solutions, as well as an optimistic “we can if...” entrepreneurial attitude. Success will also require living the field’s traditions and values: mentorship, sponsorship, innovation and creativity, a willingness to assume new roles, and the ability to network and support career journeys through active participation in a professional society.

© 2018 American Society of Cytopathology. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Contents

Introduction	206
Why Cytopathology?	206
The ASC as “my society”: support along the career journey	208
The future journey: hot topics shaping the next era of cytopathology	208
Artificial intelligence (machine learning, deep learning, computational pathology)	208
Optimizing screening guidelines and methods	209
Fueling the journey: optimism and overcoming constraints	209

This address was presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Cytopathology, Phoenix, AZ, November 2017.

*Corresponding author: Lydia Pleotis Howell, MD; Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 4400 V Street, Sacramento, CA 95817; Tel.: +916-734-3330; Fax: +916-734-2652.

E-mail address: lphowell@ucdavis.edu.

Conclusion	210
References	210

Introduction

Awards serve many purposes. They provide an opportunity to honor the memory of someone great, like Dr. George Papanicolaou, the founder of our field and of our society.

Awards also provide the opportunity to recognize achievement and encourage more. Actor Alan Alda, the recipient of many Golden Globes, People's Choice Awards, and Directors Guild Awards, once said: "Awards can give you a tremendous amount of encouragement to keep getting better, no matter how young or old you are."

Awards are also humbling. Grammy Award-winning musician Brad Paisley once said "I always remember that the majority of the audience probably thinks someone else should have gotten the award."

But my favorite purpose for an award is to inspire others to take the same journey, as individuals and as mentors. An unknown but wise person said, "Success isn't just about what you accomplish in your life; it's about what you inspire others to do."

In the course of this address, I therefore want to share my journey in order to encourage and inspire similar achievement and excitement for our field, and I want talk a little about the future, too. I will therefore share:

- Why I chose cytopathology—and why and how we should encourage the next generation to pursue this career
- The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) as "my society": support along the career journey
- The future journey: hot topics shaping the next era of cytopathology
- Fueling the journey: optimism and overcoming constraints

Why Cytopathology?

- 1) We are amazing! We see and appreciate things that others cannot even imagine—we are awe-inspiring, and sometimes we need to be reminded about this. My own journey to a career in cytopathology began as an awe-struck teenager filing Papanicolaou test reports in a gynecologist's office. I was fascinated by the mysterious cells depicted in the laboratory's newsletters that accompanied the reports. It is important to remember that you never know who you may be influencing and inspiring—your high school volunteer file clerk may be your future cytopathologist, colleague, or even your boss.

- 2) We are innovative — we do so much with so little. In the late 1970s when I was in medical school, fine-needle aspiration (FNA) was then just emerging in popularity in the United States. I was amazed that a diagnosis for definitive treatment could be obtained from such scant material.

Again, you never know who you may be influencing—that silent student listening in the corner of a tumor board may be the future of your profession.

- 3) Our tradition of mentorship and innovation. I was fortunate to have had a wonderful mentor during residency in Dr. Irena Koprowska. As a colleague and collaborator of Dr. Papanicolaou, Dr. Koprowska was one of the earliest cytopathologists, a founding member of the ASC, and a previous recipient of the Papanicolaou Award (Fig. 1). An outstanding mentor, Dr. Koprowska taught me the joy of being an early adopter and the excitement in exploring new approaches and techniques. Together we tested the diagnostic value of immunohistochemistry (IHC) using three novel gastrointestinal monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) in cytologic material: CA19-9, B72.3, and 29-10.¹ IHC was a brand new technique, and these MAbs were new and untested, and grown only in research laboratories. Today, these are all commercially available and IHC has now become commonplace. The lesson learned from my experience is that resident and fellow projects provide meaningful opportunities for trainees to explore new methods and approaches at the leading edge of our field, so that the next generation is better prepared for the techniques and practices that will become commonplace in their future world.
- 4) Our tradition of supporting women. Cytopathology has a proud tradition of supporting women. Our clinical work promotes and ensures women's health through our long-standing emphasis on Papanicolaou screening, as well as our use of cytologic methods as well as others to diagnosis and stage cancers and detect other diseases in women.

We also have a proud tradition of supporting women's careers. Since its inception, cytopathology has attracted many women practitioners, often because women pathologists had not always been welcome in other subspecialties of pathology. In addition to Dr. Koprowska, whose story appears on the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Web site, Changing the Face of Medicine,² I was fortunate to have had many women faculty mentors, including my fellowship mentor Tilde Kline, a pioneer

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8624251>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8624251>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)