Career Opportunities in PATHOLOGY

The Intersociety Committee on Pathology Information, Inc.
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- Association of Pathology Chairs
- American Society for Investigative Pathology
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- United States Canadian Academy of Pathology
What is Pathology?

- Diagnostic Medicine
- Teaching
  - Medical Students
  - Residents
  - Graduate Students
  - Fellow Physicians
- Basic and Clinical Research into Mechanisms of Disease
What are the Career Options for Pathologists?

- Community Practice (80%)
- Academic Practice & Medical School Administration (15%)
- Industry (3%)
- Government, Public Health & Regulatory Positions, e.g., FDA (1%)
Job Hunting Experience After Residency, First Jobs - 2002

How many Applications Submitted?
- 1 to 3 41%
- 4 to 6 21%
- 7 or more 33%

How many Interviews?
- None 3%
- 1 to 3 66%
- 4 to 6 28%
- 7 or more 3%

ASCP Residency Survey Data, N=58
Job Hunting Experience After Residency, First Jobs - 2002

How many Offers?
- none: 5%
- 1: 38%
- 2: 23%
- 3: 18%
- >3: 16%

Salary Offered:
- >$125,000: 63%
- $101-$125,000: 23%
- $76-$100,000: 8%
- <$75,000: 2%
- Not discussed: 4%

ASCP Residency Survey Data, N=58
Job Hunting Experience
First Jobs - 2002

What preference for practice?

- Community Practice 57%
- Academic Medicine 27%
- No Preference 14%
- Other 2%

ASCP Residency Survey Data, N=58
What and How Long are the Training Programs?

- Anatomic & Clinical Pathology (4y) 85%*
- Anatomic Pathology (3y) 10%
- Clinical Pathology (3y) 3%
- Research Pathology (lifetime) 1%

* Percentage of Programs
Pathology Specialties (Fellowship Training)

Clinical Pathology:
- Hematology
- Microbiology
- Transfusion Medicine
- Cytogenetics
- Clinical Chemistry
- Nuclear Medicine
Pathology Specialties (Fellowship Training)

Anatomic Pathology:
- Cytology
- Gynecologic Pathology
- Neuropathology
- Surgical Pathology
- Pediatric Pathology
- Gastrointestinal
- Bone & Soft Tissue
- Head & Neck
- Lung
Pathology Specialties (Fellowship Training)

Mixed Specialties:
- Forensic Pathology
- Hematopathology
- Molecular Diagnostics
- Informatics
What is the Lifestyle for Pathologists?

- 48 hour work week vs. 55 hour average work week all specialties
- Above average professional satisfaction (70%)
- Above average family satisfaction
- Average professional respect
- Below average stress
Current and Future Career Opportunities

• Starting salary offers over $125,000 – above primary care specialties, slightly below surgical specialties

• Two offers for each graduating candidate; higher for U.S. graduates

• 20,000 Board-Certified Pathologists U.S.; 2,500 in training (800,000 physicians in U.S.)

• Anticipated increased job opportunities in five years
Current and Future Career Opportunities

• Every academic department in U.S. has a vacancy (130 medical schools; 155 training programs)

• Pathology Departments have $400 million in NIH research grants – more than many NIH institutes (Special Opportunities for Physician Scientists)

• Diagnostic Medicine: $35 billion market, growth 5-7% yearly
Pathology Practice
Demographics

Type of Practice
- Solo 7%
- Pathology Group 67%
- Multispecialty Group 7%
- Medical School 10%
- Hospital 10%
- Independent Laboratory 9%
- Locum Tenens 1%

College of American Pathologists Survey, N=940
Pathology Practice Demographics

Practice Size

- Solo: 7%
- 2: 11%
- 3-4: 25%
- 5-6: 18%
- 7-10: 13%
- 11 or more: 22%

College of American Pathologists Survey, N=940
Pathology Salaries

Median Income by Age

- All Ages $220,000
- < 40 $180,000
- 40 – 49 $230,000
- 50 – 59 $250,000
- >59 $200,000

College of American Pathologists Survey, N=940
Pathology Salaries

Income Information from Other Sources

AAMC (ASCP data)
• Range $127,000 to $314,854
• Average $194,813

Pam Pohly’s Net Guide
• Average $194,813
• 169,138 to $232,432

(Median, various sources, 1997 data)
Pathology Workload

Mean hours per week  48 hrs
• Surgical Pathology  25.0
• Cytopathology  5.9
• Billable Clinical Pathology  2.6
• Clinical Pathology Management  7.4
• Teaching/Research  1.9
• Autopsy  2.1
• Other  3.1

Mean Total, Other Medical Specialties  55 hrs

College of American Pathologists Survey, N=940
Pathology Resident Career Plans

- Pursue More Training: 58%
- Private Practice: 19%
- Academic Medicine: 19%
- Military: 2%
- Leave Pathology or US: 1%
- Not yet employed: 0.6%

AMA FRIEDA, N=351 Residents Completing Training, 2001
Pathology Training Programs

Total # of Residents                   2,212  
Avg. # per Program                     14.3   
Avg % Female                           49.7%  
Avg % IMG                              57.1%  

AMA FRIEDA, Training Program Survey, 2001
Pathology Training Programs

Faculty Characteristics

Avg. Number Full-Time    24.5
Avg. Number Part-Time    2.1
Avg. % Female            28.7%

AMA FRIEDA, Training Program Survey, 2001
Pathology Training Programs

Resident Workload
Avg. Weekly Workload
48.3 hours

Avg. Annual Compensation
$36,498

Avg. Vacation
3.1 weeks

AMA FRIEDA, Training Program Survey, 2001
Where to go & what to do next?

For information about pathology training and fellowships:

• www.abppath.org
• www.pathologytraining.org
• www.acgme.org
• www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html (FREIDA On Line)
Where to go & what to do next?

To find out about individual training or fellowship programs:

- www.pathologytraining.org
- www.apcprods.org
- www.university.edu
- www.medical_school.edu/pathology
Where to go & what to do next?

To find a job:

• www.ascp.org
• www.asip.org
• www.cap.org
• www.PathologyOutlines.com
Where to go & what to do next?

To learn more about pathology:

- www.apcprods.org
- www.asip.org
- www.uscap.org
- www.ascp.org/member/rps/
- www.aclps.org
- www.cap.org/html/member/residents_forum.html
- www.aamc.org/students/considering/start.htm
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- www.abppath.org
- www.apcprods.org
- www.ascp.org
- www.asip.org
- www.cap.org
- www.uscap.org
- www.aclps.org
- www.medical_school.edu/pathology
- www.pathologytraining.org
- www.university.edu