Your Diagnosis and Treatment: Precise and Accurate

When the world faced the greatest health crisis in a century, pathologists led the way in accurate, quality laboratory testing. Throughout the battle against COVID-19, the College of American Pathologists backed its members and customers every step of the way.

LEADING LABORATORY QUALITY

Pathologists and laboratories looked to the CAP for its leadership and expertise as the global pandemic upended their operations. The CAP supported laboratories with unmatched support in accreditation and proficiency testing (PT) programs, including new PT for COVID-19.

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

As the virus spread rapidly, the CAP lobbied to get pathologists and laboratories needed protective equipment, testing supplies, and new flexibilities to begin COVID-19 testing. Surveys conducted by the CAP kept policymakers informed of the impacts the pandemic had on laboratories. As pathologists confronted several challenges while ramping up their laboratory testing capacity for COVID-19, the CAP worked at the federal level to provide billions of dollars in relief.
In 2020, 2,564 pathologists used the CAP’s PathNET program to send 16,285 messages to 500 members of Congress on issues ranging from COVID-19 financial relief, opposition to Medicare cuts, and regulatory flexibility during the pandemic. Through lobbying Congress and the administration, the CAP succeeded in reducing the Medicare cut and saving pathologists $85 million in 2021.

In this health crisis, members turned to the CAP to provide helpful, reliable information. The organization launched its COVID-19 section of the website, held virtual all-member town halls, and provided free online courses to address the challenges of the pandemic. The CAP secured top-tier national media coverage for its members on their role in testing, highlighting the value of pathologists in the pandemic.

The pandemic’s full economic impact on the CAP, its members, and laboratories domestically and internationally is uncertain. The proficiency testing business line emerged healthy because the CAP took orders in advance and had them all in-house early. The revenue side suffered with education and publications and did not make its targets. However, the organization made up for it with reduced expenses due to less travel, fewer in-person meetings, and a short-term hiring freeze. Careful planning in uncertain times allowed the CAP to end the year financially sound.

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