



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Candidate Information

Candidate: Earle “Smitty” Collum, MD, FCAP

Institution: Laboratory Corporation of America
Phoenix, Arizona

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **Age Group:** over 65
- **Years in Practice:** 42 years
- **Boards:** AP, CP
- **Education:**
 - Doctor of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, 1979
 - Internship and Residency: Yale-New Haven Medical Center, 1979-1983, AP/CP
- **Employment Status:** Full Time
- **Practice Type:** Independent Lab
- **Practice Size:** 6-10 pathologists

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Position:** Labcorp, Division Medical Director, MidAmerica (Leadership Appointment)
- **Position:** Labcorp, CLIA Medical Director, Phoenix (AP/CP), Denver (CP), and San Diego (CP) Regional Laboratories
- **Position:** Labcorp, CLIA Medical Director, Phoenix Toxicology Laboratory



PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
 - California Society of Pathologists (CSP)
 - Connecticut Society of Pathologists
 - Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP)
 - Florida Society of Pathologists (FSP)
 - Arizona Society of Pathologists (ASP)
 - Association of Molecular Pathology (AMP)
 - Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB)
 - Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (ADLM formerly AACC)
-



CAP ACTIVITIES

CURRENT

- **Governor:** CAP Board of Governors (BOG)
- **Member:** Executive Committee; Council on Scientific Affairs; Finance Committee; Information Technology Leadership Committee (ITLC)
- **Chair:** Council on Accreditation
- **Vice Chair:** Investment Committee

PAST

- **Chair:** Council on Accreditation; Complaints and Investigations Committee
- **Vice Chair:** Complaints and Investigations Committee; International Accreditation Committee
- **Member:** Council on Accreditation; Commission on Laboratory Accreditation; Complaints and Investigations Committee; Inspection Process Committee; International Accreditation Committee; LAP Regional & State Commissioners; Region 6 – West Central USA Commissioners; TPOSC Module IV: Emerging Technology EXT D Workgroup
- **Delegate:** House of Delegates (HOD)
- **Award:** Lifetime Achievement Award, CAP 2017

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL HONORS OR AWARDS

- CAP Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017
- Teacher of the Year, Residency Training Program in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1993, 2003, 2005 and 2012
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement Leadership Award in Quality and Patient Safety, Department of Academic Affairs, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, 2015



NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

Why do you want to be a governor or officer of the CAP?

I want to continue to serve as a governor of the CAP to further strengthen the standing of the CAP domestically and internationally. I have volunteered my time, mostly vacation time, to perform CAP inspections and spread the word to pathologists about the amazing rewards of being a Fellow. By serving on the CAP Board of Governors since October 2022, I have been able to extend this enthusiasm to medical communities, lawmakers, CEOs, and administrators. The expertise of pathologists must be promoted for us to receive the recognition, respect, and reimbursement we have earned. Our role in patient care has too often been unseen, but vital.

How do you assess your contribution to the CAP Board of Governors during your current term of office?

My contribution to the CAP Board of Governors has been plentiful, measured and openly communicated. For decades, I have been devoted to the Laboratory Accreditation Program performing many inspections and sharing my expertise with inspectors, fellow pathologists, committees, councils and the CAP Board of Governors. I have attended all the board meetings in person with the exception of one. I attended virtually only due to weather grounding my flight for 24 hours. I have attended all the Council on Scientific Affairs meetings as a member and have worked closely with other members strongly supporting expanding and strengthening proficiency testing offerings in molecular oncology.

If elected, what do you hope to accomplish?

If re-elected, I hope to accomplish delivering the expertise of the CAP to everyone throughout the world. The 2025 focus in accreditation will be to reach areas of the world where there are opportunities for growth, especially in India and South America. With closer relationships between sales, marketing and accreditation, efficiencies are improved with laboratories more easily identified and brought into the fold. This cannot be accomplished without a strong advocacy program protecting our profession and making our critical role in taking care of patients known to those within health care but also to important groups outside of health care. The new CEO and SVP of Strategic Communications and Marketing have a well-articulated strategy to support us in making this happen.

What major issues do you see facing the CAP during the next three years?

Major Issues:

1. Continued threats to reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid.
2. Continued efforts by non-pathologists to perform tasks currently performed by pathologists.
3. Since there is a shortage of pathologists available to fill the open pathologists' positions, we should craft a plan to address this. Digital pathology and AI can be utilized to mitigate this shortfall, but additional strategies need to be explored.