



## Residents Forum Executive Committee Elections Candidate for Member-at-Large

### **AlBatool A. Abdelghaffar, MD**

Baystate Medical Center  
Springfield, MA



**When are you taking your boards? – 2027**

#### **CAP Experience:**

Activity	Position	Years of Service
Future Pathologist Champion	Member	09/18/2024 – Current

#### **How did you become interested in serving on the RFEC?**

As a chief resident, I've seen firsthand how vital strong representation and communication are between residents and national pathology organizations. I became interested in serving on the RFEC because I want to advocate for the evolving educational and professional needs of pathology trainees, especially as the field rapidly expands in areas like informatics and personalized medicine. After attending CAP meetings and engaging with the Residents Forum, I realized this is a powerful platform to influence change and foster community among residents nationally.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish during your time, if elected?**

If elected, I hope to strengthen the sense of community and shared purpose among pathology residents across the country. I want to amplify the voices of residents from diverse backgrounds and training environments, and ensure the Forum reflects the broad spectrum of experiences within pathology. I'd like to work on initiatives that promote inclusivity, increase access to leadership and educational opportunities for all residents, and create safe, open spaces for dialogue around challenges we face as trainees. I believe the RFEC can be a powerful driver of both connection and advocacy.

#### **Please convey your understanding of the role of an Residents Forum Executive Committee member and their responsibility to the Residents Forum and the College of American Pathologists.**

An RFEC member serves as both a representative and an advocate. For me, that means actively listening to the needs, concerns, and aspirations of my fellow residents and ensuring those voices are carried forward at the national level. As someone from an underrepresented background, I understand how powerful it is to feel seen, supported, and truly included in spaces that shape our future. I believe RFEC members have a responsibility to help build that kind of environment where every pathology resident, no matter their identity, training setting, or path into the field, feels they belong and that their contributions matter. We're not just participating, we're helping shape the next generation. And that future should reflect the diversity and strength of our community.

#### **Please address the time commitment for the office in which you are interested and your ability to fulfill it.**

As a new chief resident, I've learned how to balance administrative responsibilities, teaching, and clinical duties while staying organized and focused. I make a conscious effort to prioritize commitments that are meaningful to me, and I would approach this role with the same mindset. I understand that the Member-at-Large position requires participation in four meetings per year, attendance at conference calls as needed, and approximately 24–40 hours of committee work annually, with additional time for special projects. I've carefully reviewed these expectations and, while I recognize that residency can be demanding, I feel confident in my ability to stay engaged and contribute meaningfully to the Forum. I will do my best to manage this role responsibly alongside my residency duties.



**What talents and skills do you bring to the Residents Forum Executive Committee that you believe would benefit the Residents Forum?**

I bring a strong foundation in leadership, communication, and mentorship. I've had the privilege of supporting my co-residents through both academic challenges and personal growth, and I've developed a reputation for being approachable, thoughtful, and reliable. Coming from an underrepresented background, I also bring perspective on the importance of inclusion, visibility, and advocacy for those who may not always feel like they have a seat at the table. I have a deep commitment to helping others feel heard and valued, and I believe those qualities would serve the Residents Forum well.

**What else should the Residents Forum know about you?**

I care deeply about building community, especially in spaces where people can feel isolated or unseen. As someone who didn't always see themselves reflected in leadership roles in medicine, I've learned how meaningful representation can be. I'm committed to creating space for diverse voices in pathology, not just in terms of background, but also in training environments, interests, and future goals. I bring energy, humility, and a collaborative spirit, and I would be proud to contribute to a Forum that reflects the richness and complexity of our specialty.