



Residents Forum Executive Committee Elections

Candidate for Vice Chair

Carlos A. Lopez, MD

Tulane University
New Orleans, LA



When are you taking your boards? – 2026

CAP Experience:

Activity	Position	Years of Service
Residents Forum	Delegate	05/13/2024 – Present

How did you become interested in serving on the RFEC?

My interest in becoming involved with the Pathology Residents Forum Executive Committee (RFEC) began during my participation in the annual CAP meeting in Las Vegas. That experience was my first exposure to the broader impact pathologists can have beyond the microscope, particularly in shaping policy and advocating for our profession. Attending the various sessions and connecting with leaders in the field opened my eyes to the importance of resident involvement with the RFEC.

This interest deepened and solidified during my time at the Pathology Leadership Summit (PLS) in Washington, D.C., where I had the opportunity to engage in advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill Day directly. Meeting with the legislative assistants and discussing key issues affecting our field, such as the broken Medicare system, LCD requests, fixing PAMA, and particularly CONRAD 30. As an international medical graduate (IMG), I was particularly drawn to the conversations surrounding this program, which plays a critical role in retaining IMGs in underserved areas across the United States.

Another key feature is the involvement in advocacy. Advocacy is vital for the future of pathology. As a specialty that often operates behind the scenes, we can be overlooked in policy discussions that directly impact our practice, our patients, and the sustainability of our profession. From reimbursement challenges and scope-of-practice issues to laboratory regulations and physician workforce policies, legislative and institutional decisions significantly affect how we practice daily. As residents, we need not only to be aware of these policies and changes, but also to be directly involved.

These experiences motivated me to take on a more active leadership role within the CAP through the RFEC. I am excited to advocate for my fellow residents, enhance engagement, and contribute to the advancement of pathology through organized efforts, education, and policy development.

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

I have three key points that I aim to use to lead and influence national engagement among pathology trainees.

1. Amplify Resident Voices in Advocacy Attending the Pathology Leadership Summit (PLS) and actively participating in advocacy efforts allowed me to directly witness and emphasize the critical importance of advocacy in our field. One of my goals is to promote greater resident involvement in policy discussions that affect pathology, such as GME funding, reimbursement reform, and IMG visa issues (e.g., the Conrad 30). How? Organize advocacy training webinars, encourage participation in Hill Day, and collaborate with the CAP Policy Roundtable to share resident perspectives.

2. Expand Networking and Mentorship opportunities One of the most gratifying experiences during the PLS was related to meeting with my Mentor, Dr. Youseff. So, one of my goals is to strengthen the connections between residents and leaders in academic and private pathology. How? Launch a new Residents Forum mentorship initiative, link new members with past leadership, and host meet-and-greet events at the CAP annual meeting, and



follow up with this initiative quarterly to assess progress.

3. Increase resident representation and visibility

Maintaining a record or 'diary' of residents' concerns and ideas, along with following up on them, is essential. How? Motivate more residents to pursue Forum leadership roles, write policy briefs or articles in CAP Today, and engage with CAP committees.

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.

As Vice Chair of the Residents Forum Executive Committee, I understand that this role involves leadership, collaboration, and service. The Vice-Chair supports the Chair in advancing the mission of the RFEC, facilitates communication among pathology residents nationwide, and helps ensure that the collective voice of trainees is meaningfully represented within the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

This role requires active participation in guiding the Forum's initiatives, whether that involves organizing educational programming, promoting advocacy, fostering resident engagement, or supporting diversity and inclusion efforts. The Vice-Chair also plays an integral part in planning Forum meetings, contributing to CAP leadership discussions, and helping to develop strategic goals that align with the College's broader mission.

Importantly, the Vice-Chair is also a leader-in-preparation, ready to step in when needed and to collaborate closely with the Chair, the Executive Committee, and CAP leadership to ensure continuity, responsiveness, and effectiveness in representing residents. There is a responsibility to listen, to amplify diverse perspectives, and to champion the professional development of trainees as they prepare to enter and lead the evolving field of pathology.

Ultimately, serving as Vice-Chair means being a dedicated advocate for residents and a committed partner in supporting the CAP's mission to advance excellence in pathology and patient care.

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

I understand that serving as the Vice-Chair of the Residents Forum Executive Committee necessitates a significant time investment throughout the year. This includes attending virtual meetings, preparing for discussions, working alongside CAP leadership, and engaging with residents nationwide. After thoughtful consideration, I am confident in my capacity to meet the responsibilities of this role while balancing my residency obligations.

During my time as a pathology resident, I have developed strong time management and organizational skills that enable me to prioritize my responsibilities effectively. I am devoted to investing the required time and effort to make meaningful contributions to the Forum's initiatives, assist the Chair and Executive Committee, and advance the mission of the College of American Pathologists.

This opportunity signifies both a dedication and an honor to support my fellow residents and the pathology community. I am ready to fulfill that commitment with professionalism, enthusiasm, and consistency throughout the full one-year term.

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

As a candidate for Vice-Chair of the Residents Forum Executive Committee, I will bring a combination of practical skills, personal dedication, and a deep commitment to advancing the field of pathology. With over 15 years of experience as Vi-Chair and Chair of Fundación Sigue Latiendo A.C., a nonprofit organization in Mexico, dedicated to supporting low-income patients with cardiovascular disease, I have developed valuable leadership and insight that I am eager to contribute to this role.

One of my key strengths is effective communication, both written and verbal, which I have honed through



academic presentations, professional correspondence, and participation in organized pathology events. This will facilitate clear and timely communication within the Executive Committee and between residents and CAP leadership.

I also possess strong organizational skills, which I developed through balancing clinical responsibilities, research projects, and leadership roles during my residency. I am dependable, consistently meet deadlines, and value follow-through traits that are essential for coordinating meetings, managing initiatives, and helping the Forum run smoothly.

Additionally, my experience as an international medical graduate provides me with a unique perspective on the importance of inclusive representation and advocacy. I am passionate about ensuring that diverse voices are heard within our profession and will work to build stronger connections among residents from a wide range of backgrounds and training programs.

Above all, I bring a collaborative spirit. I value teamwork, respect differing viewpoints, and am motivated to support others in achieving shared goals. I believe these qualities will help me serve effectively as Vice-Chair and contribute to the continued success of the Residents Forum.

What else should the Residents Forum know about you?

Something I would like the Residents Forum to know about me is that I am deeply committed to building community and supporting others, both within and beyond the residency setting. I take pride in being approachable and reliable, and I strive to create spaces where fellow residents feel heard, encouraged, and empowered. Whether it's mentoring junior colleagues, organizing educational activities, or simply checking in with peers during stressful times, I believe that leadership is most impactful when grounded in empathy and service. I view this role not only as an opportunity to represent residents, but also to uplift them. That sense of purpose is what drives me, and I hope to carry it forward as part of the Executive Committee.