



NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR

C. Leilani Valdes, MD, FCAP

Victoria, Texas



Nominated by CAP Nominating Committee and petition

EDUCATION

- **MD:** 2004, USC Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles
- **Internship & Residency:** LAC+USC Medical Center, Los Angeles
- **Fellowship:** Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Chief of Medical Staff, Citizens Medical Center, Victoria, Texas
- Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Laboratory Medical Director, Citizens Medical Center, Victoria, Texas
- Laboratory Medical Director for Regional Pathology Associates, Victoria, Texas, Cuero Regional Medical Center, Cuero, Texas, Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital, Kennedy, Texas, and Jackson County Health District, Edna, Texas

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- College of American Pathologists
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Medical Association
- American Society of Dermatopathology
- California Society of Pathologists
- Florida Society of Pathologists
- Houston Dermatological Society
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Society of Pathologists
- Victoria-Goliad-Jackson County Medical Society

CAP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Current

- **Chair:** Professional and Community Engagement Committee
- **Member:** Council on Membership and Professional Development, DEI Workgroup, Quality and Clinical Data Registry Affairs Committee, Pathologist Pipeline Workgroup
- **Delegate:** House of Delegates (HOD)

Past

- **Chair:** NewsPath Editorial Board
- **Vice Chair:** Professional and Community Engagement Committee
- **Delegate:** Residents Forum
- **Member:** CAP Nominating Committee, CAP Spokesperson, Economic Affairs Committee (EAC), EAC Measures & Performance Assessment Subcommittee, EAC Payment Policy Subcommittee, Federal and State Affairs Committee (FSAC), FSAC Federal Legislation Subcommittee, HOD Action



Group (AG) on CAP Foundation - Leadership Development Awardee Mentorship, HOD AG on HOD Orientation, HOD AG on HODSC Leadership, HOD AG on Leadership II, Professional and Community Engagement Committee, Strategy Management Committee, TPOSC Module II: Roles and Value Proposition

- **Junior Member:** National Meeting Planning Committee, Public Affairs Committee, Strategy Management Committee
- **Advisor:** Autopsy Committee

OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

- **Be Wise Immunize:** Physician Advisory Panel, HPV Vaccine Working Group, Community Program Volunteer
- **Citizens Medical Center:** Chief of Medical Staff (serving consecutive terms; first pathologist to serve)
- **COVID-19 Medical Advisory Committees:** Physician Advisor: Kieve Wavus Education; St. Stephen's Episcopal School; Trinity Episcopal School; Victoria Ballet Theatre; Victoria County Office of Emergency Management
- **Hard Hats for Little Heads:** Community Program Volunteer
- **Intercounty Clinical Society:** (invitation only, 100-year-old medical society; first pathologist member)
- **Texas Medical Association:** Council on Health Promotion, Committee Member
- **Texas Society of Pathologists:** Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Treasurer
- **Victoria-Goliad-Jackson County Medical Society:** President; TMA Delegate

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE CAP?

Active with the CAP in residency and continuing through a decade as a practicing community pathologist, I recognize the incredible value of organized medicine. By giving time and energy to the CAP, I learned to be a better pathologist, leader, mentor and advocate. I've participated in CAP initiatives that provide value to members and advocated for our specialty at the federal, state and local levels. On the CAP board, I plan to use my CAP experience and my leadership drive to support and develop initiatives that expand and improve the value of the CAP and support the future of pathology, its place in medicine, and its importance in our communities.

WHAT MAJOR ISSUES DO YOU SEE FACING THE CAP DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS?

Like healthcare and medicine in general, our issues are multiple, complex and vital to the future of pathology. Important issues are grouped into several focus areas:

- **Payment / Reimbursement:** Government, private payors; balance billing challenges; regulatory burden; value-based care; narrow-network issues; effects impact CAP revenue;
- **Protecting Pathologists' Scope of Practice:** Pathologist pipeline concerns; DE&I; state/local society support;
- **Embracing, incorporating and maximizing the use of AI and new technologies:** Pathologists need to "own" future testing, adoption and validation; support efforts through PT and LAP; target communication to medical communities and public;
- **Building stakeholder recognition of the pathologist physician and our value on the medical care team, community health and medical advancement:** Leverage and raise our profile by engaging diverse stakeholders to strengthen our specialty and leadership in healthcare delivery and initiatives;
- **Strategic alignment with a growth mindset:** As a revenue generating organization with incredible programs and human capital, continued strategic alignment of programs and resources through communication and collaboration is critical to strengthen the organization in the changing healthcare environment.



IF ELECTED, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

As a member of the Board of Governors, I will create and promote a clear vision of the future by capitalizing on lessons learned from past and present initiatives.

Our story has a past, present and future. Our past is rich with the history of excellence through accreditation and proficiency testing programs, our role as expert diagnosticians on the medical team, and our patient advocacy. Our present includes stories of innovation in diagnostics, advocacy in new healthcare delivery paradigms, and perseverance amidst health crises. Our legacy depends on strategically preparing for and influencing clinical advancements while continuing to add value to the practice of medicine.

My goal is to ensure that our story incorporates the past and present to build a bright future for pathology and the CAP. Using strong communication and collaboration skills, I see opportunity for the CAP to align current initiatives in the many corners of the organization. Working on committees under different councils, I often see areas that would benefit through connection and collaboration. By aligning initiatives, we will be well positioned to magnify the work of the CAP. Given my background in strategic planning, I am well-positioned to guide this process.

The future holds many opportunities and it would be incumbent on us to identify the path to make the most of what lies ahead.

For more information and a CV for this candidate, please visit cap.org.