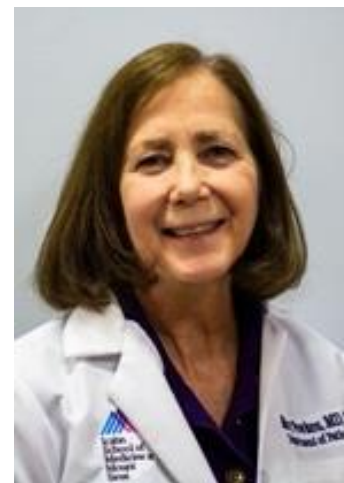




NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR

Mary Elizabeth Fowkes, MD, PhD, FCAP
New York City

Nominated by the Nominating Committee and petition



EDUCATION

- **Received MD and PhD:** 1999, State University of New York Health Science Center, Syracuse, New York
- **Residency:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Harvard Medical School, Boston
- **Neuropathology Fellowship:** New York University Medical Center, New York City
- **Forensic Pathology Fellowship:** New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Senior Faculty, Associate Professor of Pathology:** Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City
- **Adjunct Professor:** State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- College of American Pathologists
- American Association of Neuropathologists
- American Medical Association
- Medical Society of the State of New York
- New York State Society of Pathologists
- New York Pathological Society

CAP-ELECTED OFFICES HELD

(Past) House of Delegates Steering Committee (HODSC): Member at Large

CAP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- **Current**
 - **Member:** CAP Political Action Committee (PathPAC), Engaged Leaders Network
 - **Delegate:** House of Delegates (HOD).
- **Past**
 - **Chair:** Federal and State Affairs Committee (FSAC) Grassroots Subcommittee
 - **Member:** CAP Spokespersons; HODSC Liaison: Council on Membership and Professional Development, FSAC
 - **Delegate to HOD:** Residents Forum
 - **Junior Member:** PathPAC



OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

- **Current**
 - **President:** New York State Society of Pathologists (NYSSPATH)
 - **Director:** Neuropathology and Autopsy Service, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
 - **Pathology Representative:** Interspecialty Committee for the Medical Society of the State of New York
 - **Member:** Mount Sinai Emergency Management Committee
- **Past**
 - **Course Director:** "Frontiers in academic pathology: Neuropathology with special topics in ophthalmic pathology" one-day course at Mount Sinai
 - **Member:** SUNY Up-State Medical Center Admissions Committee, Mount Sinai Admissions Committee

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

I can effectively voice the concerns of our diverse profession. I was the driving force for a successful 4 ½-year battle in New York State to change a regulation prohibiting pathologists from discussing diagnoses with patients. Direct discussions with patients regarding a diagnosis prevents transmission of misinformation and reduces the risk of medical error. Through extensive discussions with members of the Department of Health and New York Medical Society, we obtained its support and successfully changed the regulation in 2017.

As president of the NYSSPATH, I have had successful dialogue with state legislators, the NYS Department of Health, and various pathology organizations to address issues of concern. State and federal engagement translates to greater member satisfaction and strengthens both state and federal advocacy.

I have the skills and understanding to be an effective governor. Pathology is facing a crisis of recognition within our medical community. This is highlighted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposal to eliminate the Medicare requirement that a hospital's medical staff should attempt to secure autopsies in all cases of unusual deaths and of medical-legal and educational interest. With the advent of rapid autopsies, we advance our understanding of disease, including driver mutations responsible for metastatic spread and targetable mutations for personalized therapy, and highlight the value of pathologists. I helped mobilize the American Association of Neuropathologists to respond to CMS' potential change and its impact on both neuropathology and general pathology training programs. As president of NYSSPATH, I also sent a response to CMS. I will bring this passion and determination as governor to move our pathology agendas forward.

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

The declining rate of autopsies, and its possible acceleration, is a concern for our profession. Autopsies are the gold standard for cause of death determination and are the quality assurance of medical care. My experience at Mount Sinai has shown that direct discussions with clinicians and families results in greater realization of the value of an autopsy and the information it can provide. By educating our medical community and hospital administrators to the value of an autopsy, they are more willing to provide financial and institutional support. If we do not protect our autopsies, something most people think pathologists do, we put our patients and our profession at risk. We need to embrace what we do and do it well, rather than let others take this essential tool for patient safety away from us.



The advancement of digital pathology and artificial intelligence provide exciting opportunities to save cost and increase efficiencies in the day-to-day lives of pathologists. The integration of these and other innovative technologies into our profession demand careful pathology oversight to ensure patient safety.

IF ELECTED, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

I hope to see stronger state and subspecialty society engagement on advocacy issues facing pathologists. Many pathologists, especially subspecialty pathologists, have had few members actively engaged in the CAP. I hope to see that change. By identifying the issues that bind us, we can become a stronger, more powerful advocacy force.

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