The Top 5 Pathology Myths

Pathology is a mystery to the average clinician and general public. Because of the lack of exposure to our specialty, many rumors surround our field. Here we address the top 5 myths about pathology that couldn’t be further from the truth.

1. **MYTH:** Don’t Do Pathology

2. **MYTH:** The Job Market is Terrible

3. **MYTH:** Lack of Respect from Other Medical Specialties

4. **MYTH:** The Only Thing Pathologists do are Autopsies

5. **MYTH:** Artificial Intelligence is Taking Over Pathology

1. **TRUTH:** If people ask, “You are such a people person—why be a pathologist?” Know that with all the roles pathologists play we need to be good with people.

2. **TRUTH:** New-in-practice pathologists have described a perceived decrease in difficulty finding a pathology position over the last five years. In fact, the majority accepted jobs in their desired practice setting and were satisfied or very satisfied with their position.

3. **TRUTH:** Although this myth appears on blogs, in practice, it is the opposite. Any specialty that interacts with pathologists greatly values the role pathologists play in patient care.

4. **TRUTH:** The truth is, autopsies are a small portion of an anatomic pathology residency. Residents in anatomic pathology must perform a certain number of autopsies to become board-certified. The field is so large you can choose how big an autopsy scope you want to have.

5. **TRUTH:** Artificial Intelligence will change the practice of pathology, as it will many specialties in medicine, but it will not render the pathologist obsolete.