Submit Your Potential Autopsy Cases for the CAP Autopsy Pathology Program

Call for Cases
Members of the Autopsy Committee have traditionally authored and reviewed cases based on material from their practices and institutions. However, subscribers and residents are now encouraged to share their interesting cases with the greater pathology community by participating as an author for this program. Because cases will undergo a peer review process, it is appropriate to list accepted and published cases on the author’s CV as a peer-reviewed publication.

Autopsy Pathology Program Guidelines
The goal of the program is education, and the target audience is pathologists in general practice and pathology residents. Well-illustrated examples of findings typically encountered in general autopsy practice (classic cases) are preferred, although less common cases (“zebras”) will also be considered. Cases emphasizing a special dissection technique or ancillary study are especially desirable as these often have greater practical value. Pertinent clinical laboratory findings and relevant imaging studies are also encouraged.

Unlike a published case report, historical accuracy is not crucial; in fact, minor alteration of the case history is encouraged for patient privacy. It is perfectly acceptable to embellish the history or findings to make the case more congruent with a textbook example and increase its educational value. Digital images (gross and microscopic) from similar cases may be used.

Case Submission Process
The initial submission material for the consideration of a case should include:
- A brief abstract of the case
- The list of key teaching points that will be addressed in the questions and discussion
- High-quality digital images (radiographs, clinical photos, gross photos, photomicrographs, and/or the results of ancillary testing), with any patient identifiers removed or obscured.

Because the structured format for the program cases change in response to subscriber feedback each year, the actual cases will be formatted in the current style and completed with a discussion section as a collaborative effort between the submitter and a member of the Autopsy Committee, who will be a coauthor on the case.

For further information or to submit your cases to the CAP, please email Chris Bashleben at cbashle@cap.org.