



COLLEGE of AMERICAN  
PATHOLOGISTS

# The CAP: Your Professional and Advocacy Home

Pennsylvania Association of Pathologists  
2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

Earle S. Collum, MD, FCAP  
Governor, CAP Board of Governors

April 15, 2023

# How the CAP Helps You

- **Ensure the value of pathologists is recognized**
- **Help pathologists and clinical labs stay up-to-date**
- **Support pathology and clinical laboratory quality**
- **Influence public policy and amplifying pathology's voice**
- **Grow the pathologist pipeline entering the workforce**

# **Your Advocacy Home: Influencing Public Policy and Amplifying Pathology's Voice**

**To ensure pathologists are treated fairly and paid for the work  
they do**

# Advocacy on Mitigating Medicare

- **We've been successful mitigating cuts in the past:**
  - 3.75% increase in 2021
  - 3% increase in 2022
  - 2.5% increase in 2023
  - 1.25% increase for 2024
- **Anticipated Medicare cut to pathologists in 2024: 6.5%**
  - 3.25% Medicare cut after to fee schedule (after relief of just 1.25% for 2024 in Omnibus bill last year).
  - 3.3% cut based on implementation of new primary care add-on code.



# Omnibus Legislation

- **Reduced Medicare cuts.**
- **Prevent Pandemics Act.**
- **Promote diversity in clinical trials.**



# VALID Not Included in the Omnibus Package

- **Lawmakers chose not to include VALID Act in 2022 omnibus bill**
  - Congress could not reach an agreement for passage
  - VALID could be reintroduced, but it would be less viable in the current Congress in 2023-24
- **FDA may now pursue rulemaking without legislation**
  - CAP is monitoring for action by the agency



# Without Legislation, FDA Might Pursue Regulation

- FDA leaders said they preferred clear legislation providing oversight.
- In absence of new law, the FDA can opt to pursue rulemaking.
- FDA leaders have openly discussed this as a viable but lengthy option for the agency.

## Califf: FDA may use rulemaking for diagnostics reform if VALID isn't passed

Regulatory News | 25 October 2022 | By Ferdous Al-Faruque

BOSTON, MA – The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may look to notice and comment rulemaking to implement diagnostics reform if Congress fails to act, according to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf.

Janet Trunzo, AdvaMed senior executive vice president for technology and regulatory affairs, spoke to Califf on 25 October at the group's annual Medtech Conference to talk about his vision for the agency. She asked the chief regulator what he planned to do if US lawmakers fail to pass the *Verifying Accurate Leading-edge IVCT Development (VALID) Act* as part of the December omnibus spending bill. (RELATED: [AdvaMed seeks diagnostics reform in December budget bill](#), *Regulatory Focus* 13 October 2022)

"That's a tough question," said Califf. "You know, it's not something we want to do because having a clear law passed leads to the best situation."

"The other option besides the law is federal rulemaking – which is always an option for the FDA – but it is a very lengthy and contentious process," he added. "It would be much better for the lawmakers to come to an agreement ... but we also can't stand by."



Janet Trunzo (left) and Robert Califf (right)

# Highmark: NGS Test Credential Requirements

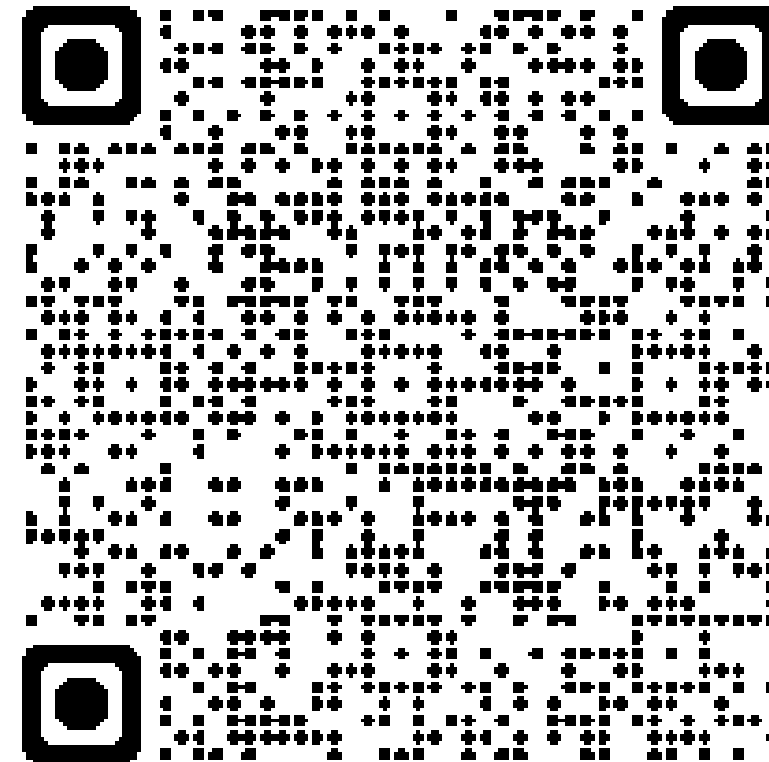
- **We opposed new credentialing requirements for NGS.**
  - Requirement for independent third-party validation of NGS results.
  - Purported scientific basis is contrived and misapplied.
  - Would not improve patient care.
- **CAP requested Highmark abandon the requirement in November.**
- **CAP sent a second letter in February reaffirming our opposition.**





# Digital Pathology Digitization Procedures

- **Category III CPT codes are temporary codes for emerging technology**
  - Allow for data collection associated with the service
  - No assigned relative value unit (RVUs) or established payment
- **The CAP is focused on promoting the use of the new codes**
  - Use is key for incorporation into existing cost structures



# CAP Collaborates with State Pathology Societies

- Partnering on state advocacy
- Fundraising for lobbying
- Growing state society membership
- Promoting state society meetings

UT AR DE OH CA ID KS LA ME SC FL HI

VA  COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS WA IA KY MN NC NH SD

CO WV MI WI PA AZ IN MA CT NY NJ ND

TX WORK. WIN. TOGETHER. NV MT TN NM OR

OH IL GA VT NE AL MO WY OK MD AK RI

# 2022 November Elections Recap:

- **November state elections brought substantial gains for Democrats:**
  - Pennsylvania's House flipped to Democrat control
  - House flipped for the first time in over a decade
- **Pennsylvania's change will not impact CAP's advocacy significantly; deep partisan divides continue.**



# Reproductive Health

- **Legislation introduced in 2022 infringed on scope of practice:**
  - Nonphysician practitioners would be able to perform pathological gross/microscopic examinations on fetal tissues from 1st trimester products of conception.
- **Pennsylvania Medical Association opposed the bill.**
  - The bill failed upon adjournment.
- **CAP is monitoring for reintroduction and will oppose.**



# Advocate for Critical Pathology Issues

2023 Pathologists  
Leadership Summit

HYBRID | April 15–18





**CAP23 | OCT 7-10**

**THE PATHOLOGISTS' MEETING**

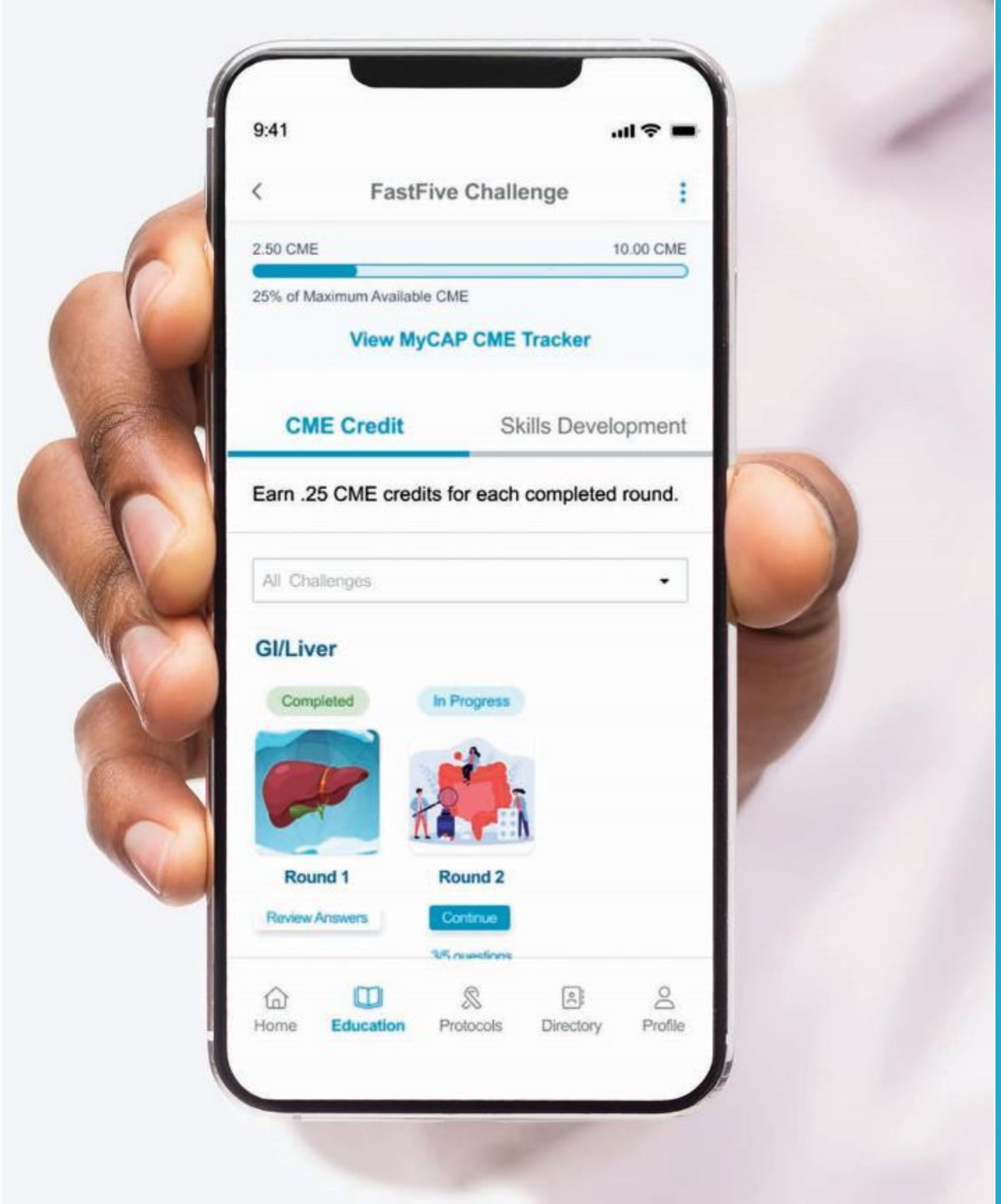
**Early Bird Registration is Now Open**

**REGISTER EARLY! [CAPANNUALMEETING.ORG](https://capannualmeeting.org)**

# Your Professional Home: How the CAP Helps You




CAREER



# Investing in Our Future: Pathologists Pipeline Initiative





Nearly **two-thirds**  
of practice leaders hiring  
pathologists found the 2022  
job market was **tighter**  
than in prior years.

# What's your specialty? New data show the choices of America's doctors by gender, race, and age



By Patrick Boyle, Senior Staff Writer

January 12, 2023

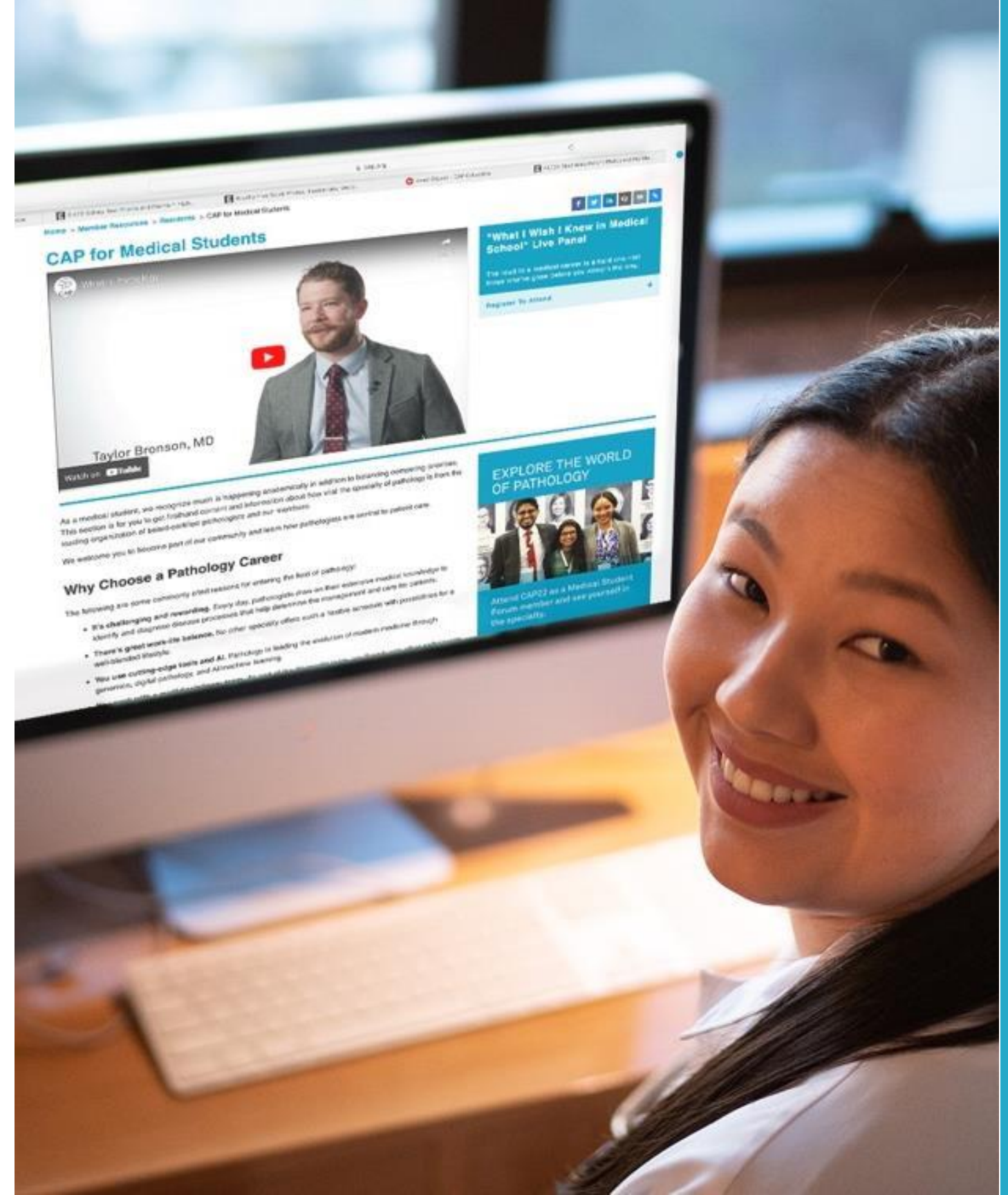
# Support the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act

- Congress must develop policies and pass legislation addressing laboratory personnel shortages.
- Support the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act.
  - Bipartisan/bicameral legislation to provide 14,000 new Medicare-supported GME positions over seven years.
  - Increasing funds for GME will protect residency slots for pathology.

# Your Professional Home: How the CAP Helps You



WORKFORCE



# Pathology Residency Recruiting (NRMP Data)

## US Senior/Total Applicants for Pathology Residency

2010 Match	363/857 (42%)
2013 Match*	290/949 (31%)
2019 Match	216/924 (23%)
2020 Match	229/917 (25%)
2021 Match	212/945 (22%)
2022 Match	248/994 (25%)
2023 Match	271/1,023 (26.5%)

**2010 → 2019 = 147 fewer US senior applicants, a 40% decrease**

**2020 → 2023 = 42 more US senior applicants, an 18% increase**

## Positions Matched by US Senior Students/Total Matched Positions

2010 Match	327/484 (68%)
2013 Match*	263/562 (47%)
2019 Match	201/569 (35%)
2020 Match	204/587 (35%)
2021 Match	198/589 (34%)
2022 Match	231/619 (37%)
2023 Match	242/607 (39.5%)

**2010 → 2019 = 126 fewer US seniors matched, a 39% decrease**

**2020 → 2023 = 38 more US seniors matched, a nearly 19% increase**

# Questions?



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