

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF – WHERE YOU COMPLETED YOUR UNDERGRADUATE/POSTGRADUATE, FAMILY, WHAT A TYPICAL DAY LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU, ETC.

I went to both undergraduate and cytology school in Vermont and after enough winters, moved our family out to Phoenix, AZ where we raised our two daughters. We've spent time abroad in the UK and five years in the Boston area but have recently returned back to the Phoenix area.

There's no such thing as a typical day - I love the diversity of each day, the challenges and opportunities it brings, and the people I get to meet along the way.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH DIGITAL PATHOLOGY?

My student project in cytology school was about bringing computers, cytology, and digital images together to assess aptitude for the field way back in 1993. Maybe ahead of its time!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER AND WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?:

I joined Hologic in 1996 and have had over 14 roles in the company over my career. I started as a Cytology Applications Specialist and have had roles in training, laboratory sales, physician sales, market access, product management, business management, and international growth. I'm currently the Vice President of Research & Development / Innovation and lead a team developing innovative technologies to improve patient care through better diagnostic insight.

HOW HAS DIGITAL PATHOLOGY DIRECTLY AFFECTED YOUR BUSINESS?

The idea of Digital Pathology isn't new but there have always been particular challenges unique to the application in cytopathology. The rapid improvements in computing power, imaging, and novel technologies are now making Digital Cytology a reality. The Digital transformation of cytology opens new avenues for collaboration, new insights, new ways of training and learning, new business models, and most importantly, the opportunity to increase access to life saving technologies around the globe.

HOW IS DIGITAL PATHOLOGY IMPACTING THE HEALTHCARE AND DIAGNOSTICS INDUSTRIES AS A WHOLE?

The combination of four elements: incredible image acquisition, image analysis tools, improved workflows, and big data connections will offer a huge benefit to healthcare, the industry, and patients around the world. With the availability of high quality, high resolution images, algorithms can now be developed for so many applications to address so many unmet needs in healthcare.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR YOUR USE OF DIGITAL PATHOLOGY?

The reason I'm building tools to support Digital Pathology is because I believe we have an opportunity to change healthcare by improving patients lives. With the use of the technology, there's the promise of improved accuracy, improved efficiency, better collaboration - and reaching parts of the world that have limited access to much needed expertise. As the worldwide cancer burden continues to grow, the pathology world becomes more complex, and the people needed to do the work become more scarce, we need new tools to meet the every growing need.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL PATHOLOGY LOOK LIKE TO YOU? PARTICULARLY, WHEN DO YOU SEE, OR DO YOU SEE ITS ADOPTION AS AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE?

The future of Digital Pathology is so exciting! As one of the last areas of medicine to benefit from a digital transformation, the opportunities are seemingly endless.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE DIGITAL PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (DPA) AND WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED TO YOU TO THE ASSOCIATION?

I joined the DPA in 2017 and the work that the Association was doing to tackle the regulatory challenges of adoption of Digital Pathology is what drew my initial interest.

HOW DID YOU INITIALLY GET INVOLVED WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION AND WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT INVOLVEMENT?

I was invited by Dr. Pantanowitz to learn more about the Association and how Hologic as a company and I as a member could get involved in the work the DPA was doing. I've been on the DPA Board of Directors since 2017 and currently chair the Membership/Member Benefits Committee.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE DPA?:

There is a great spirit of teamwork and friendship in the association - we have such a diverse group of members from academia, researchers, clinicians, industry, students - and yet the common purpose helps us unite to accomplish great things.

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