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The Pathology Visions conference is the best way to get a broad education and update on what’s new and current in digital pathology for the clinical, research and education environments.

DPA Staff: What path has your career taken that has led you to digital pathology?
Chlipala: Since I was certified as a Histotechnologist I worked in both clinical and research settings. In 1998 I started doing contract work for universities, biotech and pharmaceutical companies through BolderPATH, Inc. In 2003 I established Premier Laboratory, LLC. Where we performed a lot of immunohistochemistry and customized image analysis for research samples. I’ve always tried to make my lab a little bit different with unique and specialized services. I was introduced to whole-slide imaging through Aperio and in 2007. I took the leap and purchased a scanner, it was a logical step for us. We have found it to be profitable and it allows us to provide additional services to our clients that most histology CRO’s are not able to. It’s was a big investment for us but a good one to make.

DPA Staff: How has digital pathology directly affected your business?
Chlipala: Clients have responded very favorably to WSI since we began using digital pathology in 2007. There are so many benefits for both our lab and our clients. We can offer our clients immediate access to their images and they are now able review our progress on customized processing, staining and immunohistochemistry protocols. The digital slide conferencing aspect of WSI has allowed us and our clients to review and discuss images at the same time. Overall digital pathology has helped us to provide better customer service and greater levels of communication to our clients.

Digital pathology is also very helpful specifically in the research arena. It is the next step in image analysis. No more subjective image capture or stitching of multiple digital images. Now measurements and/or annotations can be marked directly on the slide to help pathologists/researchers keep track of what they’re looking at verses using an ocular micrometer to gauge their measurements. They can create the actual measurements on the WSI and thus creating a data trail. Analysis tools have improved over the years lending to consistent and more reliable data.

We work with several small companies and WSI and digital pathology has allowed them to view, measure, annotate and score their own samples without the use of a microscope, which they may not have in their lab. Most clients really enjoy the benefits of the technology.
**DPA Staff:** What effects do you see digital pathology having on the healthcare and diagnostics industries?

**Chlipala:** I see digital pathology as another tool. It is never going to replace pathologists. I think it can dramatically help in education and training in pathology and many other fields. Before, people were looking at different slides from the same sample and there were differences among the slides. Now everyone is looking at the exact same slide. Pathologists has used telepathology for years, digital pathology is a tremendous improvement over the older systems. Anyone who has an internet connection and a computer can view images. With the addition of FDA cleared algorithms in some of the current systems available pathologists will be able to use these tools to help them render a diagnosis or a score for a prognostic marker. These advances in technology can directly impact the trend towards personalized medicine.

**DPA Staff:** In your opinion, what benefits does the DPA provide to its members?

**Chlipala:** Since digital pathology is such a new practice, a lot of guidelines and best practices have not yet been formulated yet. The DPA is a great network to share and learn best practices and it provides information to help develop guidelines for digital pathology and how you can implement it in your institution. The Pathology Visions conference, which is sponsored by the DPA is the best way to get a broad education and update on what’s new and current in digital pathology for the clinical, research and education environments.