

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 was born in Rhode Island and moved to Bradenton, FL when I was 8 years old. I lived in Florida until college when I moved to Atlanta to attend Emory University. I then returned to Florida to go to medical school at the University of Florida COM in Gainesville.

I am married with a 7 year-old daughter who is awesome. I work in a 1,000+ bed tertiary care center with a busy service covering all specialties. I do general surgical pathology with a focus on bone and soft tissue, dermatopathology, and neuropathology.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH DIGITAL PATHOLOGY?

Digital pathology is something that I gravitated to naturally during my first years in residency. It makes perfect sense to utilize the fact that we essentially read 'pictures' for a living (If you allow me some poetic license with the view through the microscope). These images can be easily

transmissible so that you can provide patient care from anywhere in the world. Help a colleague with a difficult frozen from across the nation. Also, aid in teaching residents by having repositories, etc. We live in a digital age and as Pathologists we should utilize Digital Pathology to its fullest extent to be the best patient care providers we can be.

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

I am currently a staff pathologist at Ruffolo, Hooper, and Associates and have been here for 15 months. I also hold a faculty position at the University of South Florida COM in the Department of Pathology as Assistant Professor and recently as Associate Program Director. I also act as the Site Director for my hospital.

HOW HAS DIGITAL PATHOLOGY DIRECTLY AFFECTED YOUR BUSINESS?

Being part of a large community practice group with colleagues spread across the county at different hospitals can be difficult at times. Especially if you are the 'lone wolf' at one of our smaller facilities. By utilizing Digital Pathology we can facilitate consults from our wide breadth of expertise no matter what location we are sitting.

Our digital pathology capability – combined with our genomics and genetics efforts – is enabling us to generate unprecedented insights into patient biology that are helping to guide our research.

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

The world is growing, and technology is taking off ever more rapidly. By keeping up with this influx, digital pathology allows us to utilize this ever-growing world to help the most people. In particular, the smaller, more rural location can more easily have access to Pathologists who see the 'rare cases' with more regularity. When used properly, it should help improve patient care for patients from all over.

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

Patient Care. That's what it all comes down to for me. Ensuring that each patient gets the correct diagnosis in the timeliest manner.

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?

I believe that as the 'younger' generation of Pathologists takes over the majority – those who trained with digital path in their programs – digital pathology will have a more prominent role in all practices. The trainees coming out now are taught how to utilize this technology for tumor boards, teaching, and consults in a way that the older generation are unfamiliar with. As the population continues to shift, so will the utilization of Digital Path.

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

I have been a member since residency and as alluded to above, the DPA spoke to my desire to learn the most I can to in turn provide the best care as well as help teach others to spread that knowledge.

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

In residency I was honored to be placed on the membership committee where I served for several years (on and off due to fellowship and moving) and I'm now the Chair. I relish the opportunity to spread the knowledge of the DPA and how we can help them be better.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE DPA?

The people. The people who work there, the people on my committees, the people at the meetings. Being surrounded by so many folks through the healthcare sphere to make it their life's work to improve patient care for all.

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