DIGITAL PATHOLOGY

DPA

ASSOCIATION

2026 Highlights

Advancing Digital Pathology Through
Innovation, Education & Global Collaboration

ABOUT THE

DIGITAL PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

4,700+

global digital pathology professionals & industry innovators

Our Mission

Facilitate awareness, education and adoption of digital pathology and AI applications in healthcare and life sciences.

AWARENESS

Elevating digital pathology visibility globally to advance patient care.

EDUCATION

Delivering resources and training to all stakeholders.

ADOPTION

Driving practical integration of DP and AI tools into clinical workflows.

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

2026

4,700+

DPA Members Worldwide

60%	40%	100+	30+
U.S. Members	International	Countries	Professions

FREE MEMBERSHIPS available for Trainees & Developing Economies

THE PATHOLOGIST MAGAZINE • 03/19/2026

The Future of Pathology Is Digital

How the DPA is turning innovation into clinical reality through standards, education, and regulatory collaboration

> *Digital pathology is not positioned to replace pathologists but to extend their expertise, enhance efficiency, and support the specialty's role in an increasingly data-driven health care system.*
>
> *— Matthew G. Hanna, MD, DPA President-Elect & Vice Chair of Pathology Informatics, UPMC*

For readers who may not be familiar, how would you describe the core mission of the DPA?

"The DPA's core mission is to advance the adoption of digital pathology as an integral component of digital health care. The DPA works to achieve this by bringing together stakeholders — including regulatory agencies, vendors, health care professionals, and patients — to help streamline regulatory pathways and support the development and refinement of standards. The organization also promotes interoperability as a global priority, provides educational resources, strengthens collaboration with allied societies, and highlights patient journeys to demonstrate the impact of digital pathology on clinical outcomes."

— Scott M. Blakely, DPA President & Business Development Manager, Hamamatsu

VISION 2030

Strategic Pillars for the Future of Digital Pathology

1 EDUCATION

Tailoring remote learning, training and certification for patients, residents, and lab technicians to achieve normalization of Digital Pathology.

2 COLLABORATION

Greater coalition building with associations and pharma to achieve more digital health funding allocation.

3 MEMBERSHIP

Tailoring content and messaging to increase quality of engagement for our increasingly diverse membership and drive adoption.

4 REGULATORY

Greater alignment, clarity and engagement with DP technology for global regulatory agencies to achieve innovation in evidence-based standards.

5 REIMBURSEMENT

A framework for reimbursement, clinical evidence, and more collaboration with payers to increase coverage and drive DP and cytology as standard of care.

6 STANDARDIZATION

A holistic standards framework and expanding DP connectathons to drive true interoperability, reduce risk, and improve health outcomes.

COMMITTEES

Driving Impact Across DPA

CREATIVE CONTENT

Producing compelling communications and visual storytelling.

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

Amplifying the patient voice in digital pathology advocacy.

REIMBURSEMENT

Developing frameworks for coverage and payer collaboration.

EDUCATION

Building resources, curriculum, and learning pathways.

PROGRAM

Coordinating the premier annual digital pathology meeting, Pathology Visions.

MEMBERSHIP

Growing and engaging DPA's global professional community.

REGULATORY & STANDARDS

Advancing clarity with global regulatory bodies and standards.

RESEARCH
COLLABORATION

FDA + DPA

Whole Slide Imaging System Technical Performance Testing

01

Scanner Evaluation

Universal test targets and image quality metrics.

02

Viewer Assessment

Using Pixelwise and perceptual testing methods.

03

Display Performance

Testing based on resolution, color fidelity, and luminance uniformity.

Objective

This collaborative research effort between FDA/CDRH and DPA is designed to **advance regulatory science** by developing and validating technical performance assessment (TPA) tools for modular whole slide imaging (WSI) systems.

The primary objective is to establish standardized, fit-for-purpose phantoms, test protocols, performance metrics, and analysis methodologies for evaluating individual components of WSI systems — specifically scanners, viewers, and displays — under realistic operational conditions.

Findings will be publicly shared to enable benchmarking and guide development of regulatory science tools, clarifying technical testing expectations and supporting the FDA's mission of ensuring timely access to safe and effective digital pathology technologies.

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

CONNECT. LEARN. INFLUENCE.

BEYOND THE SCOPE

A podcast focusing on the hot topics in digital pathology — deep dives with industry leaders, innovators, and global experts.

DPA BLOG

Timely articles, member insights, and expert perspectives on the evolving digital pathology landscape.

DPA COLLABORATE

A peer-to-peer collaborative platform to ideate & advance digital pathology across the global community.

ON DEMAND ARCHIVE

100s of past presentations from Pathology Visions, webinars, companion meetings, and grand rounds — all on demand.

ROI CALCULATOR

A companion tool providing an exhaustive list of concepts needed when assessing the financial implications of transitioning to a digital pathology system.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

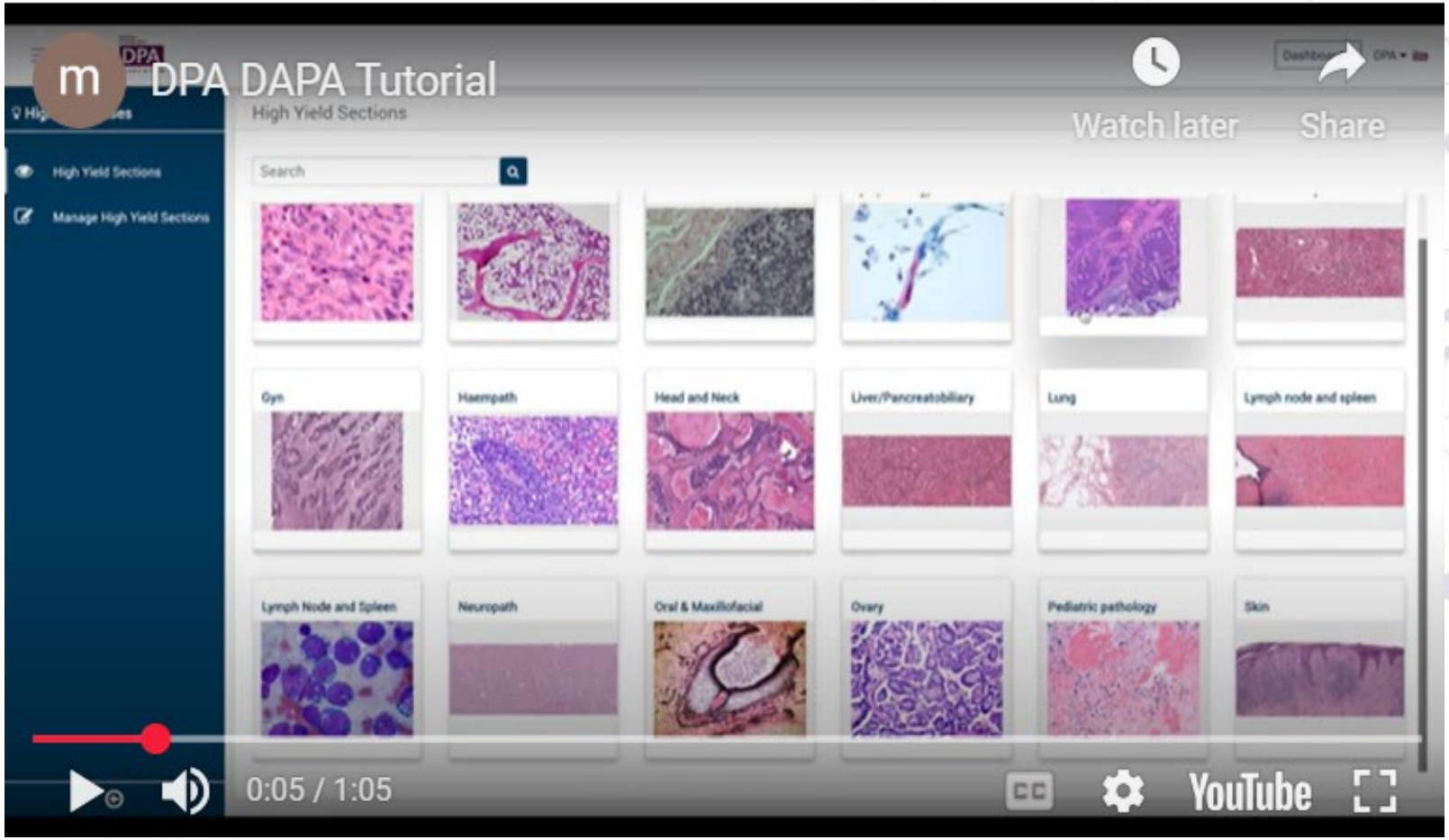
Webinars, DAPA Grand Rounds, and WSI Review sessions available on demand for DPA members worldwide.

DAPA

DIGITAL ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY ACADEMY

1,000+

annotated digital slides with diagnosis



KEY 2026 INITIATIVES

Integrated Diagnostics Alliance – The evolving role of the Pathologist in the multi-modal diagnostic environment.

Reimbursement & Market Access

INTEGRATED DIAGNOSTICS

PATHOLOGY VISIONS 2026
PANEL DISCUSSION

Beyond the glass slide: how the pathologist's role expands when diagnosis draws on more than whole-slide imaging — and what it takes to do it responsibly.

DATA THAT COULD INFORM THE DIAGNOSIS

- **Digital Pathology (WSI)**
- **AI-diagnostic support from WSI**
- **Radiology**
- **LAB & Chemistry**
- **Genomics**
- **HER, Clinical Data & Clinical Notes**

THE OPPORTUNITY

- **Pathologist as integrator** — synthesizing imaging with AI-diagnostic support, radiology, labs, genomics, and EHR context into one diagnosis.
- **Cross-department collaboration** — working more closely with radiology, lab medicine, and clinical teams.
- **An emerging integrative role** — sitting at the center of a patient's multimodal data.
- **AI-enhanced, better-informed decisions** — richer context can sharpen accuracy and feed integrated medical AI.

KEY CAUTIONS

- **Data quality & standardization** — modalities vary; low-quality or non-standardized inputs can mislead.
- **Liability & accountability** — who owns a diagnosis drawn from many sources and AI?
- **Reimbursement gaps** — integrated, cross-modal work isn't clearly funded.
- **Clinician adoption** — added workflow burden and resistance to new roles/responsibilities.

Patient Engagement Survey

Current landscape of patient-pathologist interaction

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

April 2026 | n = 327 Respondents

KEY METRICS AT A GLANCE

327
Total Survey Respondents

77%
Currently Meet with Patients

75%
Rate Patient Interactions Positive or Very Positive

73%
Approached to Review Slides in Past 12 Months

7.5/10
Weighted Interest Score for Digital Slide Consults

57%
Non-Engagers Want to Offer Consultations in Future

PATIENT INTERACTION

CURRENT PRACTICE

77%

of pathologists currently meet with patients to discuss results

252

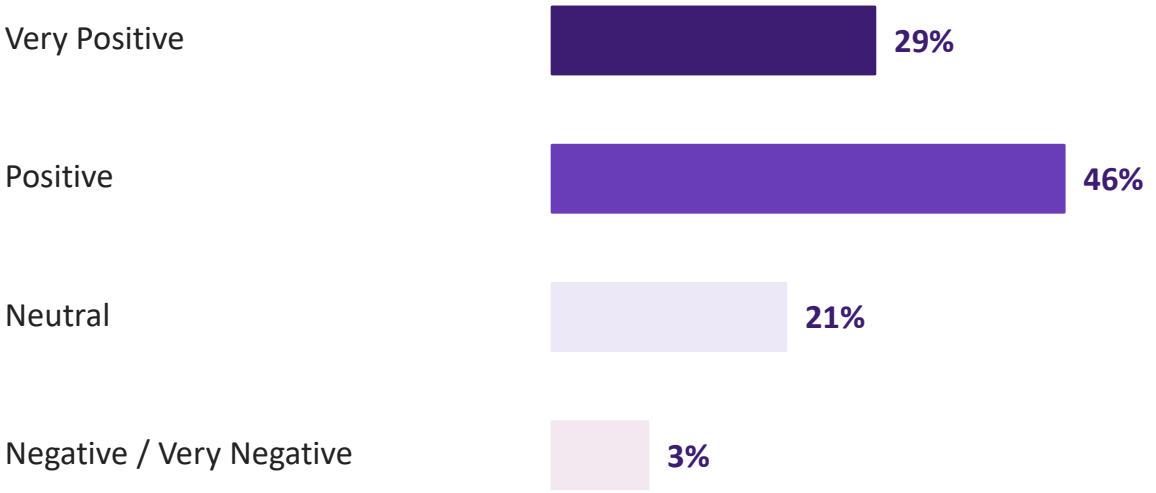
Who engage patients

23%

Do not yet engage

EXPERIENCE RATINGS

Among pathologists with patient interaction (n = 233)

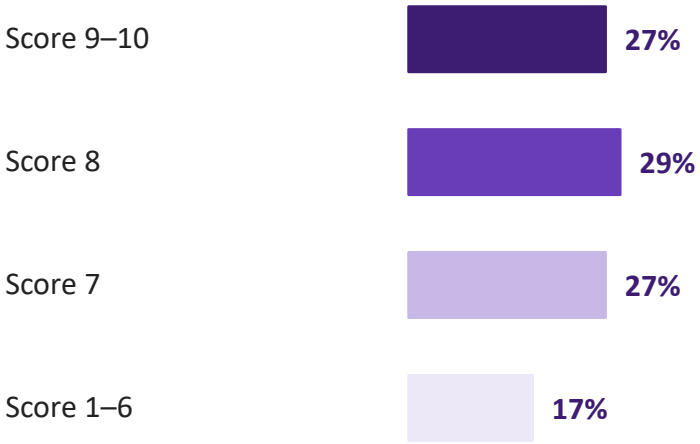


Top Challenge: Translating technical pathology language into patient-friendly terms.
Top Benefit: Improved patient understanding of their pathology report.

FUTURE OUTLOOK & BARRIERS

INTEREST IN DIGITAL SLIDE CONSULTATIONS

Rated on scale of 1–10 (n = 301)

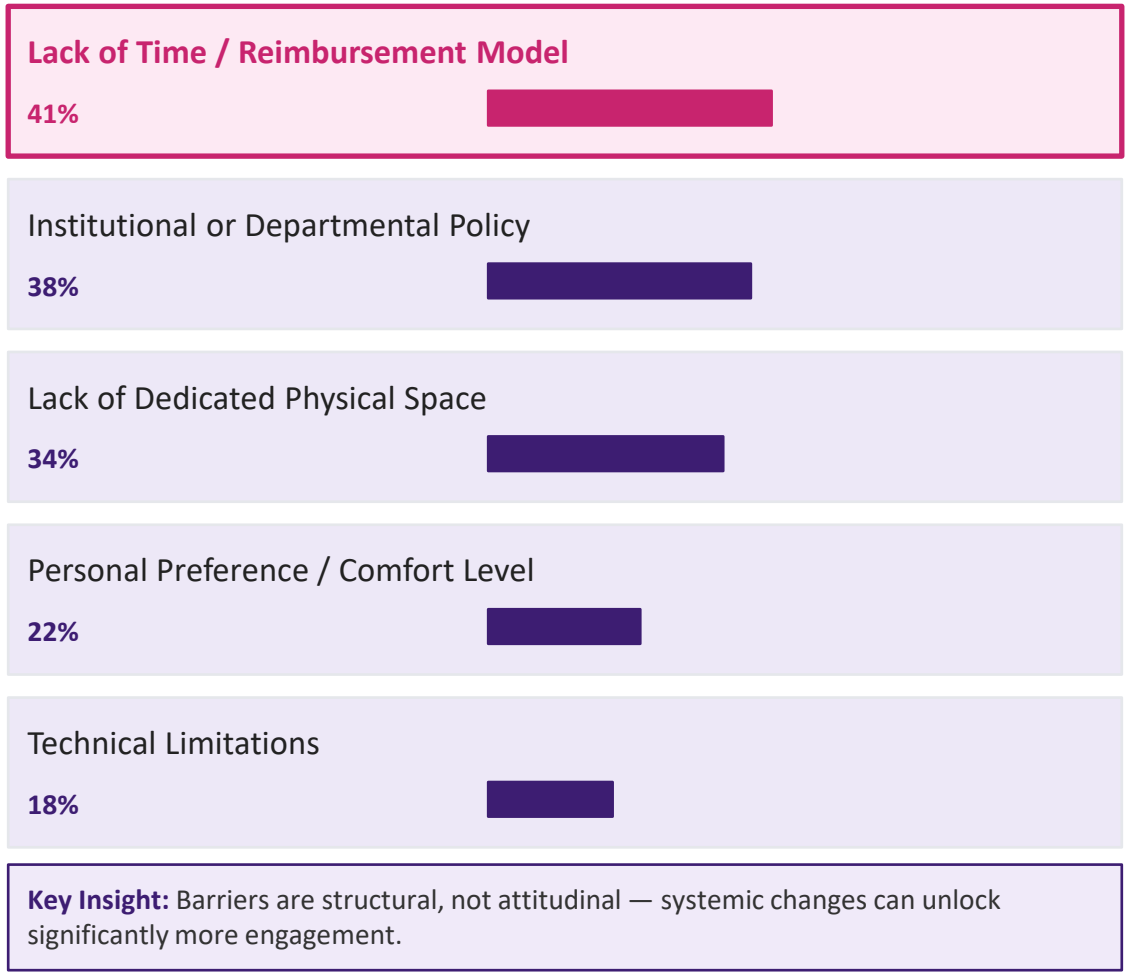


7.5 / 10 weighted average interest score

83% of non-engagers are open to future patient consultations

TOP BARRIERS TO PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

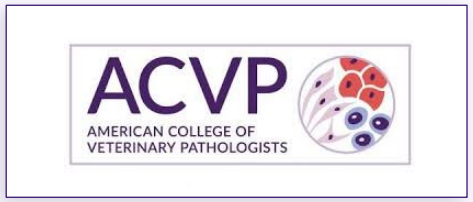
Among 73 respondents not currently meeting with patients

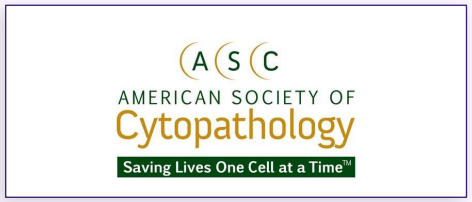


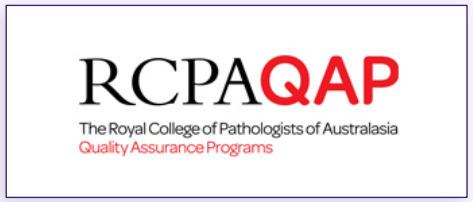
Key Insight: Barriers are structural, not attitudinal — systemic changes can unlock significantly more engagement.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Collaborating with leading organizations worldwide to advance digital pathology and patient care globally.







Digital Pathology Connectathons

PATHOLOGY VISIONS 26

CONNECTING INNOVATION WITH PURPOSE.

OCTOBER 16-18 | SAN DIEGO, CA

1000+ attendees

60+ speakers

65+ exhibitors

100% patient-focused

#PATHVISIONS26 | digitalpathologyassociation.org

DPA

SAVE THE DATE FOR **PATHVISIONS27** | December 12-14, Phoenix, AZ

FEATURED SPEAKERS

PATHOLOGY VISIONS 26

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Maureen Waithaka

Anatomic Pathologist
The Pathology Network, Kenya

OCTOBER 16-18 | SAN DIEGO, CA

PLENARY ADDRESS

Dr. Rajendra Singh

Professor of Pathology
University of Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 16-18 | SAN DIEGO, CA

DPA

ADVANCE THE FUTURE OF PATIENT CARE THROUGH ETHICAL INNOVATION

GLOBAL DIGITAL PATHOLOGY COMMUNITY

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