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Editorial: "Evidence Based Pathology"

In this issue of the *Annals of Diagnostic Pathology* we have the pleasure of introducing a new section in the journal: "Evidence Based Pathology". The topic of evidence-based medicine has acquired enormous importance in recent years for the evaluation of scientific data and its rational application in medical practice; however, this trend has been slow to become adopted in the specialty of pathology. Although there are several clinical journals dealing with evidence-based medicine, pathologists have not really taken an active stance in this direction resulting in a glut of data that may have not been stringently validated or that may be only of empirical value. This new section in the journal has as its purpose to offer a forum for people interested in this topic to provide timely updates, recent trends and their professional opinion in this field. Two section editors have been selected for this task, Alberto Marchevsky, M.D., from Cedar-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, and Mark Wick, M.D., from the University of Virginia. Both are highly reputable and experienced surgical pathologists who have a track record in this topic and have contributed significantly to raise awareness of the value of evidence-based medicine in the field of pathology.

The journal invites contributions from other authors interested in this topic, especially dealing with the role of predictive models in pathology, the reporting of prognostic data in the pathology literature, what is the clinical applicability of results obtained by various statistical methods, what is the real clinical significance of the "statistically significant" values claimed by various studies, how to build and interpret nomograms for cancer prognosis, the significance of inter-observer variability studies, the use of artificial neural networks for developing multivariate predictive models, and many other areas of interest in this field.

In this issue, the very first entry for this new section is the article entitled "Pathology in the Era of Personalized Medicine", in which Drs. Marchevsky, Walt and Wick explore some of the issues presented by the new paradigm of personalized medicine for integrating immunohistochemical, molecular and other laboratory data into currently available therapeutic modalities. It is hoped that the readership of the journal will find these articles to be of interest and illuminating and that it will spark discussion among our colleagues both in the academic and community sectors on how to improve on the tools we have at hand for delivering the best possible service to our patients.

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