



Guest Editorial

Brace for skills beyond the Microscope!

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What does it mean to be a pathologist in this present era?

Is it merely about gazing through a microscope, identifying cells, and rendering diagnoses? The answer, I firmly believe, is no.

During training, the focus is learning to identify tissue abnormalities and diseases. That is the strength of a pathologist and that will go on. Further we require deep understanding of the complex interplay between genetics, environment, and disease.

Pathology has evolved significantly over the years. We now find ourselves at the intersection of cutting-edge technology, molecular diagnostics, and personalized medicine.

Over the past decade, pathologists have increasingly moved beyond the confines of microscope. Pathologists of tomorrow will need to be adept with many evolving roles like,

1. Digital pathology, Telepathology and artificial intelligence. Whole-slide imaging allows trainees to view and analyze cases remotely. Telepathology platforms not only support real-time consultations but also assist in virtual tumor boards
2. Participation in clinical care. Tumor boards being one such opportunity. Tumor boards consist of

multidisciplinary team members who discuss complex cases, enhance diagnostic accuracy, and collaboratively formulate treatment plans.

3. Pathologists are also required to hone their skills in patient communication, Leadership skills and mentorship.
4. Effective use of social media for collaborative learning and networking
5. Contributing through Research, data interpretation, innovation, and entrepreneurship
6. As personalized therapies become more prevalent, treatment decisions increasingly rely on diagnoses from small biopsies, FNA and molecular testing

Conclusion

The pathologist's role has been evolving, shifting from primarily one as a diagnostician to one that is an integral part of the patient care continuum. Through active involvement in tumor boards, Leadership skills, social media and digital skills, cancer screening and health education programs and engagement in consultation clinics pathologists are expanding their expertise far beyond the microscope.

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