Understanding disease has engrossed many curious minds throughout history. Early experimentation set the path leading to present-day investigative efforts that have yielded remarkable progress in information, technology, resources, and the evolution of biomedical research and discovery. For more than 100 years, the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) has centered its efforts on advancing knowledge regarding the pathogenesis of disease. During this time, the landscape of pathology has evolved to embrace multiple related disciplines with shared interests in investigations of disease. Of import, investigative pathology is central to current clinical and translational research efforts. Accordingly, ASIP has continuously transitioned to meet the needs of its scientific constituency.

Recently, ASIP completed a comprehensive long-range planning process under the leadership of Steven Galli, M.D., and Richard Lynch, M.D., both former presidents of ASIP. The resulting long-range plan calls for enhanced activities to sustain excellence in investigative pathology, often in coordination with other established professional pathology organizations. To accomplish these goals, the leadership of ASIP approved revisions to the Society mission to reflect contemporary investigative pathology:

> The mission of the Society is to promote the discovery, advancement, and dissemination of basic and translational knowledge in experimental pathology and related disciplines. This shall be achieved by fostering investigation into the pathogenesis, classification, diagnosis, and manifestations of disease through meetings, publications, and educational activities.

Such breadth better reflects the purpose of the Society, namely to foster the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge regarding mechanisms of disease. The American Journal of Pathology, as an established keystone of ASIP, fits squarely into this purpose by sustaining the discipline of investigative pathology through its publication. The AJP supports the mission of ASIP with its own well-developed and extensive scope:

AJP seeks to publish high-quality, original papers on the cellular and molecular biology of disease. The editors accept manuscripts that advance basic and translational knowledge of the pathogenesis, classification, diagnosis, and mechanisms of disease, without preference for a specific analytic method. High priority is given to studies on human disease and relevant experimental models using cellular, molecular, animal, biological, chemical, and immunological approaches in conjunction with morphology.

These two objectives, the ASIP mission and AJP scope, align to encompass the expertise and investigative interests of the ASIP membership and support an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to further the study of disease.

The ASIP leadership, both elected and appointed, shares common visions embodied in the ASIP mission. The annual election of leaders seeks to invigorate the membership and to achieve established goals. In addition, two ASIP appointments are particularly critical to sustaining the activities of the Society: the ASIP Executive Officer and the AJP Editor-in-Chief. As Executive Officer since 2001, Mark E. Sobel, M.D., Ph.D., guides ASIP operations and ensures that the objectives of the Society are achieved. Another key ASIP appointment rests in the AJP Editor-in-Chief. Michael P. Lisanti, M.D., Ph.D., who has recently taken command of AJP, possesses research interests and visions for the future of AJP that mirror the multidimensional range of the AJP readers and authors and the ASIP membership, as reflected in his recent editorial. Thus, collectively, the ASIP leadership is in close touch with the excitement and adventure of experimentation and scientific discovery held by its membership toward improving our understanding of human disease.

With a clear mission, enthusiastic leadership, and a membership dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of disease, the ASIP continues to explore the means to assist investigators who share a common purpose: experimental studies to reveal the mysteries of disease.

Reference


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