

Dear Laboratory Professionals,

We have persevered through many years of training and commit our daily lives to an evolving medical community that relies heavily on our expertise. As such, we have an obligation to ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and representation are prioritized factors in the communities we serve. The mission of the Society of Black Pathologists (SBP) is to address barriers to diversity and inclusion, increase the number of underrepresented minorities in pathology and laboratory medicine, and provide support and mentorship to the pathology and laboratory community with regard to leadership development and scientific research.

It is my honor to serve as your founding SBP president, and I am exceedingly grateful to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) for the generous and consistent support we receive in partnership. My vision is to build a strong foundation of membership, committee development, outreach, and collaboration upon which we can build for many years to come. Our membership is open to anyone who shares a passion in our mission, and I welcome your input as we work together to achieve these goals:

**Outreach:** Increasing the visibility of pathology and laboratory medicine for underrepresented minorities is one of our founding tenets. The SBP plans to establish connections with residency programs, medical schools, and laboratory medicine training programs to further support the pathology workforce pipeline in underrepresented communities. We are also in the process of partnering with other societies to build bridges among groups with shared passion and expertise.

**Committee Development and Member Engagement:** With the support and guidance of ASCP, we are prioritizing the growth of the society by welcoming new members who share our goals, and developing committees that represent the components of our founding mission. We are in the process of creating a strong and collaborative network of executive board and committee leadership and look forward to in-person meetings soon. Please see the “Benefits of SBP Membership” on our webpage.

**Mentorship:** We hope to capture the hearts of our young minds with outreach, but what about our existing junior- to mid-level faculty who also need support and assistance with faculty development, promotion assistance, and networking? We plan to tap into the expertise of our senior members and partners to assist the next generation of pathologists of color! All of this will be in partnership with the current offerings of ASCP.

As you can see, we have a busy year ahead! This is a wonderful opportunity for all of our members to join in these efforts and elevate the visibility of our Society. Now is the time to “begin with the end in mind,” and I look forward to seeing the SBP grow.

Warm Regards,

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