2013 Housestaff Specialty Conference: What do we use to prepare for the ABP AP and CP certification examinations?

March 3, 2013

Mika Fujiwara
Ann Folkins
Barbara Mckenna
ANXIOUS  ?
TENSION !
PANIC  !
DOUBT  !
FEAR  ?
ANXIETY  ?
WORRY  !

STRESS

ANXIETY GIRL!
able to jump to the worst conclusion in a single bound!
BE PREPARED
NOT SCARED
Boards Preparation Survey

• Survey of fellows and graduates, who recently took the ABP exams

  – Survey sent to entire group of pathology program directors

  – 165 participants
Outline of Survey

• Demographics
• Anatomic Pathology
• Clinical Pathology
  – Residency Program
  – Books
  – Websites
  – Courses
• Summary
1. How many residents are in your program?

- <10: 24
- 11-15: 25
- 16-20: 34
- 21-25: 23
- 26-30: 21
- >30: 36
2. What is the approximate number of surgical pathology accessions per year in your institution?
3. What was your residency program track?

- AP/CP: 132
- AP only: 20
- CP only: 10
- Other: 3
4. What is the number of years of pathology training you had completed at time of taking the American Board of Pathology (ABP) Exam?

- 3 years: 28
- 4 years: 116
- 5 years: 15
- >5 years: 6
5. What fellowships, if any, had you completed at the time of taking the ABP exam?

- 71 None
- 21 Sgx
- 5 Cyto
- 6 Heme
- 2 Neuro
- 7 Clinical
5. Surgical Pathology Subspecialty Fellowships

- General Sgx: 15
- GI/Liver: 2
- Gyn: 1
- Renal: 1
- Thoracic: 1
- Bone/ST: 1
5. Clinical Pathology Fellowships

- Molecular: 3
- Transfusion: 2
- Micro: 2
6. Do you plan to take additional subspecialty boards?

Yes: 89
No: 76
7. What additional subspecialty board do you plan to take?

- Cyto: 19
- Derm: 10
- Forensics: 7
- Peds: 4
- Heme: 24
- Molecular: 8
- Transfusion: 6
- Micro: 2
8. Did you take the AP exam?

- Yes: 153
- No: 11

10. Did you pass?

- AP/CP: 126
- AP: 27
9. Did you take the CP exam?

10. Did you pass?

- Yes: 121
- No: 24

- AP/CP: 126
- CP: 10

(PASS)
Survey participants demographics

• Programs of many sizes represented
• Predominately AP/CP 4 year track
• Most took the exam at the end of 4th year
• A small proportion had taken a year of fellowship, usually in general surgical pathology
• Most intended to do additional fellowship training
ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY
11. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Residency Program
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Didactics**

- **Very Useful**: 39
- **Useful**: 69
- **Neutral**: 21
- **Useless**: 6
- **Very Useless**: 1
- **Not Offered**: 1
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: Slide Conferences

- **Very Useful**: 80
- **Useful**: 42
- **Neutral**: 9
- **Useless**: 4
- **Very Useless**: 2
- **Not Offered**: 0
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Slide study sets**

- Very Useful: 71 students
- Useful: 42 students
- Neutral: 16 students
- Useless: 4 students
- Very Useless: 0 students
- Not Offered: 4 students
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Board prep lectures by faculty

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Useful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
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<td>Neutral</td>
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<td>Useless</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Useless</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Offered</td>
<td>35</td>
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</table>
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**AP rotations**

- **Very Useful**: 82
- **Useful**: 42
- **Neutral**: 9
- **Useless**: 3
- **Very Useless**: 0
- **Not Offered**: 0
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**ASCP Resident Inservice Exam (RISE)**

- **Very Useful:** 16
- **Useful:** 65
- **Neutral:** 24
- **Useless:** 20
- **Very Useless:** 12
- **Not Offered:** 0
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: **Residency Program**

![Bar chart showing usefulness of different preparation methods](chart.png)
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: **Residency Program**

- Didactics
- Slide Conference
- Slide Study Sets
- Board Prep lecture
- AP Rotations
- RISE

[Bar chart showing the usefulness of different programs for AP board preparation]
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: **Residency Program**
12. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Books
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Lefkowitch AP Boards Review**

![Bar chart showing the usefulness of the Lefkowitch AP Boards Review]

- **Very Useful**: 86
- **Useful**: 28
- **Not Useful**: 6
- **Did not use**: 17
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
Roberts *Pathology Board Review, Pearls of Wisdom*

![Bar chart showing usefulness ratings of the book.](chart.png)

- **Very Useful**: 3
- **Useful**: 11
- **Not Useful**: 4
- **Did not use**: 117
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Ahmed AP Board Review

- Very Useful: 5
- Useful: 7
- Not Useful: 2
- Did not use: 121
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Robbins Review of Pathology**

- Very Useful: 23
- Useful: 38
- Not Useful: 11
- Did not use: 64
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation: Surgical Pathology Textbooks

- Very Useful: 41
- Useful: 71
- Not Useful: 9
- Did not use: 14
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**IARC WHO Classification of Tumors**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Useful</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use</td>
<td>57</td>
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</table>
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

**Cibas Cytology**

- **Very Useful**: 54
- **Useful**: 27
- **Not Useful**: 3
- **Did not use**: 53
12. Usefulness for AP board preparation: DeMay Cytology

- Very Useful: 53
- Useful: 45
- Not Useful: 3
- Did not use: 35
12. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Books
12. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Books

Graph showing the usefulness of various books for preparation, categorized by usefulness levels: Very Useful, Useful, Not Useful, Did not use. Books listed include Lefkowitch, Roberts, Ahmed, Robbins, SP Textbooks, IARC WHO, Cibas, Cibas, Cibas.
13. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Websites
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
Johns Hopkins Sgx Path Unknown Conference
http://pathology2.jhu.edu/sp

- Very Useful: 47
- Useful: 32
- Not Useful: 3
- Did not use: 55
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Pathology Outlines
http://www.pathologyoutlines.com

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<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Useful</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

Student Doctor
http://forums.studentdoctor.net
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

PathMD

http://pathmd.com
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
Pathology Resident WIKI
http://pathinfo.wikia.com/wiki/Pathology_Resident_Wiki
13. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

University of Utah

http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/webpath.html
13. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Websites
13. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: Websites

- JHopkins
- PathOutlines
- StudDoc
- PathMD
- WIKI
- U of Utah
14. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for **Anatomic Pathology** board preparation: **Courses**
14. Usefulness for AP board preparation:

The Osler Institute Pathology Review Course

- Very Useful: 70
- Useful: 24
- Not Useful: 4
- Did not use: 39
14. Usefulness for AP board preparation: ASCP Resident Review Course

- Very Useful: 42
- Useful: 23
- Not Useful: 2
- Did not use: 70
14. Usefulness for AP board preparation:
CME Info Pathology Board Review

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<tr>
<td>Very Useful</td>
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<td>Useful</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Not Useful</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use</td>
<td>82</td>
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</table>
14. Usefulness for Anatomic Pathology board preparation: **Courses**
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
15. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Residency program
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

**Didactics**

- Very Useful: 45
- Useful: 54
- Neutral: 13
- Useless: 7
- Very Useless: 4
- Not Offered: 0
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

**Interesting Case Conference**

![Bar Chart]

- Very Useful: 28
- Useful: 47
- Neutral: 19
- Useless: 4
- Very Useless: 8
- Not Offered: 17
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

Board Prep Lecture by Faculty

- 41 Very Useful
- 40 Useful
- 4 Neutral
- 6 Useless
- 2 Very Useless
- 30 Not Offered
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

**CP Rotations**

- Very Useful: 43
- Useful: 53
- Neutral
- Useless: 13
- Very Useless: 5
- Not Offered: 0
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

ASCP Resident Inservice Exam (RISE)

- Very Useful: 18
- Useful: 59
- Neutral: 18
- Useless: 22
- Very Useless: 6
- Not Offered: 0
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Residency program

- Didactics
- Case Conference
- Board Prep lecture
- CP Rotations
- RISE

Usefulness categories: Very useful, Useful, Neutral, Useless, Very useless, Not Offered

Bars representing different categories and programs.
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Residency program**

[Bar chart showing the usefulness of different activities for CP board preparation, categorized by 'Very useful', 'Useful', 'Neutral', 'Useless', 'Very useless', 'Not Offered'.]
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: **Residency program**

The diagram above illustrates the usefulness of various components in the residency program for board preparation. The categories include 'Very useful', 'Useful', 'Neutral', 'Useless', 'Very useless', and 'Not offered'. The bars represent different components:

- **Didactics**
- **Case Conference**
- **Board Prep lecture**
- **CP Rotations**
- **RISE**

The chart shows a comparative analysis of the perceived usefulness of these components.
16. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Books**
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Mais Quick Compendium of Clinical Pathology

- **Very Useful**: 94
- **Useful**: 11
- **Not Useful**: 3
- **Did not use**: 16
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Mais Quick Compendium Companion

- Very Useful: 59
- Useful: 16
- Not Useful: 5
- Did not use: 42
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Schexneider Henry’s Clinical Diagnosis and Management

![Bar chart showing the number of respondents rating the usefulness of the book.]

- Very Useful: 11
- Useful: 16
- Not Useful: 15
- Did not use: 52

- Very Useful: 9
- Useful: 24
- Not Useful: 7
- Did not use: 82
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

**Glassy Color Atlas of Hematology**

- Very Useful: 24
- Useful: 30
- Not Useful: 1
- Did not use: 69
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation: *Koneman Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology*

- **Very Useful**: 54
- **Useful**: 45
- **Not Useful**: 6
- **Did not use**: 19
16. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
Wager Clinical Administration for Pathologists

- Very Useful: 0
- Useful: 6
- Not Useful: 1
- Did not use: 117
16. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Books**

![Bar chart showing the usefulness of different books for clinical pathology board preparation. The chart includes categories for Very Useful, Useful, Not Useful, and Did not use, with bars for each book title: Mais, Mais Companion, Henry's, Galagan, Glassy, Koneman, and Wager.](chart.png)
16. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Books**
17. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Websites
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

Blood Bank Guy

http://www.bbguy.org

- Very Useful: 76
- Useful: 22
- Not Useful: 1
- Did not use: 24
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

Student Doctor

http://forums.studentdoctor.net

<table>
<thead>
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<th>3</th>
<th>7</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
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<td>Not Usef</td>
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<td>Did not</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Very Useful
Useful
Not Useful
Did not use
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
PathMD
http://pathmd.com

- Very Useful: 14
- Useful: 16
- Not Useful: 4
- Did not use: 88
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
Laboratory Online Continuing Education
http://labCE.com

![Bar chart showing responses to the usefulness of laboratory online continuing education.](chart.png)

- Very Useful: 3 responses
- Useful: 4 responses
- Not Useful: 1 response
- Did not use: 116 responses
17. Usefulness for CP board preparation:

Pathology Resident WIKI

http://pathinfo.wikia.com/wiki/Pathology_Resident_Wiki

Very Useful: 2
Useful: 8
Not Useful: 3
Did not use: 111
17. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Websites**

![Bar chart showing usefulness of websites for clinical pathology board preparation. The chart indicates the number of respondents who found websites very useful, useful, not useful, or did not use them. The websites listed are BB Guy, StudDoc, PathMD, Lab CE, and WIKI. The chart highlights the perception of usefulness with a focus on very useful responses.]
17. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: **Websites**

![Bar chart showing the usefulness of websites for clinical pathology board preparation.](chart.png)
18. Please rate the following items regarding their usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Courses
18. Usefulness for CP board preparation: The Osler Institute Pathology Review Course

- Very Useful: 73
- Useful: 18
- Not Useful: 0
- Did not use: 32
18. Usefulness for CP board preparation: ASCP Resident Review Course

- Very Useful: 47
- Useful: 13
- Not Useful: 1
- Did not use: 63
18. Usefulness for CP board preparation:
CME Info Pathology Board Review

<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very Useful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Useful</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use</td>
<td>115</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
18. Usefulness for Clinical Pathology board preparation: Courses
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Residency Program**

- Peer Study Group
- Advice from senior trainees
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Books**

- ASCP Quick Compendium Surgical Pathology
- ASCP Quick Compendium Companion
- Cheng Essentials of Anatomic Pathology
- Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology
- Besthesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytology
- Washington Manual of Surgical Pathology
- Sternberg Diagnostic Surgical Pathology Review
- Holladay Cytopathology Review Guide
- Gattuso Differential Diagnosis in Surgical Pathology
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Websites**

- **ASCP PRISE Modules** (Pathologist Recertification Individualized Self-Assessment Examination for MOC by ABP)
- **ASCP CheckPath** (CME)
- Johns Hopkins Cytology Unknowns
- Sinard Outlines in Pathology
- Pathpedia
- Surgpath4u
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **AP: Courses**

- Oakstone Board Review
- Utilize resources from review course without attending live sessions
19. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for AP: Other

- CAP PIP (Performance Improvement Program in Surgical Pathology)
- California Tumor Tissue Registry slide sets
20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Residency Program**

- Advice from senior trainees
20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Books**

- IARC WHO Hematopathology
- AABB Practical Guide to Transfusion Medicine
- CAP Color Atlas of Hemoglobin Disorders
- Hart Color Atlas of Medical Microbiology
- BOC Study Guide for Clinical Lab Certification Examination
- Harr Clinical Laboratory Science Review
20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Websites**

- ASCP PRISE modules
- Pathpedia
- UCSF: Fungal morphology
- Brigham and Women/Vanderbilt/Washington University: Transfusion Medicine Question of the Day
20. Please list any additional resources, not listed in this survey, that you thought were useful for **CP: Courses**

- Oakstone Board Review
- Utilize resources from review course without attending live sessions
21. What are the TOP THREE resources you would recommend for AP board preparation?
22. What are the TOP THREE resources you would recommend for CP board preparation?
Have there been other similar surveys???
# Contents

This handout contains the following topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>See Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Qualification and Application</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Study Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP Study Resources</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE Exam</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying and Preparation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP and CP Combined Exam</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tips from Past Examinees</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Dining</td>
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<td>Exam Logistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Microscopy and Images</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Questions and Grading</td>
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<td>After the Exam</td>
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*September 10, 2011*
CAP survey

• Online survey June 2011
  – Follow-up to surveys conducted in 2006 and 2009

• 194 respondents

• New in practice (0-5 yrs) and passed
Survey comparison
Demographics

Our survey
• 80% AP/CP 4 year track
• Most took the exam at the end of 4th year
• 100% of participants passed the exam

CAP survey
• 88% took AP/CP
• 85% recommended taking exam at the end of 4th year
• All respondents passed with 81% passing AP/CP on their first try
Survey comparison
Demographics

**Our survey**
- What fellowships have you completed
  - Surgical Pathology
- What fellowship do you plan to do
  - Cytopathology
  - Hematopathology
  - Dermatopathology

**CAP survey**
- What fellowships have you completed
  - Surgical pathology
  - Cytopathology
  - Hematopathology
Survey comparison
CAP survey: How did your residency program help prepare you for boards

Conf/lecture: 40
CP train/hands on: 14
Assign/ resp/exp: 12
Rounds/sign out: 11
Unknown cases: 9
Review course/RISE: 6
Time to study: 5
Other: 3
11. Usefulness for AP board preparation: Residency Program

- Very useful
- Useful
- Neutral
- Useless
- Very useless
- Not offered

- Didactics
- Slide Conference
- Slide Study Sets
- Board Prep lecture
- AP Rotations
- RISE
15. Usefulness for CP board preparation: Residency program

[Bar chart showing the usefulness of different residency program components for CP board preparation. The chart includes categories such as Very useful, Useful, Neutral, Useless, Very useless, and Not offered. The bars are color-coded for Didactics, Case Conference, Board Prep lecture, CP Rotations, and RISE.]
Survey comparison

Our survey: RISE

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<th>Category</th>
<th>AP</th>
<th>CP</th>
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<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
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<td>V. Useless</td>
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Survey comparison
CAP survey: Performance on the RISE is strongly correlated with performance on boards
## Survey comparison

### Top 3 AP Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our survey</th>
<th>CAP survey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Course</td>
<td>• Lefkowitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lefkowitch</td>
<td>• Osler course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Slide review</td>
<td>• Johns Hopkins Surgical Pathology Unknown</td>
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<td>• Conference</td>
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## Survey comparison

### Top 3 CP Resources

<table>
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<td>• Course</td>
<td>• Osler course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mais</td>
<td>• ASCP course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mais companion</td>
<td>• Koneman</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CAP survey:
How far in advance of exam did you begin studying

- 1-2m: 8
- 3-6m: 52
- 7-12m: 33
- >1yr: 8
CAP survey:
During the time that you were studying, about how many **hours per week** did you spend studying on average.
CAP survey:
For those who participated in review course, how far in advance do you recommend others take a review course

- 1-6m: 60
- 7-12m: 28
- >1yr: 10
CAP survey:
Identify the most challenging topics on exam

AP
• General pathology and laboratory management
• Congenital and genetic diseases
• Molecular pathology

CP
• Chemical pathology
• Medical microbiology
• Laboratory management
23. What additional resources are needed for ABP examination preparation?

- Luck
- Motivation
- “Psychological counseling”
- Question bank
  - Question formats, practice with virtual pictures
- Outline or syllabus from ABP
  - Direction/focus for exam preparation
  - Distribution of topics
good
luck
in your exams