

TO: Medical Staff

FROM: Hope Richard, MD, PhD *HR*
Interim Division Chair, Anatomic Pathology

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Interim Chair, Department of Pathology

DATE: November 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Delay in Anatomic Pathology Reporting due to Severe Staffing Shortages – Update

Interim Division Chair

Hope Richard, M.D., Ph.D.

Autopsy Pathology

Hope Richard, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Woon Chow, M.D., Ph.D.

Cytopathology

Sadia Sayeed, M.D., Director
Bryce Hatfield, M.D.
Valentina Robila, M.D., Ph.D.

Dermatopathology

Mark Mochel, M.D., Director

Neuropathology

Hope Richard, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Woon Chow, M.D., Ph.D.

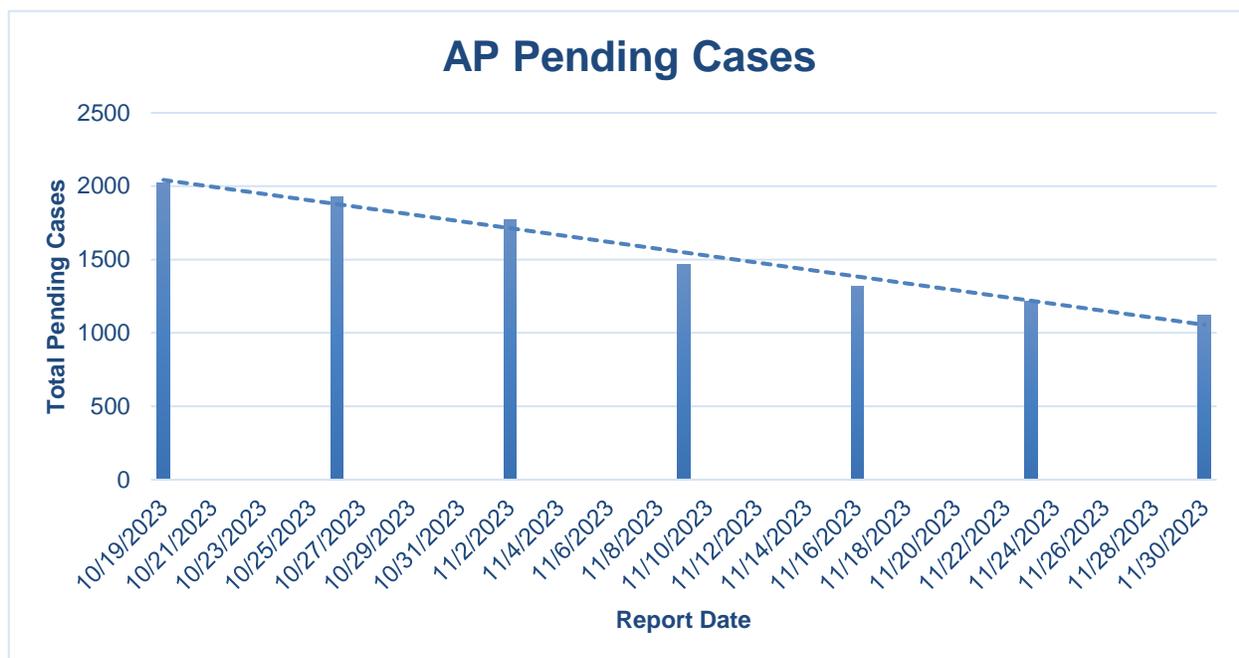
Surgical Pathology

Melissa Contos, M.D., Director
Woon Chow, M.D., Ph.D.
Bryce Hatfield, M.D.
Michael Idowu, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.
H. Davis Massey, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D.
Mark Mochel, M.D.
Selvaraj Muthusamy, M.B.B.S.
Catherine Palmer, M.D.
Hope Richard, M.D., Ph.D.
Valentina Robila, M.D., Ph.D.
Sadia Sayeed, M.D.
Steven Smith, M.D., Ph.D.

The Anatomic Pathology laboratory has made great progress in processing our specimen backlog. This has been accomplished through aggressive recruitment, onboarding travel technologists and outsourcing to external labs. In the last six weeks, there has been a 47% improvement in the number of pending cases.

Current turnaround times continue to vary depending on the type of case. However, we are making our best effort to prioritize STAT and oncology cases. Please continue to only order cases that are truly urgent as STAT to maintain the integrity of the designation. Comments added to the order indicating the purpose of the biopsy or resection will also help us triage cases appropriately. Timely communication with the pathologist involved in the case to alert them of the clinical situation is welcomed and we will do all we can to expedite getting a final diagnosis. If you are unsure of which pathologist is taking care of a particular case, please call 8-PATH and a representative will help direct you.

Workload Summary:



Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate resolving the backlog of pending cases in the next 4-6 weeks.

Thank you for your support during this very challenging period.