

## Book Review

# Review of “Digital Pathology Resource Guide, Version 6.0 Issue No. 1, 2016” by College of American Pathologists Digital Pathology Committee

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The term “digital pathology” refers to the practice of viewing, analyzing, and managing digitalized anatomic pathology slides or other pathologic material with the use of computer technology. Converting glass slides into digital images has allowed for image-based viewing and interpretation of microscopic pathologic material by practicing pathologists. Currently, this encompasses the viewing of images that are static, live (real time, robotic assisted), or dynamic (whole slide imaging). With the continuous advancements in technology, digital pathology continues to improve and has become more increasingly adopted, in a variety of ways, by pathologists.

The Digital Pathology Resource Guide has been created by the College of American Pathologists’ (CAP) Digital Pathology Committee, formerly Digital Pathology Task Force, since May 2012. This text is meant to highlight resources that provide awareness and understanding of this technology for practicing pathologists or educators. This is a living document that is updated yearly. The current version (Version 6.0 Issue No. 1 2016) is organized into eight informative sections, starting with an introduction of the basics, including brief discussions and tables that summarize the various components and applications of digital pathology. The second section introduces how to

begin the setup of a digital pathology laboratory, including workflow and technology considerations. The third section provides insights from eleven different authors each of which have considerable experience with the application of digital pathology. Each pathologist is introduced with his or her experience and credentials, which is followed by a brief summary of their helpful opinions and advice in a table format. The fourth section goes over the benefits and limitations of the various potential clinical applications of digital pathology, including frozen section interpretation, primary diagnosis, consultation, quality assurance, clinical conference, cytopathology, and international in-sourcing, among others, along with a brief discussion on reimbursement implications. The fifth section presents and somewhat promotes the CAP resources and guidelines available for educational or accreditation purposes, and the sixth section provides regulatory resources. The

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seventh section provides numerous educational resources, and the eighth section focuses on insights from digital pathology adopters from outside of the United States.

Nearly every topic within each of the eight sections starts with a brief discussion followed by numerous journal article summaries, each of which is presented in an abstract format. The discussions are easy to read, and tables are often used to organize the section content. The actual introductions and discussions for each topic are usually fairly brief and to the point while the journal article summaries account for the majority of the text within this book. For any busy practicing pathologist who is interested in digital pathology, it is wonderful to have a well-organized and comprehensive collection of journal articles on this topic, many of which were published as recently as 2015. The sections that include educational, accreditation, and regulatory resources contain numerous website links, to ensure that the reader has access current information on the topic of interest, since digital pathology is such a rapidly evolving field. As such, this text may be useful as a quick reference guide or first resource to assist a pathologist in finding information pertinent to their field of practice. Although over 350 journal articles are provided, one can readily find journal articles of interest due to the organization of each section, along with links to the full texts.

For those new to the field of digital pathology and who are planning to apply it within their practice, this guide is a very useful and comprehensive text that can bring a reader up to speed with basic knowledge in the field. It can also help during the process of implementation as it provides a generous amount of advice and resources for each step of the process. An electronic PDF version of this text is also available, which can allow for more rapid searching through the text and can make the recommended website links more easily accessible, since a few are not in the printed version. CAP members may log in to access the online version through the CAP website.

In summary, this is an excellent book that surpassed expectations as a conventional resource guide, which provides information and resources for a comprehensive understanding of digital pathology. It is a well-organized text that is an excellent resource for any practicing pathologist who hopes to gain knowledge of the field of digital pathology or is considering applying it in their practice. The compilation of journal article summaries is outstanding. The CAP Digital Pathology Committee is currently working on updating the text with more current literature in this rapidly evolving field. For now, this is the resource book of choice for digital pathology.