

The Texas Society of Pathologists

A Historical Perspective of the First 90 Years

Rodolfo Laucirica, MD; L. Maximilian Buja, MD; John D. Milam, MD; Richard J. Hausner, MD

The year was 1921. Picasso and Einstein, among others, were stretching the boundaries of art and physical science in directions that could not be envisioned only a short time before. In medicine, new insights into the processes of infectious disease, serology, and blood grouping were similarly transforming long-held concepts of medical practice. These advances encouraged the growth of medical specialties—increasingly, physicians honed their skills in chosen aspects of practice. With time, these specialized physicians drew together, forming state and national associations to compare experiences and otherwise cultivate their areas of interest.

Clinical applications of the remarkable advancements, particularly in microbiology and serology, called for expertise, technical skills, space, equipment, and reagents beyond the reach of many physicians. Thus, to meet these new challenges, some physicians began to devote all or part of their practice to “laboratory medicine,” and the medical laboratory soon became commonplace in hospitals.¹

It was in this setting that the 16 founding members of the State Pathological Society of Texas, later to be known as the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP), gathered for their organizational meeting on May 9, 1921, at the Oriental Hotel in downtown Dallas. They formed what is now the oldest state pathology society in continuous existence, even older than the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), and the American Board of Pathology (ABP).²⁻⁵ The founding members, who thought of themselves as an assemblage of “pathologists and bacteriologists,” are remembered in Table 1. The initial bylaws stated that the purpose of the society was to “federate and bring into one compact organization, the pathologists and bacteriologists of the State of Texas and to affiliate with similar associations of other states; to advance and to extend a knowledge of pathology and bacteriology; to promote friendly intercourse among pathologists and

bacteriologists; and to guard and foster the material interests of its members and protect them against imposition.”

The original bylaws stipulated 3 categories of membership. *Active members* were qualified physicians who taught pathology, bacteriology, or allied subjects or who limited their practice to clinical pathology or bacteriology. Active members also were required to be physicians in good standing with the Texas State Medical Association (now the Texas Medical Association [TMA]). *Associate members* were physicians who, while not limiting their practice to pathology, combined pathology with some other branch of medicine. *Honorary members* were not physicians but were individuals who had attained prominence in pathology or allied disciplines (Figures 1 and 2). Membership dues were \$5 annually.

After the constitution and bylaws of the society were adopted, the first officers were installed. Questions of concern to the founding members included the following:

- Should medical laboratories be required to meet agreed-upon standards?
- Is it appropriate for pathologists to advertise?
- What are the best strategies to cope with intrusion into the practice of pathology by other physicians and nonphysician practitioners?
- Is “pathology” the practice of medicine?
- Should laboratory technologists be licensed or certified or both?
- By what system(s) may pathologists be paid?

In varying forms and degrees, these concerns of the founding members of the State Pathological Society of Texas have remained active and difficult issues. Nonetheless, at the organizational meeting of the ASCP, Dr Thomson, then the secretary-treasurer of the TSP, sounded a confident note: “...I want to say that we have a very thriving society...[o]rganized a little more than a year ago.... You would be surprised to see how readily the clinicians, of that part of the country at least, accepted the idea that clinical pathology is a specialty in the practice of medicine. We are, therefore, somewhat surprised to encounter these disagreements in the organization of the national body, as we had not encountered such in the organization of our state society.” In the first years, the TSP met twice a year. One meeting was held at the time and place of the TMA annual meeting, an early display of the belief of Texas pathologists in the importance of maintaining tangible ties with their state medical associ-

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From the Department of Pathology and Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas (Dr Laucirica); the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (Drs Buja and Milam); and the Department of Pathology, Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center, Houston, Texas (Dr Hausner).

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Reprints: Rodolfo Laucirica, MD, Department of Pathology and Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, Texas 77030 (e-mail: rodolfo@bcm.edu).

Table 1. Founding Members of the State Pathological Society of Texas

Physician	City
Marvin D. Bell, MD	Dallas
J. H. Black, MD	Dallas
Charles F. Carter, MD	Dallas
Edward F. Cooke, MD	Houston
Richard C. Curtis, MD	Corsicana
George M. Graham, MD	Austin
Frank W. Hartman, MD	Temple
Henry C. Hartman, MD	Galveston
Moise D. Levi, MD	Galveston
Walter H. Moursund, MD	Dallas
F. May McAdams, MD	Bryan
James E. Robinson, MD	Temple
B. F. Stout, MD	San Antonio
Truman C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth
W. F. Thomson, MD	Beaumont
Martha A. Wood, MD	Houston

ation. In time, the TSP pared back the number of full meetings to once a year, typically held in January or February. Until recently, the TSP also maintained an educational "Section of Pathology" at the TMA annual meetings. In 1926, the American College of Surgeons revised its minimum standards for hospitals to require that "...clinical laboratories be under the direction of MD physicians with special training in clinical pathology" and that "... all tissue removed at operations ... be examined in the laboratory and reports rendered thereon." A decade later, in 1936, the ABP was organized. In 1943, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (AMA) recognized pathology as the practice of medicine, rescinding a contrary AMA policy established in 1921.⁶

As clinical and anatomic pathology came to be accepted as legitimate specialties of medicine, the TSP bylaws were revised, requiring active members to hold a medical license, to be certified by the ABP, and to be members of both the TMA and the ASCP. Initially, the TSP gatherings provided a forum for discussions about mechanisms of pathology practice. Later, the TSP sponsored scientific programs that featured local experts and nationally recognized pathologists who conducted microscopic slide seminars and presented scholarly lectures. To encourage and highlight these educational activities, the TSP awarded certificates of merit for "contributions to scientific medicine."

In 1943, Baylor University College of Medicine relocated from Dallas to Houston, becoming a major institution in Houston's new Texas Medical Center. Out of this momentous change in medical education and medical practice in Texas, a new medical school, the Southwestern Medical College of the Southwestern Medical Foundation (later the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School), was established in Dallas. Through the turbulence and opportunities created by these events, TSP continued to prosper as a unified society supported by pathologists from the academic and private practice communities. The bond of "town and gown" among Texas pathologists survived the distractions of this reorganization of Texas medical education—mutual respect and cooperation between Texas pathologists in differing practice environ-

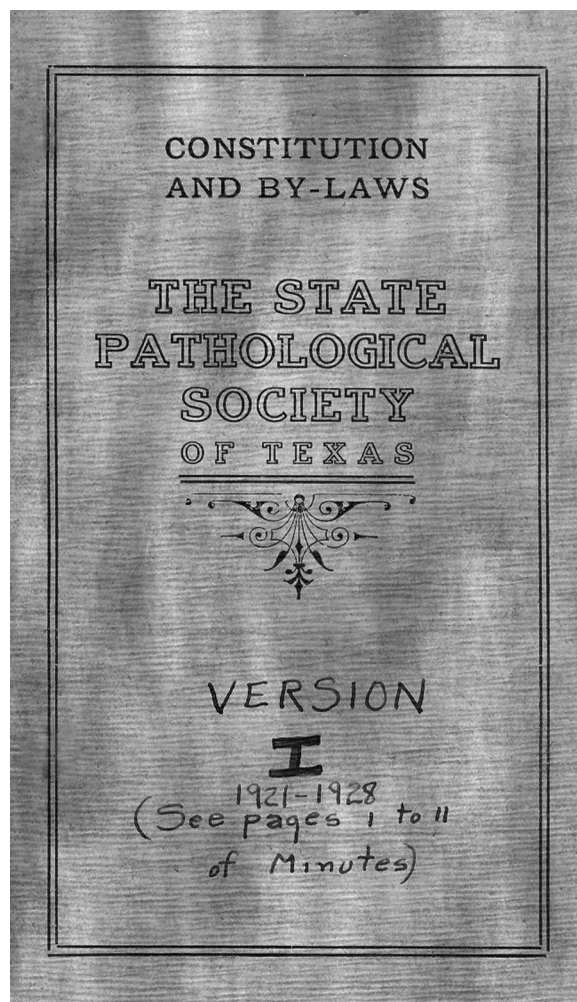


Figure 1. Cover from the original bylaws of the Texas Society of Pathologists.

ments is an ingrained characteristic that has served the TSP well to this day.

Following World War II, TSP membership increased significantly, as physicians returned to Texas to establish or resume their civilian practices. The first postwar meeting of the TSP was held in January 1946 on the campus of the Southwestern Medical College. At this meeting, the TSP unanimously adopted standardized procedures for serologic evaluations conducted in Texas medical laboratories. The training and qualification standards of medical technologists remained a concern, as the demographic shifts after the war pressured the supply of quality personnel. During this time, the TSP and the Texas Society of Medical Technologists exchanged delegates to foster communication and cooperation among laboratorians confronting workforce issues.

Later in 1946, the CAP was born. The CAP was founded to address the widely held belief that pathologists needed a national association to supplement the ASCP, focusing, among other goals, on "... [improving] the economic aspects of the practice of Pathology ..." and "[maintaining] the dignity, precision and efficiency of the specialty of Pathology...."

BY-LAWS.

CHAPTER I.—*Membership.*

Section 1. All physicians in good standing in The Texas State Medical Association, who are limiting their practice to clinical pathology or bacteriology, or who are actually engaged in the teaching of pathology or bacteriology, may be elected to active membership in this Society.

Sec. 2. Those individuals who have attained prominence in pathology, bacteriology or allied subjects may be elected to honorary membership, on nomination by two active members, by a majority vote of the members present.

Sec. 3. Teachers in reputable medical schools, or those physicians who, while not limiting their work strictly to pathology, are combining their work in pathology with some other branch of medicine, may be elected associate members on application, endorsed by two active members, by a majority vote of the members present.

Sec. 4. All applications for active membership shall be accompanied by dues for the current year, and endorsed by two active members in good standing.

They shall be read in open meeting and be acted upon at a subsequent regular meeting. A majority vote of those members present being necessary to elect.

Sec. 5. Members shall be suspended or expelled for non-payment of dues, or loss of standing in The Texas State Medical Association. A member suspended or expelled by his local county medical society shall be automatically suspended or expelled from this Society. Members suspended for non-payment of dues shall be reinstated automatically when such dues are paid.

Associate members may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled for any act not in conformity with the ethical standards set for active members.

CHAPTER II.—*Meetings.*

Section 1. Meetings shall be held semi-annually at such time and place as shall be decided upon by the society, provided that one such semi-annual meeting shall be held one day in advance of and at the same place as the annual meeting of the Texas State Medical Association.

Sec. 2. Five members shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn to any given time.

Sec. 3. Honorary and Associate mem-

Figure 2. Membership categories from the original bylaws of the Texas Society of Pathologists.

At the TSP annual meeting in January 1948, members discussed the emergence of cytology. Dr George N. Papanicolaou had sent a telegram to the TSP leadership expressing hope that Texas pathologists "would fully evaluate the procedure [the Papanicolaou test] before passing an opinion as to its merit and also expressing belief in its usefulness as a diagnostic tool." The TSP formed a delegation to meet with representatives of the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society to assist in the development of Texas guidelines for the new procedure. During this era, the TSP also initiated a dialogue with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas about the role of pathologists in the clinical laboratory, resulting in an exemplary relationship with one of the largest commercial health insurers in the state. The Texas legislature, with the help of the TMA, established a framework for a codified medical examiner system in the 3 largest urban areas of Texas.

During the 1960s, sparked by the introduction of Medicare, pathologists, hospital administrators, and health insurers had renewed interest about methods of

payment for all physicians, including pathologists. In a few regions of the country, including Texas, some pathologists began to bill patients separately from the hospital for their services, equivalent to the method of payment for most other physicians of the time. The justification of separate billing hinged on acceptance of pathology as the practice of medicine. In Texas, Opinion WW-1511 of the Attorney General of Texas, issued December 21, 1962, provided such confirmation (Figure 3). Separate billing was endorsed by the TSP and the TMA; both adopted resolutions that supported separate billing as a valid method of payment for pathologists and other hospital-based physicians. Payment for pathologists under Medicare transformed to the current framework after the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1984 was passed by the United States Congress. In the same decade, non-Medicare health insurance evolved in the direction of "managed care." The TSP responded to the needs of its members for Texas-specific information by hosting periodic "New Issues Forums" to share knowledge and provide guidance.



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN 11, TEXAS

**WILL WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

December 21, 1962

Hon. M. H. Crabb, M.D.
Secretary
Texas State Board of Medical Examiners
1714 Medical Arts Building
Fort Worth, Texas

Opinion No. WW-1511

Re: Whether the operation of certain
clinical laboratories constitutes
the practice of medicine.

Dear Dr. Crabb:

You have requested an opinion from this office upon the question of whether the operation of certain clinical laboratories constitutes the practice of medicine as defined by Article 4510, Vernon's Civil Statutes.

SUMMARY

The tests and studies performed by clinical laboratories upon various forms of human specimens constitute the practice of medicine as defined by Article 741, Vernon's Penal Code.

Yours very truly,

**WILL WILSON
Attorney General of Texas**

Figure 3. Summary of Attorney General of Texas' landmark opinion concluding "the tests and studies performed by clinical laboratories...constitute the practice of medicine...."

In the mid 1980s, the TSP established a House of Delegates (HOD), organized by geographic districts, to better represent its members. The HOD was expected to serve as a forum for discussions among a broadly representative body of pathologists about the complex issues confronting the TSP, thereby supplying the Board of Directors with reliable guidance from the broader membership. The TSP bylaws were revised, stating that the HOD, "when in session, [was] responsible for 'the government of this society,'" thus opening a path for the HOD to supplant the Board of Directors. In practice, the HOD has maintained a synergistic and constructive relationship with the board and the board has remained the principal shepherd of the TSP.

Conforming to present-day technology, the 2009 and 2010 HOD sessions of the TSP were conducted electronically, shortly before the annual meeting. The proceedings of these sessions were discussed at the membership business session at the annual meeting, creating another avenue of opportunity for members to participate in the deliberations of their society. In this manner, the HOD has continued to meet the purpose for which it was created.

For decades, the TSP home office has been located in Austin in the headquarters of the TMA. The TSP administrative staff has been drawn from the Association Management Services of the TMA. This relationship has been economically efficient for the TSP and is consistent with its commitment to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with the TMA.

The TSP has nurtured the colorful heritage of the society by publicly and formally honoring its leaders, by recognizing the contributions of others, and instilling the spirit of the TSP in younger colleagues. The George T. Caldwell Distinguished Service Award has been bestowed on deserving Texas pathologists each year since 1955; it is presented during the TSP annual meeting at the Caldwell banquet (Table 2). Among his many accomplishments, Dr Caldwell was the first chair of the Department of Pathology at Southwestern Medical School.

The John J. Andujar Citation of Merit has been presented to deserving individuals since 1993 at the TSP annual meeting (Table 3). The recipient of this citation may be a person other than a Texas pathologist who has made contributions to the field of pathology. Dr Andujar, with his spouse, Texas State Senator Betty Andujar, contributed greatly to the development of the TSP and the Texas pathology community during his long career. He served as president of the ASCP from 1960-1961.

The Vernie A. Stembridge Memorial Lecture is traditionally scheduled during the Saturday morning scientific session of the TSP annual meetings. Dr Stembridge was the long-time chair of the Department of Pathology at Southwestern Medical School and was president of the ASCP from 1977-1978.

In 1997, the TSP established the Young Pathologists' Section (YPS) for pathologists in training or in the early phase of their careers. The YPS convenes at the TSP annual meeting and sponsors a midsummer program that

Table 2. George T. Caldwell Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Name	City ^a	Year
Paul Brindley, MD	Galveston	1955
Beecher F. Stout, MD	San Antonio	1956
John L. Goforth, MD	Dallas	1957
May Owen, MD	Fort Worth	1958
Stuart A. Wallace, MD	Houston	1959
Elbert DeCoursey, MD	San Antonio	1960
A. O. Severance, MD	San Antonio	1961
T. C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth	1962
Charles F. Phillips, MD	Houston	1962
C. T. Ashworth, MD	Dallas	1963
A. J. Gill, MD	Dallas	1964
John J. Andujar, MD	Fort Worth	1965
William O. Russell, MD	Houston	1966
Vernie A. Stembridge, MD	Dallas	1967
J. V. Irons, ScD	Austin	1968
Elwood E. Baird, MD	Galveston	1969
Carl J. Lind, MD	Houston	1970
Frank M. Townsend, MD	San Antonio	1971
John H. Childers, MD	Dallas	1972
George J. Race, MD	Dallas	1973
O. J. Wollenman Jr, MD	Fort Worth	1974
Maynard S. Hart, MD	El Paso	1975
Raymond H. Rigdon, MD	Galveston	1975
F. Lamont Jennings, MD	Galveston	1976
John R. Rainey Jr, MD	Austin	1977
Bruce D. Fallis, MD	Dallas	1978
Dorothy Patras, MD	Fort Worth	1979
Feliks Gwozdz, MD	Fort Worth	1980
John D. Milam, MD	Houston	1981
Merle W. Delmer, MD	San Antonio	1982
James C. Stinson, MD	Temple	1983
Wm. Gordon McGee, MD	El Paso	1984
P. R. Gilmer Jr, MD	Galveston	1985
Lloyd R. Hershberger, MD	San Angelo	1986
Margie B. Peschel, MD	Fort Worth	1987
Thomas H. McConnell, MD	Dallas	1988
William T. Hill, MD	Houston	1989
Jack L. Smith, MD	Beaumont	1990
Charles S. Petty, MD	Dallas	1991
Harlan J. Spjut, MD	Houston	1992
Domingo H. Useda, MD	McAllen	1993
Eleanor S. Irvine, MD	Wichita Falls	1994
William L. Crofford, MD	Dallas	1995
Jerome S. Wilkenfeld, MD	Houston	1996
Joyce S. Davis, MD	College Station	1997
S. Donald Greenberg, MD	Houston	1998
R. Irvin Morgan, MD	Greenville	1999
Richard J. Hausner, MD	Houston	2000
Albert G. Ayala, MD	Houston	2001
Ladon W. Homer, MD	Fort Worth	2002
Susan M. Strate, MD	Wichita Falls	2003
Garry F. Rust, MD	Humble	2004
L. Maximilian Buja, MD	Houston	2005
Robert W. McKenna, MD	Dallas	2006
Thomas M. Wheeler, MD	Houston	2007
David N. Henkes, MD	San Antonio	2008
Philip T. Valente, MD	San Antonio	2009
Robert L. Hunter Jr, MD, PhD	Houston	2010

^a City listing at time of award; cities listed are all in Texas, unless otherwise specified.

Table 3. John J. Andujar Citation of Merit Recipients

Name	City ^a	Year
Henry C. McGill Jr, MD	San Antonio	1993
Joseph A. Jachimczyk, MD	Houston	1994
Alice L. Smith, MD	Dallas	1994
Nancy W. Dickey, MD	Richmond	1995
Gwyn E. Harwell, MD	Dallas	1996
Ret. Sen. Betty Andujar	Fort Worth	1996
Robert G. Freeman, MD	Dallas	1997
Harvey S. Rosenberg, MD	Houston	1997
John J. Andujar, MD	Fort Worth	1998
William E. Luper, MD	Houston	1999
Robert F. Peterson, MD	Temple	1999
James J. Butler, MD	Houston	2000
Lee VanBremen, PhD, CAE	Northfield, Illinois	2000
John M. Lukeman, MD	Houston	2001
John A. Webb, MD	Iowa Park	2001
Roberto J. Bayardo, MD	Austin	2003
Jack R. Bierig, JD	Chicago, Illinois	2004
David H. Yawn, MD	Houston	2004
Mario A. Luna, MD	Houston	2005
Arthur G. Weinberg, MD	Dallas	2005
Jack L. Titus, MD, PhD	Saint Paul, Minnesota	2006
Ibrahim Ramzy, MD	Irvine, California	2006
Dudley D. Jones, MD	Arlington	2007
Elvio G. Silva, MD	Houston	2008
Francis E. Sharkey, MD	San Antonio	2009
David H. Walker, MD	Galveston	2010

Abbreviation: Ret. Sen., retired Senator.

^a City listing at time of award; cities listed are all in Texas, unless otherwise specified.

features topics of special interest to young pathologists. The YPS chair has a slotted seat on the TSP board.

Currently, the TSP annual meeting includes poster and platform presentations by residents and fellows in Texas training programs. The presentations are judged, with awards given to 3 platform and poster presentations. In addition, the training programs of the first-place recipients receive a commendation.

Ninety years ago the founding members of the State Pathological Society of Texas could not have foreseen that their society would grow to 705 members by 2010. Eighty-two physicians have served as president of the TSP since the society's inception, with Dr Truman C. Terrell as the only 5-term president (Table 4). As the TSP approaches its centennial year, the initial ideas of the founding members, "... to advance and to extend a knowledge of pathology, ... to promote friendly intercourse among pathologists, ... [and] to guard and foster the material interests of its members, ..." remain an eloquent statement of purpose.

The scientific articles following this historical introduction represent contributions from pathologists throughout Texas, commemorating the Texas Society of Pathologists' ninetieth anniversary.

Table 4. Past Presidents of the Texas Society of Pathologists

Physician	City ^a	Year(s)
Moise D. Levy, MD	Galveston	1921
J. Harvey Black, MD	Dallas	1922
W. F. Thompson, MD	Beaumont	1923
B. F. Stout, MD	San Antonio	1924, 1925
Edward F. Cooke, MD	Houston	1926, 1927
W. W. Coulter, MD	Houston	1928
James E. Robinson, MD	Temple	1929
Violet Keller, MD	Houston	1930
John L. Goforth, MD	Dallas	1931
Truman C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth	1932
B. F. Stout, MD	San Antonio	1933
Marvin D. Bell, MD	Dallas	1934
Henry Hartman, MD	San Antonio	1935
Truman C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth	1936
John F. Pilcher, MD	Galveston	1937
Truman C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth	1938
George T. Caldwell, MD	Dallas	1939, 1940
Truman C. Terrell, MD	Fort Worth	1941, 1942
John L. Goforth, MD	Dallas	1943
Albert H. Braden, MD	Houston	1944
Paul Brindley, MD	Galveston	1945
May Owen, MD	Fort Worth	1946
David A. Todd, MD	San Antonio	1947
W. W. Coulter, MD	Houston	1948
John F. Pilcher, MD	Corpus Christi	1949
Charles Phillips, MD	Temple	1950
Stuart Wallace, MD	Houston	1951
C. T. Ashworth, MD	Dallas	1952
A. O. Severance, MD	San Antonio	1953
John J. Andujar, MD	Fort Worth	1954
Sidney Bohls, MD	Houston	1955
C. B. Sanders, MD	Houston	1956
Lloyd Hershberger, MD	San Angelo	1957
John H. Childers, MD	Dallas	1958
J. E. Williams, MD	Abilene	1959
O. J. Wolleman, MD	Fort Worth	1960
Raymond H. Rigdon, MD	Galveston	1961
William N. Powell, MD	Temple	1962
Carl J. Lind Jr, MD	Houston	1963
Mervin Grossman, MD	Dallas	1964
John R. Rainey Jr, MD	Austin	1965
Vernie A. Stembridge, MD	Dallas	1966
Norman H. Jacob Jr, MD	San Antonio	1967
William T. Hill, MD	Houston	1968
George J. Race, MD	Dallas	1969
Jack P. Abbott, MD	Houston	1970
Jack L. Smith, MD	Beaumont	1971
Elwood E. Baird, MD	Galveston	1972
Dorothy Patras, MD	Fort Worth	1973
Sidney Kowierschke, MD	El Paso	1974
Lamont Jennings, MD	Galveston	1975
James C. Stinson, MD	Temple	1976
Marc Garza, MD	Dallas	1977
John D. Milam, MD	Houston	1978
John Alfred Webb, MD	Houston	1979
Wm. Gordon McGee, MD	El Paso	1980
William Luther Crofford, MD	Dallas	1981
Eleanor Solomon Irvine, MD	Wichita Falls	1982
Van Q. Telford, MD	Richardson	1983
Domingo H. Useda, MD	McAllen	1984
Thomas H. McConnell, MD	Dallas	1985
Jerome S. Wilkenfeld, MD	Houston	1986
P. R. Gilmer Jr, MD	Galveston	1987
R. Irvin Morgan, MD	Greenville	1988
Joyce S. Davis, MD	College Station	1989
Margie S. Peschel, MD	Fort Worth	1990
Robert F. Peterson, MD	Temple	1991
Ladon W. Homer, MD	Fort Worth	1992
Richard J. Hausner, MD	Houston	1993
Ibrahim Ramzy, MD	Houston	1994

Table 4. Continued

Physician	City ^a	Year(s)
Susan M. Strate, MD	Wichita Falls	1995
David N. Henkes, MD	San Antonio	1996
Garry F. Rust, MD	Humble	1997
L. Maximilian Buja, MD	Houston	1998
Thomas M. Wheeler, MD	Houston	1999
Philip T. Valente, MD	San Antonio	2000
Alan T. Moore, MD	Austin	2001
Richard W. Brown, MD	Houston	2002
V. Rene Rone, MD	San Antonio	2003
Robert W. McKenna, MD	Dallas	2004
Yvonne R. Hearn, MD	Wichita Falls	2005
Michelle M. Hebert, MD	Huntsville	2006
V. O. Speights Jr, DO	Temple	2007
Robert L. Hunter Jr, MD, PhD	Houston	2008
Rodolfo Laucirica, MD	Houston	2009, 2010

^a City listing at time of presidency; all cities shown in Texas.

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Rodolfo Laucirica, MD, received his medical degree from Universidad Centro de Estudios Técnicos in the Dominican Republic. Between medical school and residency, Dr Laucirica served as a research fellow in microbiology and immunology at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. He completed his training in anatomic and clinical pathology at East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine and Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Johnson City and Nashville, Tennessee. This was followed by a fellowship in cytopathology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, under the direction of Ibrahim Ramzy, MD. He is currently associate professor and director of the Cytopathology Fellowship Program at Baylor College of Medicine and director of anatomic pathology and cytopathology at Ben Taub General Hospital. Dr Laucirica has authored or coauthored 85 publications on a variety of topics in surgical pathology, and cytopathology. He is president of the Texas Society of Pathologists, past president of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists, and serves as section editor for *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*. Dr Laucirica is a past member of the Immunohistochemistry Resource Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), currently serves on the Cytopathology Resource Committee of the CAP, and is chairman of the Action Group on State Societies for the House of Delegates.