

Advisory Board Members

Cliff Sullivan, MD, works at Emory University where he specializes in Transfusion Medicine/Blood Banking and Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. His academic interests focus on optimizing laboratory testing and algorithms to improve patient care. Dr. Sullivan feels pathologists and laboratory professionals have a duty to educate fellow clinicians on laboratory utilization as well as patients on the fundamentals of the laboratory and its role in their care. One of his goals in patient advocacy is making patients aware of the existence of pathologists and medical technologists. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends while eating good food and drinking delicious cocktails.



Kim Sanford, MD, is the Director of Transfusion Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) since 2012 after serving as Associate Director from 2008 until 2012. She also serves as Medical Director of the laboratory at VCU's Stony Point Medical Center and Director of Undergraduate Education for the Department of Pathology. Dr. Sanford graduated summa cum laude with a BS in medical technology from VCU. After working in a variety of laboratories in the Department of Pathology at VCU for six years, she entered medical school. Following medical school she completed residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at VCU. In 2008, she then became Associate Medical Director of Transfusion Medicine and Medical Director of Stony Point Laboratory. Dr. Sanford has authored text book chapters and peer reviewed publications and has served as faculty at national meetings sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). She is currently on the Board of Directors for the ASCP and has had leadership positions in ASCP developing educational content at national meetings and for ongoing education of all laboratory professionals. She was awarded both the H. P. Smith Award for Distinguished Pathology Educator in 2015 and the Mastership Award in 2011 from ASCP for her national contributions to education. Dr. Sanford is a passionate teacher who has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award in the pathology introduction course for VCU medical students for five consecutive years. Her weekend activities include ballroom dancing, running, kayaking, fishing, and snow skiing.



Deedee O'Brien is the Executive Director of Ironstone Farm and Challenge Unlimited, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a variety of therapeutic interventions using horses to people with disabilities and mental health issues. Her experiences as the final caregiver for her mother and her partner taught her the importance of education, gathering second opinions, seeking different opinions, and advocating for loved ones. That empowerment made all the difference in their quality of life as their health deteriorated, and gave her the confidence to make decisions for herself when faced with her own illnesses. She is passionate about working to make that difference for others. She spends her leisure time sitting by the fireplace and reading a good book.



Kim Allison, MD, is the Director of Breast Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine. She has a special interest in the development of high quality diagnostic standards and is active in setting practice guidelines, such as the CAP/ASCO HER2 Testing Breast Cancer Guidelines. She is highly involved in educating the next generation of pathologists as Program Director for Stanford Pathology Residency Program and Director of the Stanford Breast Pathology Fellowship. Dr. Allison has also experienced "the other side of the microscope" as a breast cancer patient. That experience inspired her memoir, "Red Sunshine: A Story of Strength and Inspiration from a Doctor Who Survived Stage 3 Breast Cancer." She is an advocate for public awareness of pathology's role in cancer care. She spends her weekends shuttling her three children to various lacrosse, basketball, and jazz dance activities. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, her Great Dane Hazel, and collecting eggs from her family's five chickens.



Lynnette Chakkaphak, MS, MT(ASCP), has more than 40 years of experience in hospital and medical laboratory management. In her current role as Director of Clinical Operations at St. Vincent's Health System, she oversees all laboratory and imaging services at three acute care hospitals, as well as directs operations of a large outreach laboratory business. Patient advocacy and education are a natural fit for Ms. Chakkaphak given her career-long commitment to patient safety and high reliability organizational training. She strives to ensure that patients have the resources and information they need to make informed decisions about their own care. On weekends you can find Ms. Chakkaphak at the soccer fields coaching her five-year-old grandson's soccer team or enjoying the beautiful beaches in the Jacksonville, Florida area.



ASCP Team

Lotte Mulder, EdM, is the Senior Manager of Organizational Leadership and Patient Engagement at ASCP. She earned her Masters of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2013, where she focused on Leadership and Group Development. After she graduated, Ms. Mulder started her own consulting company focused on establishing leadership practices in organizations, creating effective organizational structures, and interpersonal coaching. She has worked in Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. on increasing leadership skills in young adults through cultural immersion, service learning, refugee issues, and cross-cultural interpretation. She is currently working toward a PhD in Organizational Leadership. As a certified patient advocate, Ms. Mulder is passionate about patient empowerment and believes that high quality health care can be achieved through educating patients, advocates, and caregivers. Reach her at Champions@ascp.org or 312-541-4757.



Nam Nguyen is the Executive Director of Programs and Affiliated Organizations at ASCP. He has more than two decades of experience with a broad scope of industries including medical, financial, airline, technology, and hospitality. In his eight years with ASCP, Mr. Nguyen has been involved throughout the organization in marketing, communications, continuing professional development, global health, advocacy, and governance efforts. He is in admiration of the Patient Champions he has met and is dedicated to promoting the work of the laboratory team and educating patients. These programs help put the bigger picture in perspective, he feels, helping people increase empathy and learn life lessons. Mr. Nguyen finds his work on the Patient Champions program fulfilling, both personally and professionally, and is appreciative of working for an organization whose sole mission is to provide access to global patient care. Mr. Nguyen enjoys spending his free time traveling, playing tennis, spending time with friends and family, and walking his lovable black lab, Quincy.

