

1. Establish your group.

- a. Find a pathologist (faculty mentor or advisor) to mentor your group.
- b. Register with your school as an organization.
- c. Hold elections for officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or other officers, such as general officers).

2. Request funding.

- a. From your school or pathology department
- b. From the ASCP
 - » Via [Pathology Interest Group Grants](#)
 - » Via [Pathology Ambassador Stipend](#)
- c. From [ICPI](#)

3. Get approval from your medical school dean and faculty mentor to participate in a Pathology Honor Society for your school.

- a. Fill out the [ICPI Pathology Honor Society application](#).
- b. Announce through email (consider having your faculty mentor send the email) to all medical students that current 3rd year students who meet the listed criteria over their performance during their first 3 years of medical school will be inducted into your school's Pathology Honor Society chapter at the end of the academic year.

4. Hold events. Ideas for events:

- a. Set up a booth at medical student orientation fairs. Consider using the brochure from our toolkit.
- b. Invite a pathologist or a pathology resident to speak (either in-person or virtual). Consider using the "ASCP Pathology as a Career" PowerPoint.
 - » Consider having a panel of attendings and residents to discuss their areas of interest and why they chose the profession.
 - » Provide lunch or a gift card for food to encourage student attendance.

- c. Hold an in-person or virtual meeting with 4th year students who successfully matched into pathology. Have a question-and-answer session and presentation on how to successfully interview and match into their dream pathology program.
 - » Discuss away rotations, research, interview techniques, showing interest in pathology early, joining ASCP and other pathology societies, etc.
 - » Provide lunch or a gift card for food.
- d. Hold a Q&A panel (in-person or virtual) with current pathology residents. Consider setting up a panel at a medical school without an associated residency program.
 - » Discuss ways to be successful in residency, challenges of residency, what to expect, what can be done now to prepare, etc.
 - » Provide lunch or a gift card for food.
- e. Hold a "speed-dating" type activity with different specialties in pathology (forensic pathologist, surgical pathologist, hematopathologist, pediatric pathologist, clinical laboratory pathologist, etc.).
 - » Provide lunch for the pathologists and students and assign tables to each specialty (you can have more than one pathologist from each specialty). Allow for 10-15 minutes for questions and open discussion and then move tables.
 - » Consider providing a list of questions to each table in case the discussion lags.
- f. Hold an interactive activity with a practice case and stations where students can "order labs" from various stations and get results by interacting with pathology/lab staff.
 - » An event like this could expose students to various areas of the lab in addition to allowing them to interact with pathology residents.
- g. Hold a multi-head microscope teaching session or unknowns. Consider doing this monthly.
 - » Note: this is where pathology can really come alive for your group, when quality teaching is done at the microscope.
 - » These could be tailored to follow along with the medical school curriculum or be used as review before medical student exams.

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- h. Hold a gross pathology teaching session.
 - » A pathologist working with their gross lab and pathology assistants can save and then show interesting/fascinating surgical specimens.
 - » These could be tailored to follow along with the medical school curriculum or be used as review before medical student exams.
 - i. Learn about and practice cutting frozen sections.
 - » Coordinate this with your gross lab and a pathologist.
 - » You could practice your cutting techniques with hot dogs and look at them under the microscope. If a real frozen section comes in, you will get to see pathology in action, otherwise, learn about the role of frozen sections in pathology.
 - » Have dinner afterwards (you probably won't want hot dogs).
 - j. Go on a tour of the clinical labs at your hospital.
 - » Let the micro or heme labs know in advance, and they can save cool specimens for your group (parasites, cool bacteriology plates, interesting blood smears, etc.).
 - » Highlight new/emerging technologies (i.e. digital pathology, artificial intelligence, MALDI-TOF, next-generation sequencing) to demonstrate the innovation and cutting-edge research happening in our field.
 - » Have dinner afterwards.
 - k. If there is interest, set up shadowing opportunities for your group, including participating in an autopsy (medical or forensic).
 - » Reach out to the forensic pathologists or the director of autopsy to set up a way to communicate this.
 - » Consider having a running list with students interested and once an opportunity comes up, just go down the list to see if it works with the student's schedule.
 - l. At the end of the year hold a [Pathology Honor Society Induction](#) or nominate motivated students for [ASCP's Medical Student Awards](#) and hold a ceremony.
 - » Provide nice food.
 - » Hand out the certificates provided by ICPI or ASCP.
 - » Consider having a lecture about the history of pathology and prominent pathologists who have contributed to the field.
 - A pathologist at your institution would be honored to give this type of a presentation.
 - » Keep detailed notes on your activities to pass on to future group leadership.
 - Organize this in a chronological fashion, so they know what to do when.
- 5. Always be mindful of medical students rotating through the pathology department as this is the number one way medical students get exposed to pathology.**
- a. Be their point of contact to provide one-on-one mentorship and ensure they have a good experience. Recommend the [ASCP Mentorship Program](#) as a way to find additional mentors and broaden their network.
 - b. Get them involved in research projects and/or validations if they show interest. Support them in submitting abstracts to conferences and/or authoring publications.
- 6. Report events and activities using the [ASCP Activity Reporting Form](#) and tag us on social media ([#PathologyAmbassadors](#) & [#ASCPResCo](#)).**
- a. Follow us on social media and attend ASCP Pathology Ambassador events for more advice and event ideas.