



## Topic of Interest for Members

### Micro Highlight #9

# Announcing PNPL's Focus Group: Digital Pathology and AI

Chaired by Dr. Raj C. Dash, Director of Lab Informatics Strategy at Duke University

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The [Panel of National Pathology Leaders](#) is pleased to announce the formation of a new research focus group on **Digital Pathology and AI**. Chaired by *Dr. Raj C. Dash*, Director of Lab Informatics Strategy at **Duke University**, the group is planning its first meeting in June.

Two introductory webinars on Digital Pathology were presented last October by *Dr. Matthew Hanna*, Director of Pathology Informatics at **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**, with *Dr. John Sinard*, Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs at **Yale University**, moderating. Both are also participants in PNPL's Focus Group. You may view these webinars [here](#).

In April, PNPL conducted a fact-gathering visit to MSKCC's **Warren Alpert Center for Digital and Computational Pathology** in NYC, led by *Dr. Hanna* and *Orly Ardon, Ph.D, MBA*, Science Manager for Digital Pathology Diagnostics, followed by a meeting with *Dr. Victor Reuter*, Vice Chair of the Department of Pathology.

**PNPL's Digital Pathology and AI Focus Group** seeks to bring a fresh perspective to this critical topic. Their deliverables include a packet of practical-use documents and templates that will enable pathology practices and laboratories of all sizes to make the business case for incorporating and implementing Digital Pathology.



Specifically, the group aims to:

1. Empower pathology practices to understand the value of digital transformation
  - The best path to implementation
  - Practical use cases

in a manner that is complementary to other organizations including:

- The Association of Pathology Informatics (API)
- Digital Pathology Association (DPA)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)

PNPL considerations include:

- a. Cost offset arrangements (reagent, antibodies, H&E)
  - b. Developing image archives for educational and research purposes
  - c. Maintaining original quality slides via image capture
  - d. Using FDA-approved algorithms for diagnosing prostate cancer
  - e. Digital Pathology required for AI/machine learning (ML)
  - f. Need for remote access (COVID, tumor boards, telepathology)
  - g. Flexibility to adjust to changes in standards of care
2. Establish a practical framework of the financial and logistic planning for the implementation of digital pathology and AI, including:
    - a. Return on investment for Digital Pathology and AI
    - b. IHC quantification
    - c. Revenue generation
    - d. Reimbursement strategies
    - e. Critical Path
    - f. AI Implementation Plan
    - g. AI errors and how to resolve them



The framework will address implementation of Digital Pathology and AI and the delineation of its advantages, opportunities, and challenges to patients, practitioners, third-party payers, hospitals, and other stakeholders.

3. Develop supporting documentation templates to help those interested in implementing Digital Pathology, such as:
  - a. How to identify priorities
  - b. Educational primer on digital pathology
  - c. Writing and submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP)
  - d. Checklist of requirements
  - e. Developing a Business Plan to implement a Pathology PACS
  - f. SWOT analysis
4. Arrange tours of Digital Pathology and AI operations nationally.

To achieve these goals, the Focus Group will meet every other month to collaborate on the following topics:

1. Implementing AI technology and ways to ensure no harm to patients
2. Document downstream value savings
3. How each stakeholder will benefit from AI
4. Action plans and roadmaps to implementation

Deliverables will focus on business and management, the effect of computers and technology, education, computer informatics, and the financial impact of implementing Digital Pathology and AI.



Initial members of the *Digital Pathology and AI Focus Group* include:

- **Raj C. Dash, MD, Focus Group Chair**  
Director, Laboratory Informatics Strategy  
Medical Director, Laboratory Information Systems  
Professor, Department of Pathology  
Duke University Health System
- **Richard Eisen, MD**  
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center  
Banner University Medical Center  
Associate Clinical Professor of Pathology  
University of Arizona Phoenix College of Medicine
- **Matthew G. Hanna, MD**  
Director, Digital Pathology Informatics  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute
- **Michal Kamionek, MD**  
Medical Director, Celligent Diagnostics  
Carolinas Pathology Group
- **Mehdi Nassiri, MD**  
Associate Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
Indiana University
- **Bailey Reindl, MD**  
Pathologist  
Physician's Laboratory
- **John Sinard, MD, PhD**  
Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Pathology  
Medical Director, Pathology Informatics  
Yale New Haven Hospital