This special section represents a compilation of lectures in diagnostic surgical pathology as presented by nationally recognized experts in the field at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Texas Society of Pathologists held in Fort Worth, Tex, from January 26 through 28, 2007.

The Texas Society of Pathologists is the statewide membership organization specifically targeted to pathologists practicing in Texas. Founded in 1921, the Texas Society of Pathologists is the oldest state pathology organization in the United States and currently has approximately 700 members statewide.

Through its mission of "Focusing on Excellence in Medicine," the society addresses the socioeconomic, regulatory, and legislative issues that affect Texas pathologists on a national and a state level. Member benefits include continuing medical education, a resource center, Web site, job placement listings, e-mail/fax updates on current topics, and networking opportunities at the annual meeting and Young Pathologists’ Retreat, among many others.

The highlight of the year for Texas pathologists is the organization’s annual meeting held each year in late January/early February. During the 3-day event, pathologists have opportunities for networking, education, and fun. It routinely attracts 150 to 200 attendees from across the state. The educational portion of the program follows a traditional lecture format and is aimed at community pathologists with the intent to provide practical up-to-date information useful in the daily practice of pathology, highlighting recent advances in the field and/or cutting edge technology. At least 1 lecture addresses medicolegal issues to satisfy the Texas requirement for continuing medical education in medical ethics. The faculty is composed of invited speakers who are nationally recognized experts in their fields. For the residents and fellows, the annual meeting also hosts a residents/fellows seminar, which includes a podium and poster competition and a roundtable discussion on current topics of interest to this segment of the society. Presentations from representatives of the College of American Pathologists, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and the Texas Medical Association update Texas pathologists on national and state issues affecting the profession.

The following compilation includes summaries from 5 of the lecture presentations made at last year’s Texas Society of Pathologists annual meeting. They include an update on molecular testing in solid tumors by Jennifer Hunt, MD, MEd, Cleveland Clinic; a review of trophoblastic lesions by Michael Deavers, MD, Neda Kalhor, MD, and Elvio Silva, MD, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; a review of immunohistochemistry in gynecologic pathology by Michael Deavers, MD; strategies to enhance patient safety and reduce error in surgical pathology by Raouf Nakhleh, MD, Mayo College of Medicine, Jacksonville, Fla; and a review of medicolegal issues in pathology by Tim Allen, MD, JD, University of Texas Health Center at Tyler.

I thank Dr Philip T. Cagle and the editorial board of Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine for inviting me to host this special section and for publishing the meeting lectures in this forum.

Accepted for publication October 9, 2007.
From the Department of Pathology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Tex.

The author has no relevant financial interest in the products or companies described in this article.
Reprints: Michelle M. Hebert, MD, Department of Pathology, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030 (e-mail: hebert@bcm.edu).
Michelle Marie Hebert, MD

Michelle Marie Hebert, MD, received a bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M University in 1986 and obtained her medical degree from University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in 1990. She completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology in 1995 and a fellowship in hematopathology under the direction of Dr Robert McKenna in 1996, both from University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. She is now a clinical assistant professor of pathology in the Department of Pathology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Tex, and the medical director of the laboratory at Huntsville Memorial Hospital in Huntsville, Tex. Dr Hebert is board-certified in anatomic and clinical pathology with added qualification in hematopathology. She is the immediate past president of the Texas Society of Pathologists having served as president-elect, vice president, secretary, and director at large and on numerous committees. She has also served as president of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists and of the Walker-Madison-Trinity County Medical Society. She currently serves as president of the Texas Society of Pathologists Educational Foundation and is a member of the College of American Pathologists Member Development Committee and a delegate to the College of American Pathologists House of Delegates.