

Association for Molecular Pathology to Increase Public Policy Advocacy Role
Organization Retains HealthFutures as Government Relations Consultant

BETHESDA, MD – August 25, 2008 -- The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) announced today plans to significantly increase its activity and visibility in the federal public policy arena for 2008 and beyond. In response to a range of new issues that will impact the emerging field of molecular diagnostics, and in preparation for a national dialogue on health care reform likely to take place in the next presidential administration, the organization will be more actively engaged with policy makers in Congress and the Executive Branch on legislative, regulatory and policy matters. In concert with those intentions, and after competitive review, AMP has retained Washington, DC-based HealthFutures, LLC as its principal government relations consultant.

“Our organization is relatively young but our profession is squarely at the intersection of where basic scientific research translates into clinical practice,” said Gregory J. Tsongalis, PhD, of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the president of AMP. “Understanding the human condition at a molecular level is fast becoming the critical knowledge component in delivering effective health care to patients, so it’s vital that we communicate to policy makers the implications of this historic shift.”

“We begin this effort in a positive light,” added Mary Steele Williams, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Scientific Programs for AMP. “We believe most policy makers share our confidence in the path toward molecular medicine and that this is an opportune time to build relationships and to educate and inform the policy community from the perspective of those who actually practice in the field whether in academia, industry or government.”

Among AMP’s specific areas of interest, the organization will be tracking recommendations made by the Secretary of Health and Human Services’ Advisory Committee on Genetics Health and Society, the potential regulatory oversight of laboratory developed genetic and proteomic tests and legislation introduced in Congress to facilitate the adoption of personalized medicine.

“We’re delighted to be working with AMP,” said Jennifer Leib, partner in HealthFutures. “We know their issues well. We also know the policy makers having an impact on these issues and how to work with AMP to effectively build a meaningful dialogue with public officials.” Added Williams, “HealthFutures had the right mix of experience, foresight and creativity to convey our message and to do it in a positive and thoughtful way.”

About AMP

The Association for Molecular Pathology is a not-for-profit scientific society dedicated to the advancement, practice, and science of clinical molecular laboratory medicine and translational research based on the applications of genomics and proteomics. AMP was founded in 1995 to provide structure and leadership to the then-emerging field of molecular diagnostics. Through its Council and Committees, AMP pursues topics of importance to those at the forefront of this growing discipline. From the beginning, AMP has worked to develop mechanisms for training and certification in diagnostic molecular

pathology. AMP has assumed national visibility with its efforts to shape regulations and policy that influence research and the practice of molecular diagnostics. The organization is divided into the scientific subdivisions of genetics, infectious diseases, hematopathology, and solid tumors. Each subdivision addresses issues, identifies goals, shapes policy, and provides member benefits specific to that particular discipline. Members can participate in any or all of these subdivisions. The AMP membership includes individuals from academia, government, and industry, including basic scientists, laboratory directors, medical technologists, and trainees. Through the efforts of an enthusiastic membership from across the United States and around the world, AMP continues to grow in numbers and influence.

More information can be found at www.amp.org

About HealthFutures

HealthFutures is a Washington, DC-based government relations, public policy and strategic development firm representing clients in the dynamic world of predictive and personalized health care. The firm's expertise is in understanding the complex and often turbulent intersection between a promising new era in scientific research, innovation and health delivery and the labyrinth of legislators, regulators, health care providers, patient advocates, third party payers, policy experts and the media who will ultimately determine if innovation succeeds or fails. HealthFutures' goal is to empower its clients to make a difference, to give them a distinctive and guiding voice, to help them understand and influence the goals and needs of public policy makers worldwide.

More information can be found at www.healthfutures.com

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