



Dr. Lewis Hassel, MD

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Director, Anatomic Pathology
Associate Professor of Pathology
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Why do you want to get to know Dr. Hassel?

He’s the newest addition to the DPA’s Board of Directors.

DPA Staff: *What path has your career taken that has led you to digital pathology?*

Dr. Hassell: I was in private practice for a long time in rural Maine. The roads weren’t always in the greatest conditions and often times we were spread out from the resources we needed and would have to drive two to three hours to examine one patient. We perpetually kept asking ourselves how we could do this better, so we started talking to vendors who could connect us. That is where my interest in digital pathology started. I left private practice in 2008, and went to the University of Oklahoma. When I arrived there they had a new scanner. I got to use this in the educational setting and while we still have to be in multiple places at a time, we now have and develop applications that make sense in the environment.

DPA Staff: *How has digital pathology directly affected your business?*

Dr. Hassell: It really changes your mindset about possible solutions. The overall impact on day to day clinical work is still limited yet active. We scan and archive our outside consultation cases so we have a record and use digital slides for our teaching collection and teaching activities. We also use them frequently at conferences. We’re also still looking at the possibility to use slides more effectively from remote locations.

DPA Staff: *What effects do you see digital pathology having on the healthcare and diagnostics industries?*

Dr. Hassell: I think the killer application is real time quality control of the diagnostic process. We’re trying to do concurrent reviews and do some retrospective review of course, but it’s still a little bit of a burden because they’re not totally random. It’s all been retrospective and operator selected. Along with that we’re trying to configure computer image library searching. Computer-aided diagnostics will be a huge step.

DPA Staff: *In your opinion, what benefits does the DPA provide to its members?*

Dr. Hassell: I came to DPA through Pathology Visions. The networking, educational aspects, and thought stimulation is the biggest benefit. It is a great venue for bouncing ideas around and conversing with people who are having the same problems as you and some who are solving problems we haven’t dreamed of yet. I’m also interested in the presenting opportunity it provides for me and my work. There is a whole spectrum of users which is refreshing. It’s more than just swapping business cards, it’s an intellectual exchange.