



“Taking Pathology to the High School Next Door”

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This Johns Hopkins Medicine Department of Pathology project -- marking its 10th year -- has had one overarching goal in its inception: **to introduce promising local high students to the various scientific techniques and career paths found in pathology.** The purpose of this goal was and remains to **inspire** students, teachers, and guidance counselors to put pathology on the road map for future healthcare professionals.

Perhaps students would select a pathology career, or if they dreamed about a different career, they could have a head start by understanding the vital role of pathology in healthcare. **Each year a cohort of 15-20 students are selected by the high school’s science department chair to participate in a four-week summer program.** Each year the program has a unique theme and modules especially created and facilitated by the sponsoring three partner teams of the school, Pathology, and Radiology.

The summer program title, **“Diagnostic Detectives”** fits well to bring Pathology, Radiology, and the school’s research focus into a coordinated curriculum. Pathology’s challenge was to bring to the school safe and engaging activities for the students. Over the 10 years, modules have been created by representatives of every pathology profession and discipline. Radiology staff and high school faculty created complimentary modules. Each day the summer schedule includes a 90-minute pathology or radiology module surrounded by academic activities (scientific reading, writing, and math) and concludes with research skills put into practice. Collaborating with and engaging the students provided a perfect opportunity to go beyond the hospital lab. Reenacting pathology in a high school lab gave students important hands-on experiences and critical thinking skills, and it also gave the professionals a chance to positively promote what they do every day: patient care.

It has been a wonderful experience for the Dunbar students and the employees of Pathology. Making a positive impact on the lives and future careers of these bright students has been gratifying and rewarding.

Christine M. Hostetter, MT(ASCP), MA
Johns Hopkins Pathology