

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists. In a time of rapid scientific change and ongoing uncertainty in academic medicine, the steadfast commitment of our community continues to inspire me. Neuropathology remains essential to understanding disease at its most fundamental level, and our work brings clarity and purpose to an evolving landscape.

This year's program reflects the strength and breadth of our discipline. The Thursday Special Course focuses on *Artificial Intelligence in Neuropathology*. Our major lectures include the Parisi Lecture by F. Chris Bennett on microglia replacement therapy in Krabbe disease, the DeArmond Lecture by Leonard Petrucelli on FTD pathophysiology and biomarkers, and the Korey Lecture by Caterina Giannini on the evolution of diagnostic pathology. Platform Sessions across Friday and Saturday highlight cutting-edge research from our members, complemented by educational sessions on neurodegenerative biomarkers (Annie Hiniker) and eye pathology (Hilary Highfield), as well as the always-popular Diagnostic Slide Session.

Sunday's Presidential Symposium, *Pioneering Minds*, celebrates rising leaders in our field, with talks spanning proteostasis, microglial biology, clinicopathologic correlations in neurodegeneration, tauopathy mechanisms, transcriptional signatures, and somatic variation. We also welcome the Matthew T. Moore Lecture by Maria Martinez-Lage on advancing education in pathology.

I extend sincere thanks to all of our members who have donated their time and effort across the 10 volunteer committees, every single one of which contributed to the health and vitality of our organization. In particular, thank you to Karra Jones, Angela Viaene and Ken Adalpe's for shaping of our annual meeting including the Special Course. A special thanks to Sanda Alexandrescu for her fiscal stewardship. Finally, we have become entirely reliant on the excellent administrative team at AOE Consulting whose efforts make our organization and this meeting possible. Thank you!

Thank you for your dedication to neuropathology and for being part of this vibrant community. I hope you find this meeting energizing, thought-provoking, and a reminder of the enduring value of our work. I am profoundly proud to have served as your president, and I will always be grateful for the trust and camaraderie of this extraordinary community - one that I know will continue to lead with vision, resilience, and innovation.

Warm regards,

**Edward B. Lee, MD, PhD**

President, American Association of Neuropathologists