



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

Pathology 101

A specialty review made by residents for medical students

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What is Pathology?
A medical specialty that involves the laboratory examination of body tissue for diagnostic or forensic purposes.

Pathology

Anatomic Pathology



Clinical Pathology



Timeline for Pathology Training



- **Pathology does not require an intern year.**
- **Most fellowships are 1 year long, rare fellowships are 2 years long.**
- **3 year AP-only or CP-only residency tracks are also available.**

Anatomic Pathology Specialties

Breast Pathology
Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology
Cardiovascular Pathology
Cytopathology
Dermatopathology
Forensic Pathology
Gastrointestinal Pathology
Genitourinary Pathology
Gynecologic Pathology
Head, Neck, and Endocrine Pathology
Hematopathology
Liver pathology
Molecular Pathology
Neuropathology
Ophthalmic Pathology
Pulmonary & Thoracic Pathology
Pediatric Pathology
Transplant Pathology

Clinical Pathology Specialties

Blood Banking
Clinical Chemistry
Clinical Informatics
Molecular Genetics
Medical Microbiology
Toxicology

Sample 4-Year AP/CP Residency Schedule

	July	August	Sept.	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
HO IV	Peds	Surg	LN	Surg	Cytogenet	Chemistry	Elect	Tumor Brd	Cytology	Molecular	Management/ Informatics	Elect	Elect
HO IV	Surg	Molecular	Elect/ Placentas	Cytogenet	LN	Surg	Peds	Cytology	Surg Elect	Tumor Brd	Management/ Informatics	Elect	Elect
HO IV	Surg	LN	Surg	Cytology	Molecular	Elect	Tumor Brd	Surg Elect	Peds	Elect	Management/ Informatics	Elect	Elect
HO IV	Surg	Peds	Surg	LN	Elect- Research	Tumor Brd	Cytology	Cytogenet	Molecular	Surg Elect	Management/ Informatics	Elect	Elect
HO III	Cytology	Tumor Brd	BM	Micro	BB	Surg	Elect	Flow	Transplant	Chem	Surg	Surg	LN
HO III	Tumor Brd	Chemistry	Micro	Elect	Surg	Surg	BB	BM	Surg	LN	Transplant	Cytology	Flow
HO II	Elect Cytogenet	Micro	BB	Molecular	Surg	Forensics	Transplant	Surg	Chemistry	Cytology	Tumor brd	BM	Autopsy
HO II	Autopsy	Autopsy	Tumor Brd	Surg	Forensics	BM	Liver/ Trans	Elect	Micro	BB	Chemistry	Cytology	Surg
HO II	BB	Cytology	Autopsy	Autopsy	Tumor Brd	Molecular	Chemistry	Surg	Forensics	BM	Micro	Elect	Surg
HO I	Surg	Surg	Chemistry	BB	Autopsy	Autopsy	Autopsy Comp	Micro	Surg	Wet Heme	Surg	Tumor Brd	Cytology
HO I	Micro	Surg	Wet Heme	Cytology	Surg	Cytology	Surg	BB	Autopsy	Autopsy	Autopsy Comp	Surg	Tumor Brd
HO I	Surg	Wet Heme	Cytology	Surg	Micro	BB	Surg	Chemistry	Tumr Brd	Surg	Autopsy	Autopsy	Auto Comp
HO I	Surg	Surg	Surg	Tumor Brd	Cytology	Wet Heme	Autopsy	Autopsy	Auto Comp	Surg	BB	Micro	Molecular



Who goes into pathology?

Do pathologists perform procedures?

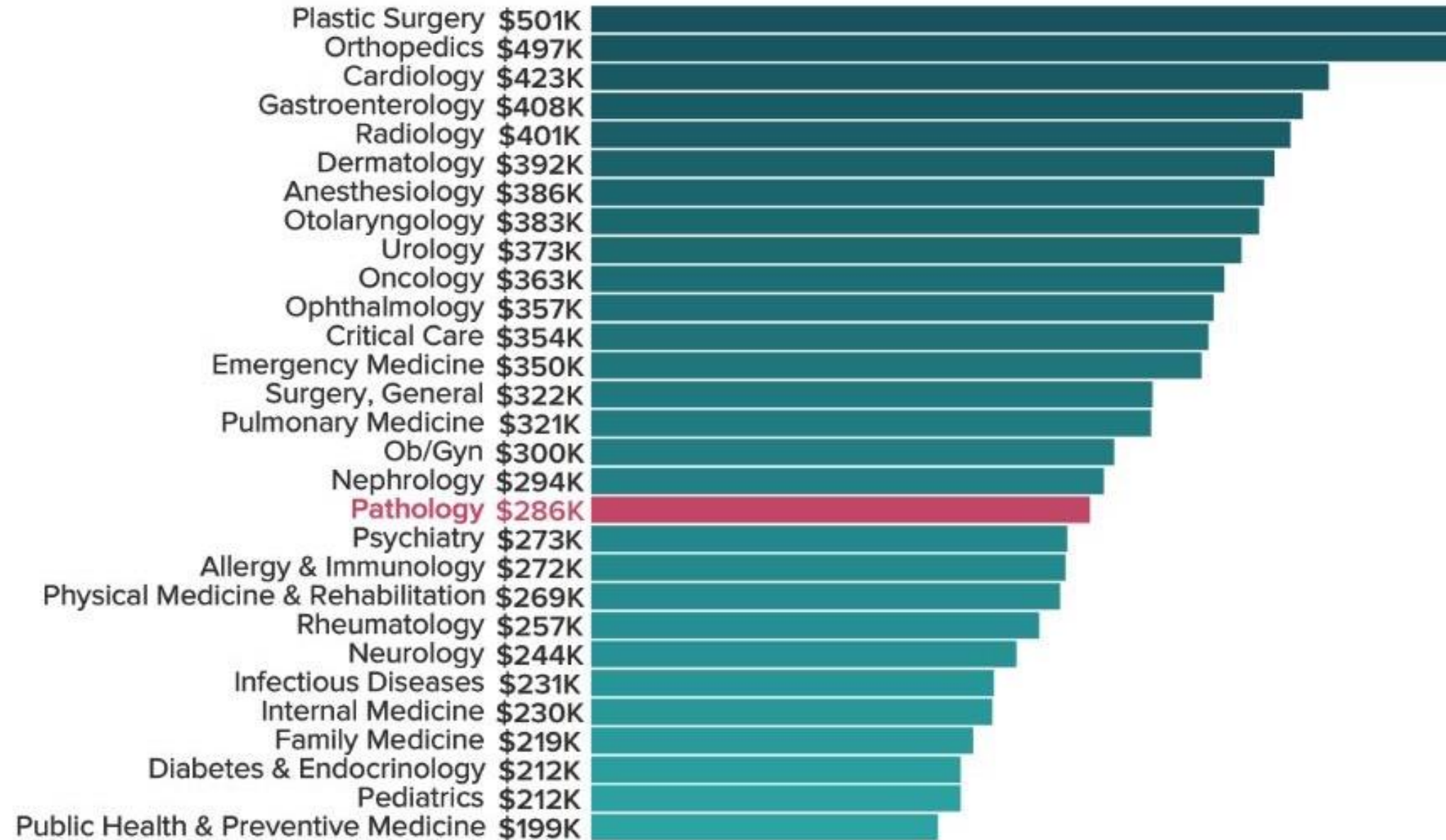
Do pathologists ever see patients?



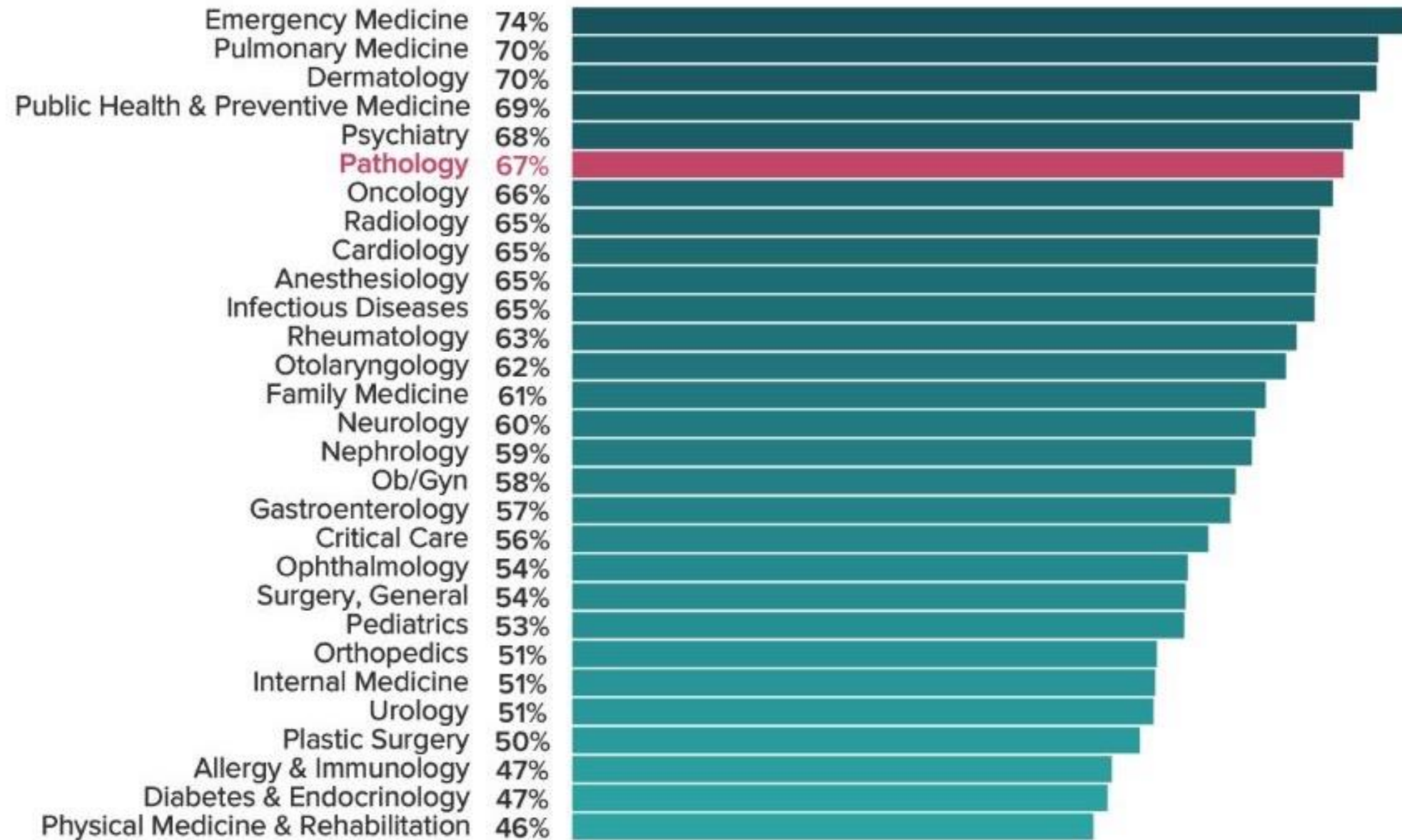
A close-up photograph of a silver stethoscope resting on a document. The document has some text and a table visible, though it is out of focus. The overall color palette is light blue and white.

Medscape **PATHOLOGIST COMPENSATION REPORT 2018**

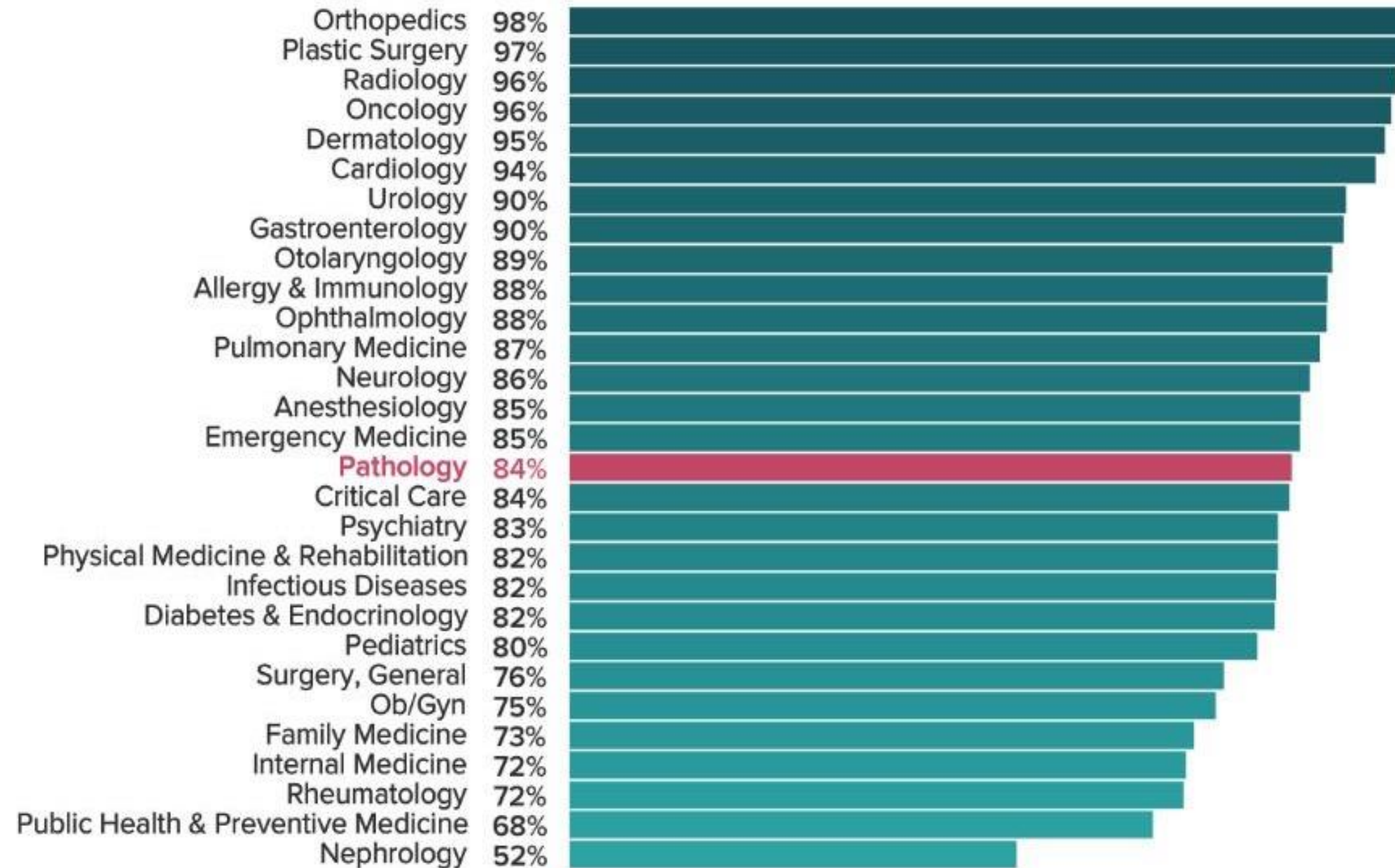
How Much Do Pathologists Earn?

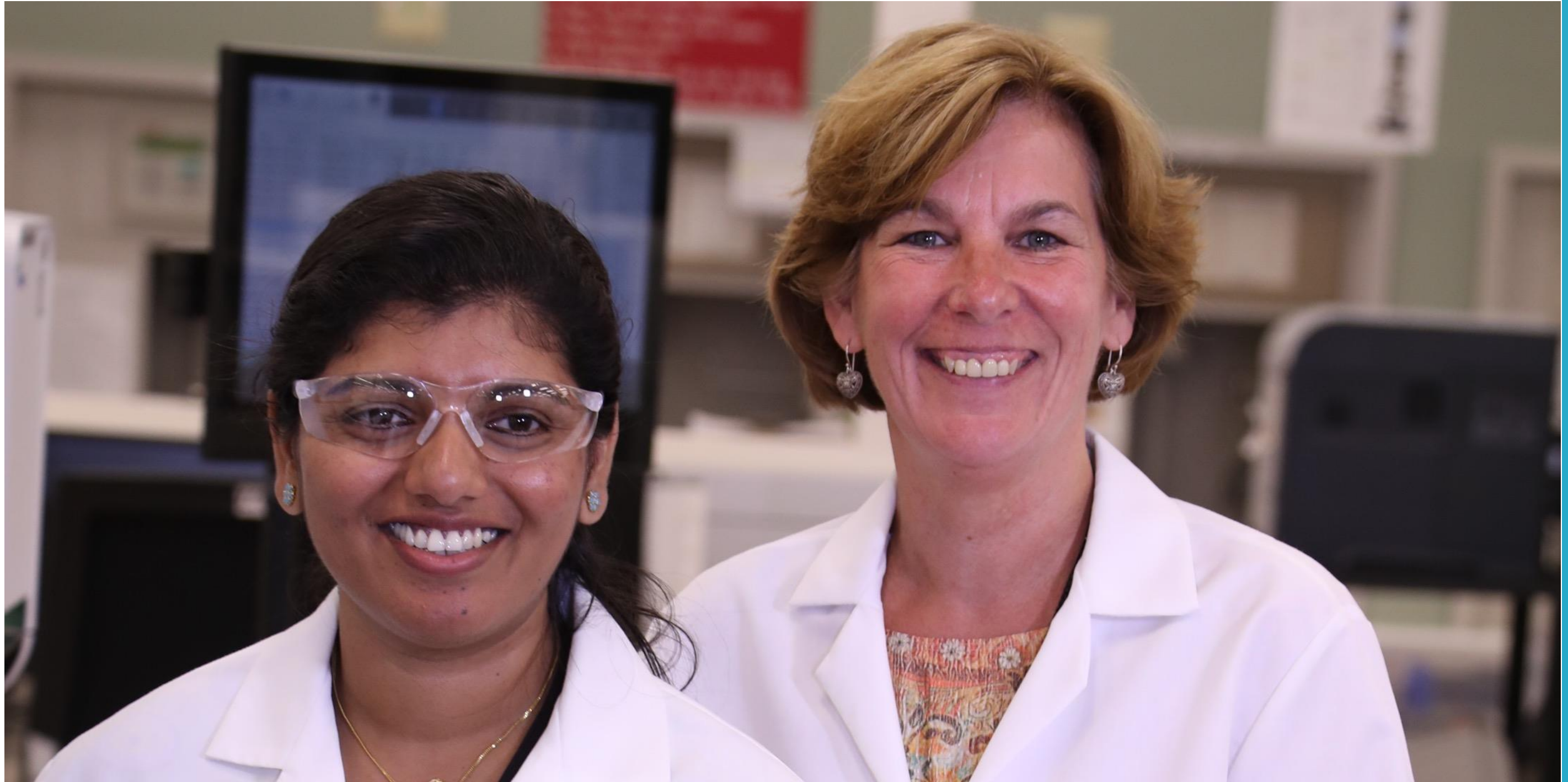


Do Pathologists Feel Fairly Compensated?



Would Pathologists Choose the Same Specialty?





Why Choose a Career in Pathology?

- Pathology is **central to patient care**. Nearly **70% of hospital decisions are based on pathology**.
- Pathology participate in **direct patient care** through Fine Needle Aspirations, Therapeutic Apheresis, and Pathology Review.
- Pathologists are at the forefront of medical research and discovery, and are **specialists in molecular studies, cytogenetics, and personalized medicine**.
- A career in pathology allows a **healthy work-life balance**, with ample post-work time for family, friends, and hobbies
- Pathology is a **cerebral and challenging** specialty that is constantly evolving
- Pathology is a specialty that **supports research and education**.

Work-Life Balance in Pathology

A recent AMA survey demonstrated that:

- 92% of physicians aged 35 or young felt that work-life balance is important Second level
- The **average work week** for a practicing pathologist was **~49.2 hours/week**.
- Pathologists reported the **lowest rates of burnout at 23%**.
- Pathology was one of the **top 4 specialties for workplace happiness**.

Rotations and Medical Student Requirements

- Most pathology programs are **ACGME** accredited and participate in the **National Residency Match Program (NRMP)**.
- Most candidates do **at least 1 rotation in pathology**, as it is essential to understand the profession and its responsibilities.
- Many medical students also choose to do rotations in specialties that frequently interact with pathology, such as: **surgery, radiology, hematology/oncology, infectious disease, and others**.

Rotations and Medical Student Requirements

Medical student rotations vary depending on program, but typically share the following components:

- **Grossing** surgical specimens
- **Signing out cases** in a general or sub-specialty model
- Participation in **clinical laboratory tasks and management**
- **Autopsy** with clinicopathologic follow-up
- **Fine Needle aspirations** with cytologic interpretation
- **Bone marrow aspirations and biopsies**

How do I apply?

- Almost all programs participate in the **NRMP**.
- Applications are accepted through the **Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)**.
- US graduates are expected to submit a **curriculum vitae (CV), personal statement, and at least 3 letters of recommendation**.



For more information on pathology as a specialty, please contact the CAP Residents Forum at residentsforum.org and stay tuned for more medical student resources to launch in the Summer of 2019!

Thank you!



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