



Lydia Pleotis Howell, M.D.

Philosophy of Care

Dr. Howell treats every pathology case assigned to her as if it came from one of her own family members. She works to ensure that every patient receives accurate, timely, high-quality pathology and laboratory services, just as she would expect for her own family. Dr. Howell is very proud of the essential role of pathologists and laboratorians in patient care. Since 70% of all medical decisions are based on laboratory tests, her past work as medical director of the UC Davis Health's clinical laboratories ensured that comprehensive leading-edge testing was available to our region, including tests not commonly available elsewhere.

Clinical Interests

Cytopathology and minimally invasive approaches to diagnosis have been the focus of Dr. Howell's clinical practice. She has also enjoyed serving as medical director of UC Davis Health's clinical laboratories where she was responsible for over 400 clinical lab scientists, faculty and staff in the delivery of laboratory testing.

Research/Academic Interests

Dr. Howell's research interests have focused on factors influencing women's careers in biomedical science, and work-life balance. She also has a strong creative interest in health care delivery science and the role of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, and standardized guidelines and practices in improving efficiencies and accuracy in pathology and lab testing.

Title Distinguished Professor Emerita and Chair Emerita, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Specialty Pathology - Anatomic, Pathology - Clinical, Cytopathology, Pathology - Cytopathology

Department [Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](#)

Division Anatomic Pathology

Center/Program Affiliation [UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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Education M.D., Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago IL 1981
B.S.M., Northwestern University School of Medicine, Chicago IL 1979

Residency Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Temple University, Philadelphia PA 1981-1985

Fellowships Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine, Drexel University School of Medicine, Philadelphia PA 1998-1999



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Cytopathology, Lankenau Hospital, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia PA 1985-1986

Board Certifications

American Board of Pathology, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
American Board of Pathology, Cytopathology

Professional Memberships

American Medical Association
American Society of Clinical Pathology
American Society of Cytopathology
Association of Pathology Chairs
College of American Pathologists
United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

Honors and Awards

President, Association of Pathology Chairs, 2020, 2021, 2022
Papanicolaou Award, highest honor of the American Society of Cytopathology, 2017
Dean's Award for Inclusion Excellence (research team award), UC Davis Health, 2017
President, American Society of Cytopathology, 2011, 2012
AAMC Group on Women in Medicine Award as co-founder of UCD's Women in Medicine and Health Science Program, 2016

Select Recent Publications

To view a detailed list of Dr. Howell's publications, please click [here](#).

Howell LP. Gender disparities in recognition awards from pathology societies: what should we do? (editorial). *Amer Jour Clin Pathol*, aqac084, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqac084> 2022

Howell LP, Wahl S, Ryan JF, Gandour-Edwards RF, Green R. Educational and career development outcomes among undergraduate summer research interns: a pipeline for pathology, laboratory medicine, and biomedical science. *Acad Pathol* 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1177/2374289519893105>

Rashidi H, Tran N, Vali Betts E, Howell LP, Green R. Artificial intelligence and machine learning in pathology: the present landscape of supervised methods. *Acad Pathol* 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1177/2374289519873088>

Howell LP, Markwood P, Zander DS. The Association of Pathology Chairs' Pathology Leadership Academy: experience from the first two years. *Acad Pathol*, 2019; 6:1-10 <https://journals.sagepub>.



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[com/doi/10.1177/2374289519826309](https://doi.org/10.1177/2374289519826309)

Shauman K, Howell L, Paterniti D, Beckett L, Villablanca A. Barriers to career flexibility in academic medicine: a qualitative analysis of reasons for the under-utilization of family friendly policies and implications for institutional change and department chair leadership. *Acad Med* 2018; 93:246-255.

Villablanca AC, Li Y, Beckett LA, Howell LP. Evaluating a medical school's climate for women's success: outcomes for faculty recruitment, retention, and promotion. *J Women's Health*, 2017; 26: 530-539.

Howell LP, Beckett LA, Villablanca AC. Ideal worker and academic professional identity: perspectives from a career flexibility educational intervention, *Am J Med* 2017; 130: 1117-1125.

Howell LP, Elsbach KD, Villablanca AC. The role of compensation criteria to minimize face-time bias and support faculty career flexibility: an approach to enhance career satisfaction in academic pathology. *Acad Pathol* doi:10.1177/2374289515628024

Howell LP, Lyons ML, Thor A, Dandar V. Sex differences in workplace satisfaction and engagement of academic pathologists: opportunities to enhance faculty diversity. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 2015; 139:936-942.

Beckett LA, Nettiksimmons J, Howell LP, Villablanca A. Do family responsibilities and a clinical versus a research faculty position affect satisfaction with career and work-life balance for medical school faculty? *J Women's Health* 24(6): 471-480. 2015

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