

Future Directions in Veterinary Pathology

Doo-Youn Cho

School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State
University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA

The development of new investigative technology and the changing roles of other biological and medical disciplines will result in major changes in the way veterinary pathology is practiced in the future. Unless the pathologists strategically prepare themselves to adopt and incorporate these changes into their *modest operandi*, the veterinary pathologist's traditional dominance in the diagnosis of spontaneous animal diseases and experimentally induced lesions in animals will be at risk. Although the distinguishing feature of pathologist is their artful ability to read and interpret the pathologic changes of cells and tissues, we must strive to enhance and expand our ability beyond and above the simple reading of H&E stained slides. Also, we must be prepared to meet the ever increasing demand of diagnostic accuracy and timeliness. To do so, we have to employ the new biological and toxicological technologies into our routine.

With regard to employment opportunities for new pathologist in training, one must look beyond the Korean peninsula. Currently toxicologic pathologist is the most rapidly growing area worldwide. State and commercial private laboratories are also expanding their services and actively seeking trained veterinary pathologists. Transgenic animal research is poised to seek the veterinary pathology backup in the near future. Most of these organizations seek pathologists first and foremost for their expertise in reading and interpreting the morphologic changes of tissues. If Korean veterinary pathologists wish to take advantage of the employment opportunities worldwide, they must have not only veterinary pathologist qualifications but also a good command of language.