Meet Our Pathologist Surveyors

In keeping with The Joint Commission’s commitment to consistent and thorough evaluation of risk by using employed surveyors, there are pathologists available for lab surveys upon request. These physicians are extensively trained in the Joint Commission standards and are located around the country to avoid any competitive interests or institutional biases.
John Cochran, M.D.

“I survey for The Joint Commission out of concern for quality of care and patient safety and because of the innovations, like the tracer methodology, to measure quality.”

Dr. John D. Cochran is a graduate of Emory University (college, medical school and pathology residency) with a B.S. (summa cum laude) in biology, a B.A. in philosophy and a medical degree. A private practitioner in pathology and laboratory medicine since 1999, he is CEO and founder of Chestatee Pathology Associates, PC, a 7-person pathology group in Atlanta, Ga. He currently serves as medical director of Milton Hall Surgical Associates Pathology Lab, Comprehensive Diagnostic Lab, LLC, and Pathology Lab of Georgia, LLC. He also serves as a managing consultant, Emory Special Associates, Pathology Division, the private practice arm of the Department of Pathology, Emory University. His interests include gastro-intestinal pathology, podiatric pathology, cytopathology, medical informatics, practice management and health care investments. Dr. Cochran has been a pathology specialist with The Joint Commission since 2011.

Jim Harker, M.D.

“I survey to learn something new from each hospital. There is no one right way!”

Dr. James Harker is currently a resident of Illinois and is a staff pathologist and director of clinical chemistry at Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, Ill. He is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and is currently licensed in Illinois as a medical doctor. Dr. Harker has also completed an M.B.A and a master’s degree in health law. He has also been president of the medical staff, and chair of risk management at Provident Hospital of Cook County and the executive editor of a peer-reviewed pathology journal. Dr. Harker has been a Joint Commission pathology specialist since 2001.

Need more information about our surveyors or survey process? Email us at qualitylabs@jointcommission.org.
Rick Michaelson, M.D.

“Surveying for The Joint Commission provides me a unique opportunity to learn from my peers and to share knowledge with them.”

Dr. Rick Michaelson is currently the chief of pathology and medical director of laboratories at Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. He also is president/CEO and founder of PathLab of Middle Tennessee, P.C., also of Murfreesboro. Dr. Michaelson received his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and did his post graduate training at Barnes Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. He also trained at North Carolina Baptist Hospital and Wake Forest University, Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. He is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology. He has been a pathology specialist with The Joint Commission since 2001.

June Olson, M.D.

“The reason I survey for the Joint Commission lab program is due to the level of training specifically geared to laboratory medicine and laboratory science.”

Dr. June A. Olson received her undergraduate degree in chemistry at Colorado State University, medical degree from the University of Colorado, and post graduate training at the University of Utah. She is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology with a sub-specialty board certification in cytology. She is currently the medical director at Providence Hood River Laboratory in Oregon and is the chair of the Peer Review Committee and the secretary/treasurer of the medical staff. Her previous positions include the medical director of Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center Laboratory, medical director of Legacy Eugene Crescent Street Laboratory, and director of cytology for Providence Portland Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente in Oregon. Dr. Olson has been a pathology surveyor with The Joint Commission since 2011.
Laurence Sherman, M.D., JD

“I survey because I value participating in a consistent, professional, and educational approach in the field.”

Dr. Laurence Sherman is a former medical technologist, with a medical degree from Albany Medical College, and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Loyola University. He is board certified in internal medicine, clinical pathology and transfusion medicine, and is Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University Medical School, where he still participates in compliance and ethics activities. Dr. Sherman is a past president of AABB, and was also active with CAP, ASCP, American Society of Hematology, the American Heart Association and other organizations. He has published on coagulation, blood transfusion, and laboratory risk management. He surveys for the laboratory and hospital programs. Dr. Sherman has been a Joint Commission surveyor since 1998.

Alejandro Zuretti, M.D.

“I survey for The Joint Commission because I enjoy being part of a team of full time professional surveyors with vast and varied expertise on the field.”

Dr. Alejandro R. Zuretti is a graduate of National College of Buenos Aires with a bachelor’s degree in scientific course work and a medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires with post-graduate training at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, N.Y., St. John’s Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockway, N.Y., and Mitre Hospital in Buenos Aires. He is currently the chair of pathology and laboratories at the Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, N.Y. and a clinical associate professor in the Department of Pathology at Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. and at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and New York Institute of Pathology. He has been published in The American Journal of Clinical Oncology, The Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and the American Journal of Gastroenterology. Dr. Zuretti has been a pathology surveyor with The Joint Commission since 2011.