

The Blog Phenomenon Hits Pathology

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According to Wikipedia, “a *blog* (an abridgment of the term *web log*) is a website, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video.” Blogging has become a widespread phenomenon in cyberspace, operating within a network of writers and readers that has come to be known as the “blogosphere.”

Pathology has not been immune to the allure of the blog, and has served as a creative and interactive outlet for pathologists around the world.

One of my favorite pathology blogs is published by Ole Eichhorn, Chief Technical Officer of Aperio Technologies, a digital pathology company in San Diego. Eichhorn’s blog, *The Daily Scan* (blog.aperio.com), covers news and offers opinions about pathology, technology, and the interface between the two. A related blog, *Digital Pathology Blog* (www.tissuepathology.typepad.com), addresses issues pertaining to telemedicine and image technology.



From the Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL.
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Dr Kenneth Youens at Duke University and his friends run *pathtalk.org*. The bloggers at pathtalk present interesting cases and invite readers to comment. New posts are rather infrequent but worth reading. For example, Dr Youens recently presented an interesting case of tuberculous hepatitis in a lung transplant patient, complete with clinical history, photomicrographs, discussion, and patient follow-up.

I myself have been lured into the blogosphere and have created my own blog (a venture that can be accomplished quickly and at no cost through entities such as Google). My site (*neuropathologyblog.blogspot.com*), so far the only blog on the web devoted specifically to practicing neuropathology, addresses issues pertaining to the practice of neuropathology, including commentary

on recent articles, trivia, gossip, and anything else that might be of interest to neuropathologists. Once I started posting, I was amazed to discover that occasionally somebody would read and even comment upon what I had written! I encourage more pathologists to give blogging a try. It's a great way to communicate with colleagues, keep up on developments in the field, and get a dose of entertainment during the workday.

Featured web sites:

The Daily Scan (*blog.aperio.com*)

Digital Pathology Blog (*www.tissuepathology.typepad.com*)

Pathtalk (*pathtalk.org*)

Neuropathology blog (*neuropathologyblog.blogspot.com*)