

KOPANA August 2026 Newsletter

Recap of the Inaugural KOPANA Companion Society Session at USCAP 2026

The Korean Pathologists Association of North America (KOPANA) marked a historic milestone at the USCAP 2026 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, by hosting its inaugural Companion Society session. Titled "Entities of Uncertain Biological Potential: Emerging Concepts and Controversies," the two-hour session convened leading experts from Korea and the United States to explore diagnostic dilemmas, morphologic criteria, and evolving molecular landscapes across pathology subspecialties. Moderated by Dr. Soo-Jin Cho (UCSF, USA) and Dr. Eun-Young (Karen) Choi (University of Michigan, USA), the session provided valuable insights into complex lesions encountered in daily surgical pathology practice.

The program opened with a brief introduction by KOPANA President, Dr. Won-Tak Choi (UCSF, USA), who reflected on KOPANA's journey from its inception in 1992 to its first official gathering in 2001 and celebrated its landmark recognition as an official USCAP Companion Society in 2025, a milestone achieved through the dedicated efforts of many members over the years. He emphasized that KOPANA now welcomes all pathologists in training and practice, regardless of ethnicity. KOPANA continues to host its annual dinner and social gathering during the USCAP Annual Meeting and recognizes outstanding trainee research through abstract and travel awards.

Dr. Choi then delivered the opening presentation, "Recent Updates and Ongoing Debate on Serrated Epithelial Change in Inflammatory Bowel Disease," detailing the morphologic criteria and features of serrated epithelial change and its potential association with nonconventional and advanced neoplasia. Dr. Kyu-Rae Kim (Ewha Womans University School of Medicine, Korea) followed with "Unusual Presentations of Hydatidiform Mole and Its Rare Mimickers," highlighting diagnostic pitfalls, p57 expression, and molecular genotyping strategies to accurately differentiate gestational trophoblastic disease from its subtle mimickers. Continuing the session, Dr. Chan Kwon Jung (The Catholic University of Korea) presented "Controversies in Follicular-Patterned Thyroid Tumors," re-evaluating encapsulated follicular lesions, borderline entities, and the diagnostic shift toward molecularly aligned frameworks to reduce interobserver variability. Closing the program, Dr. Eunhee Yi (Mayo Clinic, USA) presented "Pulmonary PEComas and Benign Metastasizing Leiomyomas: A Diagnostic and Prognostic Challenge," reviewing key immunohistochemical markers and clinical behavior to distinguish primary mesenchymal lesions from metastatic uterine counterparts. The inaugural session successfully highlighted KOPANA's expanding role in fostering academic collaboration and advancing diagnostic pathology within the international community.

If you were unable to attend in person or would like to revisit the presentations, the recording will be available through September 30th via USCAP 2026 On Demand under the "Companion Society Meeting > Korean Pathologists Association of North America" section (<https://2026am.uscap.org/ondemand/>)!

If you have not already done so, **please renew your KOPANA membership** using the link below.

Annual dues are \$50, while trainees and students are exempt.

<https://kopana.org/apply-or-renew#785eaf67-1be8-4269-bdf6-3e2395bddc92>



- **Pre-registration deadline: September 20, 2026**

❖ ***KOPANA Euiham Travel Award (\$750): U.S. trainees who plan to attend the meeting and have a first-authored abstract are eligible to apply. To be considered, please submit a brief statement describing your career aspirations and financial need. This award is made possible through the generous support from the family of the late Dr. Jae Roh, Dr. Kyu-Rae Kim, and KOPANA leadership members.***

❖ **Award application deadline: August 16, 2026**

❖ **Notification of recipients: September 11, 2026**

❖ **Submit applications or direct questions to Dr. Byoung Uk Park (byoungukpark@gmail.com)**

For additional conference information, please visit <https://www.kspcongress.org/html/>

KOPANA sponsor spotlight: AIVIS

AIVIS is a leading digital pathology company specializing in AI-driven automated biomarker quantification. AIVIS develops AI pathology solutions grounded in clinical expertise and real-world pathology practice. It provides quantitative IHC analysis with the Qanti® portfolio (Breast HER2, Gastric HER2, Breast Ki-67, NET Ki-67, and Thyroid Ki-67). By quantifying IHC interpretation, Qanti® improves diagnostic consistency and efficiency in pathology assessment, enabling pathologists to deliver timely diagnoses for patients. Qanti® IHC has received in vitro medical device approvals and reimbursement in South Korea, along with GMP and ISO 13485 certifications. It currently supports the daily practice of pathologists in over 20 hospitals and medical institutions worldwide. With its smart AI quantification solution, AIVIS delivers reproducible and accurate biomarker assessments, contributing to the advancement of precision medicine.

AIVIS's main automated IHC quantification products. All products are for research use only (RUO) outside South Korea.

- **Qanti Breast Ki-67:** Ki-67 in breast cancer. Currently used in more than one-third of tertiary hospitals in South Korea and approved by the MFDS (K-FDA) under the product name Qanti IHC.
- **Qanti Breast HER2:** HER2 in breast cancer. Validated in a nationwide study conducted in collaboration with the Breast Pathology Study Group of the Korean Society of Pathologists (BPKSP).
 - **Qanti NET Ki-67:** Ki-67 for neuroendocrine tumors (NETs).
 - **Qanti Thyroid Ki-67:** Ki-67 in follicular cell-derived thyroid cancer, including PTC and FN.
 - **Qanti Gastric HER2:** HER2 in gastric and gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinomas.

Please explore the attached PDF for more information on AIVIS!

We're looking for a **KOPANA logo!**

We invite you to submit your logo designs or ideas to Dr. Janice Ahn (ahn.janice@gmail.com) and the membership committee!

Member spotlight:

Please reach out to Dr. Janice Ahn (ahn.janice@gmail.com) and the membership committee to share your news with us! We'd love to celebrate your achievements in an upcoming newsletter!