

**Jay M. McDonald, MD**

**Robert and Ruth Anderson Professor and Chair**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The School of Medicine has begun a nationwide search for the new Chair of Pathology. This is a very high-profile Department and we expect the position will attract excellent candidates. It is my plan to remain as Chair until a successor has been named.

After stepping down, I intend to remain at UAB as Professor and Director of the Center for Metabolic Bone Disease and to continue my research focused on the role of calcium, the calcium receptor protein, calmodulin, and related protein kinases and phosphatases in 1) osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease, 2) the pathogenesis of AIDS-related bone disease, and 3) malignant transformation and tumorigenesis.

I will also participate in university-wide research activities including those involving clinical and translational research, career development, and activities of the consortium of University-Wide Centers.

Sincerely,

**Jay M. McDonald, M.D.**

**The Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program is now accepting applications for Fall 2007**  
**Contact: Scott Ballinger, Ph.D., Program Director or Theresa Henson at (205) 934-2445**

**PATHOLOGY IN FOCUS  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Editor-in-Chief: C. Bruce Alexander, M.D.  
Nirag C. Jhala, M.D.  
Scott Ballinger, Ph.D.  
Walter C. Bell, M.D.  
Marisa B. Marques, M.D.  
Gary T. Simmons, M.D.  
Marty Simmons & Margaret Dotzler



**T. Scott Isbell**

Mr. T. Scott Isbell, Presiding Officer of the Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program, has been chosen to receive the 2007 UAB Graduate School Dean's award, the **Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, at the Ph.D. level.** This award is given each spring to one Ph.D. student who will receive their degree within the calendar year.

Mr. Isbell entered the graduate program in 2003 joining the laboratory of Dr. Rakesh Patel. His dissertation research has focused on elucidating the mechanisms of nitric oxide interactions with red blood cells.

Mr. Isbell has demonstrated exceptionally strong leadership, as Vice Presiding Officer and now as Presiding Officer of the graduate program. Mr. Isbell led the implementation of an annual departmental research day. This research day has been well received by his fellow students and will further strengthen the quality of our graduate program. Most recently, Mr. Isbell along with Vice Presiding officer Brian Dranka, was instrumental in the restructuring of a graduate course designed to prepare students with the skills necessary to orally present data at national scientific meetings. He is an active member of the graduate recruitment committee.

Mr. Isbell is first or co-first author on three publications & middle author on four others. He was recently selected to attend the National Institutes of Health National Graduate Student Research Festival (2006). His past honors include the Science Award at the 2005 NIH Role of Nitrite in Physiology, Patho-physiology and Therapeutics Mtg and the Young Investigator's Award at the 2004 Society for Free Radical Biology & Medicine annual meeting. He has consistently received awards at Graduate Student Research Day and is a member of the Phi Sigma Biology Honor Society. He was a finalist for the Marshall Sherfield Fellowship.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PATHOLOGY  
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Last year, based on input from the faculty, the FAC worked with the Chair to establish two new programs -

- 1) a Departmental newsletter and
- 2) a faculty seed grant award.

This spring, many of our faculty competed for the newly named Pathology Faculty Small Grant. Based on the number of applicants, we feel that the program has been great success. We would like to congratulate the following faculty as grant recipients:

Scott Ballinger - Molecular & Cellular  
Patricia DeVilliers - Anatomic Path  
Larisa Pereboeva - Molecular & Cellular  
Yongsheng Ren - Laboratory Medicine  
Nasser Said-Al-Naief - Anatomic Path  
John Shacka - Neuropath

We thank Dr. McDonald and our reviewers (anonymous and unbiased) for their time and effort in this endeavor. Our faculty members as well as our trainees, mentored by their faculty, continue to reach for higher heights.

We, as members of FAC, will continue to work toward the goal of seeking better and more effective ways for all of us to become more efficient at what we do. Your views and ideas have made a difference in our Department and we have continued to build on our past successes. Please continue to let us know of your views and your continued successes.

Sincerely,

**Nirag C. Jhala MD, MIAC, Chair**  
**David Chhieng, MD-Anatomic Path**  
**William Benjamin, PhD-Lab Medicine**  
**Stephen Moser, PhD-Lab Medicine**  
**Gary Simmons, MD-Forensic/Neuropath**  
**Rakesh Patel, PhD -Molecular & Cellular**

**Department of Pathology Web  
Site** <http://www.path.uab.edu>

**KEEP IN TOUCH.....Newsletter**  
**E-Mail:** [PATHINFOCUS@uab.edu](mailto:PATHINFOCUS@uab.edu)

## FACULTY PROFILES



**Cheryl A. Palmer, M.D.**

**Associate Professor, Neuropathology**

Dr. Cheryl Palmer has been a member of the Division of Neuropathology since 1993. Initially trained at the University of Pittsburgh with a B. S. degree in pharmacy, she subsequently returned to West Virginia University for medical school. Dr. Palmer's long-standing fascination with the workings of the brain led to seven years of residency and dual board certification in Neurology and Neuropathology.

Since 1997, Dr. Palmer has been the Director of the Neuropathology Fellowship Program, an ACGME-accredited program leading to board-eligibility. She has been recognized with an award as "Best Teaching Faculty" from the UAB Department of Neurology. She serves as a reviewer for numerous neurology and neuropathology journals and is active in the American Association of Neuropathologists. Her research involves the neuropathologic findings in chronic epilepsy. With an interest in brain tumor neuropathology, Dr. Palmer also serves as the central neuropathology reviewer for several national neuro-oncology clinical trials.

When not at UAB, Dr. Palmer is the proud mother of a 7-year-old son, an avid birdwatcher and a baseball fan. She and her family love to travel, and she is a soprano in several local choral organizations.



**Xu Cao, Ph.D.**

**Professor, Molecular and Cellular Pathology**

Xu Cao joined UAB Department of Pathology in 1996 upon completing 5 years of postdoc training with Seven Teitelbaum at Washington University. Xu was promoted to associate professor in 2000 and full professor in 2004.

Xu was initially recruited as a bone biologist. His primary research interest is the mechanisms of differentiation of

multipotential stem cells into functionally distinct cell types, particularly, the function TGFb/BMP in osteoprogenitor differentiation. There are 5 patents that have been filed based on discoveries from his lab, one of which was licensed by P&G Pharmaceutical Company with a \$30 million investment for anti-osteoporosis drug screening. His recent finding of Endofin as key regulator for BMP signaling was published in the Journal Cell Science with the key point highlighted in the front cover and two commentaries in the same Journal. His current research has revealed that TGFb1 functions as a coupling factor for bone resorption and formation during bone remodeling and a novel PTH signaling mechanism. Merck Pharmaceuticals has expressed its interest in collaboration with his lab for developing drug targets based his recent discoveries.



**C. Bruce Alexander, M.D.**

**Professor and Vice Chair**

Dr. Alexander came to UAB in 1979. He was appointed Vice Chair and Residency Program Director in 1990. He has been an Associate Medical Examiner for Jefferson County since 1980 and Section Head of Autopsy Pathology since 2000.

Dr. Alexander teaches the Pulmonary Segment of Correlative Pathology; lectures in General Pathology and is very active in the training of Pathology residents. He is the faculty advisor to Alpha Omega Alpha, and on its national Board of Directors. In 2002, he received the Parker Palmer "Courage to Teach" Award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. He was a founding member of the Program Directors Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs and served a six year term on the Pathology Residency Review Committee for Accreditation of Graduate Medical Education.

In October 2006, Dr. Alexander was asked to visit the Republic of Mali in Western Africa to present a training workshop and laboratory inspection for the Malaria Research Training Center in Bamako, Mali. Initiated in 1989, the MRTC is a collaborative effort between the NIH, the WHO, and the government of Mali, with additional support from a number of USAID programs and other agencies.



**C. Andrew Robinson, Ph.D.**

**Professor, Laboratory Medicine**

Dr. Robinson, Professor in the Division of Laboratory Medicine, received his Ph.D. degree in 1970 from the University of Alabama in the field of biochemistry. After post-doctoral training, in 1972, he joined the UAB faculty, a mere 35 years ago, making him the most-experienced member of the division. He currently serves as Forensic Toxicologist for the Jefferson County Medical Examiners' Office and holds several positions at University Hospital. Dr. Robert Brissie recalls that prior to Dr. Robinson's appointment to the Jefferson County Medical Examiners' Office in the mid-1980s, toxicology results would take months, hampering criminal investigations for very long times. These problems no longer exist since Dr. Robinson has been in charge of the tests.

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, runs Pathology's Toxicology Laboratory for the Jefferson County Coroner's Office, is the medical director of the Office of Bedside Testing for the UAB Health System, and the medical director of the University Emergency Department laboratory at University Hospital. In his spare time, he is a gentleman farmer, avid hunter, and devoted husband and father."

## FACULTY ACHEIVEMENTS

- **Victor Darley-USmar, PhD** was elected to serve as the next President-Elect of the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (SFRBM).
- **Marisa B. Marques, MD.** has been appointed Head of the Immune Cytopenia laboratory.
- **Yongsheng Ren, M,PhD** has been appointed Head of the Molecular Diagnostic service.
- **Ona M. Faye-Peteresen, MD,** has received the "Outstanding Woman UAB Faculty Member" Award.
- **Darshana N. Jhala, MD,** has received the prestigious Bharat Gaurav Award (India Pride Award).
- **Stephen A. Moser PhD,** has been elected the JHS Senator to the Faculty Senate

## FROM THE CHIEF RESIDENTS



**Yara Park, M.D., CP**



**Preeti P. Sharma, M.D., AP**

### Farewell from Outgoing Chiefs

We had a great recruiting year! We have eight incoming first year residents and one second year transfer. We want to thank all the residents and faculty that helped with recruiting this year. The new residents are:

**Shuting Bai:** Beijing Medical University  
**Marian Butcher:** LSU-Shreveport  
**Virginia Dailey:** Univ. of South Alabama  
**Elizabeth Hanson:** UAB  
**Jose Lima:** Federal U Minas Gerais  
**Emily Reisenbichler:** UT-Galveston  
**Darrell Sanders:** UAB  
**Dara Wakefield:** UAB  
**Xiaojun Wu:** Zhejiang Medical Univ.  
**Jose Lima:** Medical College Georgia

We congratulate **Meredith Lakey (CP)** and **Carrie Knight (AP)** on their selection as the Chief Residents for 2007-2008. They are going to do a great job, and we wish them the best.

We have had a great year. It has been an honor to serve as chief residents this year. **Yara Park and Preeti Sharma**  
**Chief Residents, 2006-2007**

UAB Pathology Residents continue to be active in academic meetings at the national level:

### ACLPS

We are proud of **Carrie Knight** who received the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award for her abstract titled "Surrogate Markers of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Inhibition in Skin and Buccal Mucosa" (faculty sponsor: Dr. Piotr Kulesza), which will be an oral presentation at the meeting in San Diego in June. Her abstract titled "Evaluation of the LIAISON Treponema Assay, a Chemiluminescent Immunoassay for the Diagnosis of Syphilis" (faculty sponsor: Dr. Robert Hardy) was also accepted.

**Jason Nolan**, a previous Young Investigator Award recipient (2003), will also be presenting his abstract titled "The Role of Flow Cytometry in Routine CSF Specimens" (faculty sponsor: Vishnu Reddy, MD).

### ASFA

Congratulations to **Kathrina Alexander** and **Yara Park** (faculty sponsor for both: Marisa Marques, MD) whose abstracts titled "Incidence of TRALI During Therapeutic Plasma Exchange for Thrombotic Microangiopathies" and "Exacerbations of Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura-Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome Predict an Infection," respectively, were accepted for poster presentation at the meeting in Nashville in April.

### USCAP

UAB had a great presence at the meeting in beautiful San Diego. Congratulations to everyone that presented.

**Tonya Eichelberger's** abstract titled "Lymphocyte Subpopulations in Human Fatty Liver Disease Related to Obesity" (faculty sponsor: Nirag Jhala, MD) received a certificate of merit by the Association of Indian Pathologists in North America.

**Holly Burford, Jeremy Henderson**, and **Meredith Lakey** represented UAB at the CAP Residents Forum. Topics discussed included standardization of fellowship applications and improvement of resident education in molecular diagnostics.

While in San Diego, it was nice to catch up with **UAB Pathology Alumni**, including **Sarah Bean** who is enjoying her new faculty position at Duke, **Claudiu Cotta** who is finishing his Hematopathology Fellowship at MD Anderson and is headed to the Cleveland Clinic, and **Burton Kim** who is completing his Hematopathology Fellowship at Scripps Memorial Hospital and soon entering practice in Atlanta.

### Boards

Good luck to everyone taking the boards this summer. You have worked hard and will do great!

### Outgoing Reception

Primary faculty and residents and fellows are invited to attend the 2007 Outgoing Reception. Please contact Karen Lewis for more information, 934-4060.

**Vestavia Hills Country Club**  
**May 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**



Meredith Lakey, Holly Burford, and Jeremy Henderson at the CAP Residents Forum (March 24, 2007).

To Our Departing Residents and Fellows: UAB Hospital and the Department of Pathology wish you success and happiness in your future endeavors. Best wishes to:

Outgoing	Where are they Going?
Khldoun Bakdounes	-Private Practice
Allyson Baker	-Fellowship, UAB
Holly Burford	-Fellowship, UAB
Andrea Dickens	-
Mary Hanna	-Private Practice
Michael Jacobs	-Private Practice
S. Jaffar Kazmi	-Faculty, UNebaska
John Lavelle	-Fellowship, UVirginia
Xiuli Liu	-Faculty, Cleveland Clinic
Alan Long	-Private Practice
Regina Meara	-Private Practice
Owen Middleton	-Asst. Medical Examiner
Jason Nolan	-Private Practice
Yara Park	-Fellowship, UNC
Luminita Rezeanu	-Faculty, UMississippi
Preeti Sharma	-Fellowship, Duke
Kelley Taylor	-Private Practice
John Webster	-Private Practice

### 2007 Incoming Fellows

Where: Medical Degree/Residency  
**Allyson Baker:** Molecular Genetics  
 Medical College Georgia /UAB  
**Nicole Balmer:** Surgical Pathology  
 UAB/ UColorado Health Sci Ctr  
**Holly Buford:** Surgical Pathology  
 UAB/UAB  
**Samuel Cherry:** Transfusion  
 Med-UAB  
**Tonya Eichelberger:** Hemepath  
 Nebraska/UAB  
**Ranleigh Fleshman:** Surgical Pathology  
 Case Western Res/Case Western  
**Brenda Katz:** Hemepath  
 Hadassah Med / UAB  
**Carrie Knight:** GI Fellow  
 UAB/UAB  
**Nicholas Hilliard:** Dermopath  
 UAB /UAB  
**Reunka Kulkarni:** Cytopath  
 JJM Med College/St. Barnabus Medctr  
**Stephen Mason:** Dermopath  
 UTennessee /Vanderbilt  
**Zhijie Yan:** Cytopath  
 Kuming Med.Col./Yale & U.Florida



## PATHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM

**Scott W. Ballinger, PhD,**  
**Program Director**

Recruitment for the 2007 incoming class is in full gear year with prospective students currently interviewing on campus.

### DISSERTATIONS

#### 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR

**Zhen Yang**, *The effect of environmentally-related cardiovascular disease risk factors on mitochondrial damage and atherogenesis*  
Successfully defended Oct. 2006, Mentor: Scott Ballinger

**Kevin T. Nash**, *KISS1 Metastasis Suppressor Secretion Is Required for Metastasis Suppression*  
Successfully defended Oct. 2006, Mentor: Dan Welch

**Bu-er Song**, *The Function of Primary Cilia in Growth Plate Chondrocytes*  
Successfully defended Nov. 2006, Mentor, Rosa Serra

**Hyeonju Yeo**, *Calcineurin / NFAT signaling in osteoblasts is "Bad to the Bone"*  
Scheduled May 15, 2007, Mentor: Jay McDonald

### Congratulations To:

**Jason Ashley** - Mentor: Xu Feng  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – UAB Graduate Student Research Day, March 2007

**Ying Geng** – Mentor: Kevin Roth  
Merit award for Experimental Pathologist-in-Training at the American Society for Investigative Pathology Annual Meeting April 2007

**Kevin Nash** – Mentor: Dan Welch  
1) Edwards S. Reynolds Memorial Award (Pathology Excellence in research )  
2) UTMB Cancer Center Award for Oncologic Research (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
3) AMA Award for Overall Excellence of Research (Highest overall award given at the Conference), at the 48<sup>th</sup> Medical Student National Research Forum, April 2007,

**Joo-Yeun Oh** – Mentor: Victor Darley-USmar  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – UAB Graduate Student Research Day, March 2007,

**Pritish Pawar** – Mentor: Jay McDonald  
Scholar-in-Training Award at the Annual American Association for Cancer Research meeting, April 2007

**Ritu Saxena** – (CMB) Mentor: Jay McDonald  
Young Investigator Award at 2nd Conference on Skeletal Biology and Medicine, April 2007

**Melissa Talbert** - Mentor: Joanne Murphy-Ullrich  
1) Overall winner, UAB school of Dentistry Scholar's Symposium, March 2007  
2) AADR Bloc Travel Grant to attend 85<sup>th</sup> IADR General Session & Exhibition, March 2007,

## PATHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH DAY - OCTOBER 2006

### AWARDS

#### Top Oral Presenter

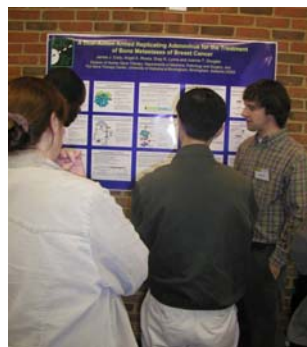
**Kevin Nash**, Mentor: Dan Welch

#### Poster Presentations

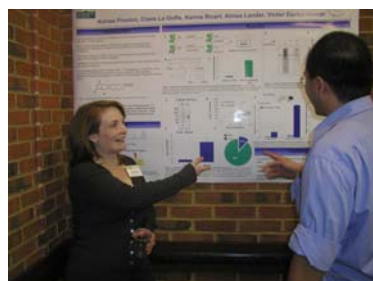
1<sup>st</sup> **Lauren Van Duyn**, Mentor: Joanne E. Murphy-Ullrich

2<sup>nd</sup> **Corey Harrison**, Mentor: Scott Ballinger

3<sup>rd</sup> **Alexandra Silveira**, Mentor: Dan Welch



**James Cody**



**Ashlee Preston**



**Lauren Van Duyn** receiving poster presentation 1<sup>st</sup> place award from Dr. Jay McDonald

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Graduate Program Picnic and Awards**  
**June 2, 2007, 11:30 – 2:00 PM**  
**Homewood Park**

**Pictures next Issue!!!!!!**

## STAY TUNED FOR MORE:

Several of the UAB Clinical Pathology faculty have been working on a new series of best-selling (to be) pocket books published by AACC Press. The first "Quick Guide to Coagulation Testing" by Marisa B. Marques and George Fritsma sold the first 500 copies in the first few months since its publication last July (see picture). It is again available and can be purchased through the publisher at

<http://direct.aacc.org/ProductCatalog/Product.aspx?ID=4198> or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

By next summer, three more books should be available: "Quick Guide to Hematology Testing" by Vishnu Reddy, Marisa B. Marques and George Fritsma, "Quick Guide to Transfusion Medicine" by Marisa B. Marques and Margaret Fritsma, and "Quick Guide to Chemistry Testing" by Janelle Chiasera, Robert Hardy and John Smith.

We have all put a lot of time and effort into this project and are convinced that it is quite worthwhile. All books are packed with updated and concise information on their respective areas and lots of references for further reading. We expect them to become popular resources for medical technologists, medical students, residents, fellows and practicing physicians in Pathology and many other specialties. Get your copy today! You will not regret the investment!

