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.

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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

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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

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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  
Yongsheung 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
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.

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 multipotent stem cells into functionally distinct cell types, particularly, the function TGFβ/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 TGFβ1 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.
### 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007 Incoming Fellows</th>
<th>Where are they Going?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where</strong>: Medical Degree/Residency</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allyson Baker: Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>- Private Practice</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Fellowship, UAB</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Carrie Knight: GI Fellow</td>
<td>- UAB/UAB</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hilliard: Dermpath</td>
<td>- UAB/UAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunka Kulkarni: Cytopath</td>
<td>- JIM Med College/St. Barnabus Medctr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Mason: Dermpath</td>
<td>- UTennessee /Vanderbilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhijie Yan: Cytopath</td>
<td>- Kumming Med.Col./Yale &amp; U.Florida</td>
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### 2007 Incoming Fellows

**Where**: Medical Degree/Residency

- **Allyson Baker**: Molecular Genetics
- **Nicole Balmer**: Surgical Pathology
- **Holly Buford**: Surgical Pathology
- **Samuel Cherry**: Transfusion
- **Tonya Eichberger**: Hemepath
- **Ranleigh Fleshman**: Surgical Pathology
- **Brenda Katz**: Hemepath
- **Carrie Knight**: GI Fellow

**Where are they Going?**

- **Private Practice**
- **Fellowship, UAB**
- **Fellowship, UAB**
- **Fellowship, UAB**
- **Fellowship, Nebraska/UAB**
- **Case Western Res/Case Western**
- **Hadassah Med / UAB**
- **UAB/UAB**
- **UAB/UAB**
- **JIM Med College/St. Barnabus Medctr**
- **UTennessee /Vanderbilt**
- **Kumming Med.Col./Yale & U.Florida**

### 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 Eichberger**’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 Buford, 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 16th 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Reruitment for the 2007 incoming class is in full gear year with prospective students currently interviewing on campus.

**DISSERTATIONS 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR**


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

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
3rd 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 (1st Place)
3) AMA Award for Overall Excellence of Research (Highest overall award given at the Conference), at the 48th Medical Student National Research Forum, April 2007,

**Joo-Yeun Oh** – Mentor: Victor Darley-Usmar
3rd 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 85th IADR General Session & Exhibition, March 2007,

### AWARDS

**Top Oral Presenter**
Kevin Nash, Mentor: Dan Welch

**Poster Presentations**
1st Lauren Van Duyn, Mentor: Joanne E. Murphy-Ullrich
2nd Corey Harrison, Mentor: Scott Ballinger
3rd Alexandra Silveira, Mentor: Dan Welch


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!

### UP COMING EVENTS

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

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

**Ashlee Preston**

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