I am pleased to report that the School of Medicine Search Committee for the Chair of Pathology has completed the first interviews of 10 candidates. Appropriately, in my opinion, no members of the Pathology faculty are on the search committee. The process is a lengthy one, but I am confident that UAB administration will hire a suitable replacement.

The Department continues to perform at a high level in all academic endeavors as demonstrated by the 105 publications in the first half of 2007 (see below). Even in these difficult funding times, our faculty continue to excel and our research funding continues to grow. As of July 1, 2007 our total annual research funding is approaching $26 million. During the last three years we have seen our NIH grant income increase dramatically:

- October 2005 $12,573,486
- October 2006 $15,463,167
- Est. October 2007 $17,581,540

We have a new inpatient (Part A) contract with University Hospital after valuation by an independent consultant, and a contract with the state for Autopsies.

Sincerely,
Jay M. McDonald, M.D.

MESSAGE FROM THE PATHOLOGY FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Last year, many of our faculty participated in a survey by FAC members that successfully led to the development of two projects as highlighted in the last issue. One of the main foci of that survey was to identify areas where we can become more effective in our endeavors to pursue academic activities. To date in 2007, our faculty have been very productive, as can be seen by their peer reviewed publications highlighted in this news letter.

Another important concern of the FAC is “mentoring activities.” Many institutions have successfully formalized a mentoring program. It is evident that this activity is pursued by almost all of our faculty members at some level, but the activity remains very informal. New changes in the medical school curriculum emphasizes the role of mentoring activities and simultaneously provides incentives for mentoring medical students waiting in the wings to become our junior colleagues.

The FAC would like your ideas and opinions to develop a formalized program for such mentoring activities. We would welcome any other input from the faculty or our alumni to pursue activities that could bring more interactions within and outside of our department. Please contact us at pathinfo@uab.edu with your ideas.

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

CONGRATULATIONS
Dr. Clemens has just been selected as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research

Thomas L. Clemens, Ph.D., Professor, Molecular and Cellular Pathology

Dr. Clemens received his B.A. in biology from Goshen College in Indiana, his M.S. in pharmacology from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from University of London. He completed his postdoctoral training as a Research Fellow in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Clemens' research is focused on identification of the cellular and molecular mechanisms which control osteoblast activity. In one project, he is attempting to define the mechanisms of action of insulin-like growth factor and growth hormone in bone. Mice and osteoblasts with specific alterations in the components of these pathways have been created and are being used to identify the interplay between these growth factors. In a separate project, he is investigating the hypothesis that osteoblasts and osteocytes are positioned in bone to sense and respond to fluctuations in oxygen and nutrient supply, and thereby play key roles in regulation of angiogenesis and blood flow under normal physiological conditions and in response to pathological signals. Osteoblast cell models and genetically altered mice are being used to study the role of hypoxia inducible factors during bone development and following skeletal injury.

Dr. Rakesh Patel, PhD - Molecular & Cellular

Rakesh Patel, PhD –Molecular & Cellular Pathology

In October 2005, we had a grant totaling $12,573,486. In October 2006, we had a grant totaling $15,463,167. As of October 2007, our annual research funding is estimated to be $17,581,540.
**DIVISION DIRECTOR PROFILES, CONTINUED**

**Gene P. Siegal, M.D., Ph.D.**
**Professor, Anatomic Pathology.**

Dr. Siegal is an experimental and diagnostic musculoskeletal pathologist whose research interest for nearly three decades has been focused in Cancer Biology. His work is currently funded by the NIH, DOD, and private philanthropic agencies and foundations. Since its inception, Dr. Siegal has served as the PI of the Histomorphometry and Molecular Analysis Core of the NIH funded UAB Core Center for Basic Skeletal Research. His most recently funded NIH R01 grant has as its objective the development of a conditionally replicating canine adenovirus model that can be used to study host-vector interactions for more effective antitumor oncolytic effects using osteosarcoma as the model. Dr. Siegal’s clinical research interests have focused on studies of bone tumors and related conditions, a field in which he is a recognized world authority, having shared with M.J. Pitt, the Farrell Prize of the International Skeletal Society in 2002. For many years, he served as Chair of the Osteosarcoma Pathology Committee of the Pediatric Oncology Group. He continues as an expert reviewer to its successor organization, the Children’s Oncology Group, in the area of pediatric bone tumors. Dr. Siegal is Immediate Past President of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society of Surgical Pathologists and Immediate Past-Chair of the Fellow Council of the American Society for Clinical Pathology [ASCP]. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in London and the American College of Pathologists as well as Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. His recognized expertise has resulted in service on Scientific Review Boards of the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute, the Food & Drug Administration (both the Orthopedic & Rehabilitation Devices Panel and the Immunology Devices Panel), and the DOD. Dr. Siegal serves on 11 editorial boards and is the Senior Associate Editor of The American Journal of Pathology.

**Kevin A. Roth, MD, Ph.D.**
**Professor, Neuropathology**

Dr. Roth graduated from the University of Michigan and received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University. He came to UAB after spending 17 years at Washington University in St. Louis where he trained in anatomic pathology and neuropathology before joining the faculty in 1989. Dr. Roth was promoted to full professor in the Departments of Pathology and Molecular Biology and Pharmacology at Washington University in 2001 and moved to Birmingham the following year. In addition to his duties as Director of the Division of Neuropathology, Dr. Roth is Director of the UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center and the Alabama Neuroscience Blueprint Core Center, an NIH funded interdisciplinary core facility that provides technical support for NIH funded neuroscientists throughout the Southeast.

Dr. Roth’s research focuses on the molecular regulation of neuronal cell death and he has a particular interest in neural stem cell biology. He is an accomplished immunohistochemist and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry. Dr. Roth is also on the editorial board of the American Journal of Pathology and the Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology. He has served as a reviewer for granting agencies in five different countries and has been an invited speaker at several meetings in Europe and Asia. Dr. Roth was recently elected to be a member of the American Association of University Pathologists (Pluto Club).

Dr. Roth is married to Dr. Robin Lorenz and they have two wonderful children, Theo (15 years old) and Loren (13 years old). His interests outside of work revolve around his children’s activities (band, math team, wrestling, ice skating and dance) and sports. He is an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Rams fan and a season ticket holder to UAB football and basketball games.

**John A. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.**
**Professor, Laboratory Medicine**

Dr. Smith joined UAB in 1993. Previously, he was a faculty member of the Departments of Molecular Biology and Pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, and an Executive Director, Autoimmune Diseases Research and Molecular Immunology at Merck.

His earliest research developed solid phase, combinatorial chemistry, which is now a standard technique in organic chemistry. He and Malcolm Gefter (MIT) were the first to demonstrate the promiscuous binding capacity of class II MHC molecules. His group cloned the third member of the LDL receptor gene family (so-called gp330) and carried out extensive biochemical analysis of NH2-terminal protein processing of eukaryotic proteins (being the first to clone the yeast genes for methionine aminopeptidase, N-acetyltransferase, and methionine-specific acetyltransferase). He has authored 168 publications and edited six books, including, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, now in its 20th year of publication. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Purdue, a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. from the U. of Melbourne, an M.D. from the U. of Missouri-School of Medicine, an M.M.M. (medical management) from Tulane, and a D.Sc. (honoris causa) from Purdue University. He is a distinguished alumnus awardee from Purdue and the U. of Missouri-School of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the AAAS.

During his tenure at UAB he has served as: Chair of the Faculty Council (promotion & tenure committee), Chair of the UAB Faculty Senate, and an Assistant Chief of Staff. He is currently responsible for the pathology service at UAB Highlands Hospital.

He was a member of Board of Trustees of the FASEB, and he is the past VP of Science Policy. He is an Associate Editor of Proteins: Structure, Function & Bioinformatics. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He and his wife (a retired psychiatric social worker) enjoy traveling (primarily overseas), vacationing at their home in Maine, cultural activities, and sailing.
FROM THE CHIEF RESIDENTS

Kathrina Alexander received the award for outstanding Laboratory Medicine Seminar for her presentation “TRALI Prevention: The X’s and Why’s.” This award was re-named the “Jay M. McDonald Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine Presentation,” in honor of Dr. McDonald’s dedication to teaching residents skills of critical literature analysis.

Residents and Fellows at National Meetings
In June, Jeremy Henderson presented “Plasmacytic-type posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorder presenting in bone marrow” at the Pan Pacific Lymphoma Conference (faculty sponsor: Vishnu Reddy).

Projects accepted for presentation at the 2007 American Society for Clinical Pathology meeting to be held in October in New Orleans include:

Holly Burford – Effect of storage on p63 immunohistochemistry: A time-course study (faculty sponsor: Omar Hameed).
Carrie Knight – Frequency and distribution of polyps in the stomach: a clinicopathologic analysis of 300 consecutive cases in a large referral center (faculty sponsor: Nirag Jhala).
Meiklejohn McKenzie – Perinatal herpes simplex virus: a fifteen year autopsy review (faculty sponsor: Dr. Ona Faye-Petersen).
James Post – Aneurysms and dissections: a rare anatomic finding at autopsy in young adults (faculty sponsor: Dr. Stephanie Reilly).
Zhaoai Yang – Sudden death in young individuals without significant medical history (faculty sponsor: Dr. Stephanie Reilly).

ASCP Resident Council - Elizabeth Hanson
CAP Residents Forum - Amanda Crowe and Meiklejohn McKenzie
UAB House Staff Council - Mark Steciuk

OUTGOING RECEPTION
On May 16th, a reception honoring the outgoing pathology residents and fellows was held at the Vestavia Hills Country Club. The program was attended by current residents, fellows, and faculty. Outgoing residents and fellows were recognized and received certificates for completion of their respective programs.

Several trainees received special awards:
The Roger Denio Baker Prize in Anatomical Pathology was presented to Holly Burford for her outstanding performance as an anatomic pathology resident.

Tonya Eichelberger received the Kracke Award for the best presentation in Anatomical Pathology for her seminar presentation “Intraepithelial Lymphocytes in Architecturally Normal Celiac Disease.”

Tonya Eichelberger and Dr. Walter Bell

Incoming Residents July 2007
Shuting Bai    Emily Reisenbichler
Ginny Dailey  Darrell Sanders
Liz Hanson     Dara Wakefield
Marian Kraemer   Xiaojun Wu
Jose Lima

Incoming Fellows 2007
Allyson Baker (Molecular Genetics fellow)   Nicole Balmer (Surgical Pathology fellow)
Holly Burford (Surgical Pathology fellow)   Tad Cherry (Transfusion Medicine fellow)
Tonya Eichelberger (Hematopath fellow)     Ranleigh Fleshman (Surgical Path fellow)
Nick Hilliard (Dermatopathology fellow)    Brenda Katz (Hematopathology fellow)
Carrie Knight (GI Pathology fellow)         Stephen Mason (Dermatopathology fellow)
Bruce Wainer (Neuropathology fellow)        Zhijie Yan (Cytopathology fellow).

Dr. Marques says good-bye to the two outgoing Chief Residents.

At the reception, two faculty members chosen by the residents also received awards for excellence in teaching:

Dr. Shu Huang received the Award for Excellence in Teaching in Laboratory Medicine. This award was renamed this year in honor of Dr. Huang, who has been recognized many times for his outstanding teaching efforts. The award will now be known as the “Shu T. Huang Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine Education.”

Dr. Lorenz presents Kathrina Alexander with the McDonald award.

Dr. Omar Hameed received the Leonard H. Robinson Award for Excellence in Resident Education in Anatomical Pathology.

Yara Park presents Dr. Huang with his award

Dr. Siegal presents Holly Burford with her award

Tonya Eichelberger and Dr. Walter Bell

Preeti Sharma presents Dr. Hameed with the Robinson award.
The Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program Picnic and Award Ceremony was held June 02, 2007 at Homewood Park.

Awards:

Scott Isbell received the “Most Outstanding MCP Graduate Student” award

Scott Isbell and Brian Dranka were recognized for their contributions as presiding officers for 2006-2007.

Mick Edmonds received the Service Award

Dr. Scott Ballinger was honored by the students as the “Most Outstanding Faculty”

After the picnic, graduate students, faculty, staff, and family joined together for a game of kickball.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Reception
Tuesday, September 04, 2007
PITTMAN CAMS, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
This event is to welcome all the first year incoming students and second year transfers

Pathology Graduate Student Research Day
Friday, October 19, 2007
HUC GREAT HALL, 10:00 PM - 4:30 PM
This day is modeled after a national scientific meeting with a combination of poster and oral presentations presented by students within the Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program.
Pathology Faculty Published Manuscripts January – July 2007


61. Hameed O, Kleij MJ. WTX, a presumed tumor suppressor gene, is commonly inactivated in sporadic nephroblastoma. Advances in Anatomic Pathology 2007;14:234


78. Landar, A., and Darley-Usmar, V.M. "Is the soluble guanylate cyclase pathway the only one available for nitric oxide (NO) signaling?" IUBMB Life 2007; 59: 110-112.


