

Jay M. McDonald, MD

Robert and Ruth Anderson Professor and Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been my great honor to have served as Chair of the Department of Pathology at UAB for the last 18 years. These years have been very rewarding and I believe that the accomplishments have been notable. This is due to the excellence of our faculty, staff and trainees who now and forever will carry a piece of UAB with them wherever they go.

I now pass the helm to Dr. Kevin Roth. Dr. Roth has my full support and I am excited to know that the Department is in great hands. He has earned this opportunity and I am absolutely certain he will be an outstanding chair.

I shall remain on the faculty, continuing to direct the Center for Metabolic Bone Disease, co-direct the new NIH-funded UAB Center for Translational Science Award, direct my own research program, assist the new Director of the UAB Research Foundation, David Winwood, facilitating the interface between the faculty and his office, and provide service in Laboratory Medicine to the VA. Of course, I shall assist Dr. Roth as requested as he moves the Department forward.

Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to make the UAB Pathology Department one of the best in the country.

Sincerely,

Jay M. McDonald, M.D.

MESSAGE FROM DR. KEVIN A. ROTH, THE INCOMING CHAIR



Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D.

It is an honor to have been selected as the next Chairman of Pathology at UAB. The Department has grown dramatically over the last eighteen years under the leadership of Dr. Jay McDonald and has reached unprecedented heights in national recognition. The Chronicle of Higher Education recently ranked the UAB Department of Pathology Graduate Student Program third in the country based on faculty scholarship data determined by Academic Analytics. Similarly, based on 2007 NIH grant award data, UAB ranks sixth in the country for funding to Departments of Pathology. In addition to an outstanding research enterprise, the Department is home to a cadre of internationally-recognized physicians offering expert clinical and diagnostic services across a wide array of pathology subdisciplines. These faculty members, in combination with an excellent group of residents and fellows, perform approximately seven million laboratory tests and over 40,000 surgical pathology examinations per year. The department's recognized strengths in clinical service, research and teaching; combined with strong connections between the Department of Pathology, the School of Medicine, and the entire UAB Health System provides a solid foundation for future departmental growth.

Our department is entering an exciting and challenging era. Changes in health care delivery, medical education and research support will demand novel approaches and solutions to keep our department vibrant. My intent is to be proactive in identifying opportunities that will enhance our clinical and academic missions. I look forward to working with all Department of Pathology affiliated personnel including faculty, residents, fellows, graduate students, administrators, and support staff to reach our shared goals. I will give an "inaugural address" on September 2nd at 3:00 p.m. in WPCC Room E to present an overview of the Department and my vision for its future. This presentation is open to the entire UAB community; however, I particularly want to invite the Department of Pathology faculty, support staff, graduate students, residents, fellows, and UAB Hospital associates to attend.

Best wishes,

Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D.

**PATHOLOGY IN FOCUS
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KEEP IN TOUCH.....

e-mail: pathinfo@uab.edu

FACULTY PROFILES



Aimee Landar, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pathology, Division of Molecular and Cellular Pathology

Dr. Aimee Landar is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Landar followed an unusual path to this position by earning a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of South Alabama in Mobile in flute performance. When asked about this, she replied, "I was initially committed to study Biology with a Music minor, but within the first year I transferred completely to a Music major. This was a difficult decision for me, but I found the musical training to be more personally challenging and exciting than the Biology program, which was very didactic." However, in the Biology program she developed a curiosity about research, so she pursued a small research project on a volunteer basis. This initial experience led to multiple laboratory experiences as an undergraduate over the next four years which opened the doors for her to pursue a doctoral degree in Basic Medical Sciences (Pharmacology) at the University of South Alabama. In 1998, she initially joined UAB to study protein structure-function, and then later transitioned into free radical biology as a Post Doctoral fellow. During this time, she received a National Research Service Award from the NIH.

In 2005, Dr. Landar was appointed to the faculty in the Department of Pathology and has developed a research program focused on the mechanisms of protein modification by reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (ROS/RNS), and electrophiles. The ultimate goal of these projects is to apply these concepts to the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases such as atherosclerosis, cancer, obesity and liver inflammation.



Michael Conner, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology
Div. of Anatomic Pathology

Dr. Conner joined the UAB Pathology Department faculty in July 1992 following a ten-year career in private practice in Jackson, Mississippi. At UAB he initially

worked under the tutelage of the late Dr. Hazel Gore, where he developed a strong interest in gynecologic pathology as his specialty.

Dr. Conner attended the University of Alabama undergraduate school and School of Medicine. Following medical school he had a brief career as a pediatrician, completing a one year pediatric internship, which quickly disabused him of the idea of spending the remainder of his working life doing such things. He completed his anatomic and clinical pathology residency, a hematopathology fellowship, and surgical pathology fellowship at UAB. While in medical school he was a "Lupton" fellow during the time when Dr. Lupton was actually the Chair of the Pathology Department.

Dr. Conner's service time is devoted exclusively to gynecologic pathology. His research projects are varied and are mostly collaborative efforts with faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. One of his largest projects is an ongoing HPV vaccine study. Among his more time-consuming activities are the Gynecologic Tumor Board, reviewing outside consults, and serving as the Gynecologic Oncology Group pathologist for UAB.

Dr. Conner teaches in the SOM, having served as the Coursemaster for the Reproductive Segment of Correlative Pathology for the past thirteen years. He plans on assuming a reduced role in the Reproductive Module of the new medical school curriculum. Dr. Conner was the Interim Head of Surgical Pathology from 2001 to 2003.

Outside of work, Dr. Conner spends much of his time woodworking, off-roading in an old Jeep, and with his wife Karen enjoying their four children and first grandchild (Anne Marie, born February 2008). He looks forward to fulfilling a longtime goal of restoring an old 1960's era VW bus when he eventually retires.



Ken B. Waites, MD
Professor of Pathology, Head of Microbiology, Division of Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Ken Waites is Professor in the Departments of Pathology & Microbiology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Critical and Diagnostic Care. He received his medical degree and completed residency at UAB, and then joined UAB as the Co-Director

of the Diagnostic Mycoplasma Laboratory. In 1991, he was appointed the Director of Clinical Microbiology, and has since been a senior scientist in the UAB Injury Control Research Center, Faculty Investigator for the Mucosal HIV and Immunobiology Center, and Medical Director of UAB's Diagnostic Mycoplasma Laboratory.

Dr. Waites is involved with many, regional, national, and international committees; and is an expert in the areas of clinical microbiology, such as antibiotic resistance and mycoplasma. From 1998-2001, he sat on the National Board of Medical Examiners Pathology Test Committee. In 2001, Dr. Waites was named Chair of the CLSI Subcommittee on Methods for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Human Mycoplasmas. He is also highly involved with the International Organization for Mycoplasma. He is a past-chair, and is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Ken Waites has received numerous honors and awards, including election to Fellow in the Infectious Disease Society of America and the American Academy of Microbiology. He received the Division G Lecturer Award at the American Society for Microbiology General Meeting earlier this year. Since 1983, Dr. Waites has worked on over 75 grants and contracts, published hundreds of times and given over 150 oral presentations. Dr. Waites's service to patients at UAB and beyond, his dedication to teaching, and his record of research accomplishments make him one of the great role models in the Division of Laboratory Medicine.

ACCOLADES

Dr. Darshana Jhala and Dr. Nirag Jhala were invited as Guest Faculty to give a 3-day workshop at Cytopath '08 in Singapore in June 2008. This 3-day course was given on both Gyn and Non-Gyn cytology, and was attended by over 130 participants that registered from about 10 different countries of the region.

Dr. Bruce Alexander was elected President of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists at its June 5th meeting at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Alexander is the second President of ACLPS from UAB. Dr. Jon V. Straumfjord, Jr. was the first in 1968. Dr. Jay McDonald served as President in 1987-88, while at Washington University in St. Louis. The next ACLPS meeting will be in June, 2009 at UCLA.

FROM THE CHIEF RESIDENTS



Diane Petersen, M.D. Anatomic Pathology



Jeremy Henderson M.D. Clinical Pathology

We welcome the new residents and fellows who joined our program in July. We look forward to a great year!

Jeremy Henderson and Diane Peterson
Chief Residents, 2008-2009

Boards

Best wishes to everyone taking board exams this fall. You have worked hard and will do well!

ACGME Site Visit: The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education five year site visit of the residency program on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 went very well.

RESIDENT AND FELLOW OUTGOING RECEPTION AND AWARDS

Primary faculty, fellows, and residents attended the 2008 Outgoing Reception on Thursday, May 22, at Vestavia Hills Country Club. Residents and fellows finishing their training received certificates of completion. Awards were presented to **Mark Steciuk** (Jay M. McDonald Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine Presentation), **Kathryn Clary** (Kracke Award for Best Presentation in Anatomic Pathology), and **Carrie Knight** (Roger Denio Baker Prize in Anatomical Pathology).



Drs. Michael Klein and Jay McDonald congratulate **Nicole Balmer**, **Holly Burford**, and **Ranleigh Fleshman** on completion of their fellowships in Surgical Pathology.



Incoming chiefs (**Jeremy Henderson** and **Diane Peterson**) stand with outgoing chiefs (**Carrie Knight** and **Meredith Lakey**) after presenting them with cards signed by the residents and fellows thanking them for their year of service as chiefs.



Shi Wei receives his certificate of residency completion from Dr. Jay McDonald.

RESIDENCY AUTOPSY PARTY AT DR. ALEXANDER'S



FELLOW TEACHING



Publications: Xiaojun Wu is a coauthor on "T Cells Potentiate PTH- Induced Cortical Bone Loss Through CD40L Signaling," which is accepted for publication in *Cell Metabolism*.

NATIONAL MEETINGS

American Society for Clinical Pathology
The Annual ASCP Meeting will be held on October 16 – 19 in Baltimore, Maryland. **Shaoying Li** will present the poster "D-dimer: A New Marker for Relapsing/Recurrent Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura." Faculty mentor is Dr. Shu T. Huang. **Kathrina Alexander** will give an oral presentation titled "Thrombotic Events in the Setting of Activated Recombinant Clotting Factor VII Use." Faculty mentor is Dr. Marisa B. Marques. **Virginia Dailey** will give an oral presentation titled "Primary Enteric Adenocarcinoma of the Prostatic Urethra: An Overview of Three Cases with Emphasis on its Immunohistochemical Profile." Faculty mentor is Dr. Omar Hameed. Both **Kathrina** and **Virginia** were among ten finalists selected for the AJCP Resident Research Symposium.

College of American Pathologists

The Annual CAP Meeting will be held on September 25 – 28 in San Diego, California. **Emily Reisenbichler** will present the poster "β-Human Chorionic Gonadotropin Production Associated with Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast: An Unusual Paraneoplastic Phenomenon." Faculty mentor is Dr. Omar Hameed. **Xiaojun Wu** will present the poster "Mesenchymal Transition in Pancreatic Carcinoma." Faculty mentor is Dr. Nirag Jhala. **Kathrina Alexander** will present the poster "Diagnosis of Copper-Deficiency Myelodysplasia." Faculty mentors are Drs. Vishnu V. B. Reddy and Yongsheng Ren.

American Society of Cytopathology

The Annual ASC Meeting will be held on November 7 – 11 in Orlando, Florida. **Carrie Knight** will present the poster "Utility of Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration in Diagnosis of Perirectal Lesions and in Staging of Colorectal Carcinoma." Faculty mentor is Dr. Isam Eltoum.

American Association of Blood Banks

The Annual AABB Meeting will be held on October 4 – 7 in Montreal, Canada. **Kathrina Alexander** will present the poster "Prospective Review of Thrombosis Complications Following Recombinant Factor VIIa." Faculty mentor is Dr. Marisa B. Marques. **Virginia Dailey** will present the poster "Stock Platelets May Provide Appropriate Platelet Increment for Patients with Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia." Faculty mentor is Dr. Marisa B. Marques.

PATHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM

Scott W. Ballinger, PhD,
Program Director

INCOMING STUDENT RECEPTION

Faculty and Students
September 8, 2009, 4:00-6:00 PM
Shelby Building Room 105

PREP PROGRAM

We have completed another successful summer program for college students' experience. The PREP Program concluded July 25, 2008, with Poster Presentations at the West Pavilion Conference Center

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations

Ying Geng successfully presented the public defense of her thesis dissertation May 16, 2008, entitled "*p53-dependent Neural Stem Cell Death Regulation.*"

Lakisha Moore successfully completed her final dissertation defense on June 20, 2008, entitled, "*Modulation of TGF- β and its implications for Breast Cancer Metastasis.*"

April Adams Szafran defended her thesis dissertation on July 25, 2008, entitled "*The Use of Molecular Imaging to Evaluate the Efficacy of Treatments for Metastatic Breast Cancer.*"

STUDENT AWARDS:

Junghyun Kim: Honorable Mention, 24th Annual Trainee Research Symposium

Thomas Bodenshteyn: Department of Defense (DoD) Breast Cancer Research Program Predoctoral Fellowship

Mick Edmonds: DOD Predoctoral fellowship for Breast Cancer Research

Dario Vitturi: Predoctoral Fellowship Award by the American Heart Association

Ashlee Preston: Predoctoral Fellowship Award by the American Heart Association

PATHOLOGY PICNIC AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday JUNE 21, 2008

Graduate Students Awards - Brian Dranka



Scott Ballinger Speaking



A Family Affair



Excellent BBQ and fun



Faculty vs. Student Kick Ball Game



RECENT EVENTS:

The Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program held its annual Awards Picnic at the Vestavia Hills Wald Park on June 21, 2008 (see pictures). Ralph Sanderson won Outstanding Faculty of the Year and Lauren Van Duyn won Outstanding Student of the Year.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Summer Commencement

August 9, 2009, Bartow Arena

MCP Welcome Reception for new graduate students – September 8, 2008, Shelby 102/105.

Pathology Graduate Student Research Day
October 22, 2008, Great Hall, Hill University Center.

Dr. Rakesh Patel will be assuming the role of MCP Graduate Program Director in October, 2008. Outgoing Director, Dr. Scott Ballinger, has served for 3 years.

The Pathology Graduate Program can be reached at (205) 934-2445.