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Message from the Chair



Pathology has been described as the medical subdiscipline in which practitioners "know everything and do everything, but too late for the patient". Although this assessment of pathologists was never truly accurate, we now have an opportunity to dispel these misperceptions and claim a health care position not just at the terminal end of the patient's life, but prior to disease onset when prevention is paramount.

Increasing media and professional attention is being focused on "Personalized Medicine" and its various alternative descriptors "Genomic Medicine" and "Customized Health Care" as a means to improve patient outcomes while reducing health care costs. For these goals to be realized, patient specific clinical

and laboratory data must be accurately captured, stored and analyzed. Some patient specific information such as whole genomic sequencing, was previously considered too expensive to obtain or too complex to interpret. However, recent advances in laboratory instrumentation, and computer technology make even low cost whole human genome sequencing a near term possibility. The challenge for health care professionals in general, and pathologists in particular, will be to develop the necessary informational systems and computational tools to convert masses of patient specific data into meaningful recommendations for disease prevention and treatment. Pathologists, via both direct interactions with patients and with their primary health care providers, will be empowered as never before to directly affect patient care.

To prepare the UAB Department of Pathology for this exciting evolution in our discipline, we have allocated significant resources to our nascent Division of Informatics and plan to expand our recruitment efforts in Informatics, Molecular Diagnostics, Laboratory Medicine, and Surgical Pathology. It will be imperative to develop close collaborations with our colleagues in various disciplines including computer science, engineering, epidemiology and genetics to effectively translate advances in low cost genetic testing into targeted therapies for individual patients. I am confident that UAB's interdisciplinary environment and innovative spirit will facilitate the development of "Primary Care Pathology".

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

Storm Relief:

Storm Relief:

Dear Faculty, Staff, Post Docs and Students,

As we all start to recover from the tragic events that occurred on April 27th we hope that you and your families are safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their homes or loved ones in the storm. If you have been directly affected by these events we will do everything we can to assist you in this difficult time. If this is the case, please talk to your immediate supervisor and we will make it a priority to provide whatever help we can.

If you are interested in helping those affected by the tornados, please see the information below:

Helping Through UAB:

UAB is setting up a special fund to assist faculty, staff and students with emergency needs. Contact: 205-934-1581. Temporary offices are being set up to handle intake of applications on the first floor Human Resources Office in the Administration Building, the first floor HR office in the Russell Building at the hospital, and the Office of Student Life, 110 Hill University Center.

Persons who would like to donate to that fund should make checks out to The Benevolent Fund, designated for tornado relief, and take or mail it to AB B-84, 1530 3rd Avenue South; Birmingham, AL 35294-0100.

Helping in Birmingham:

Katie Haralson has signed up as a group volunteer coordinator with Hands On Birmingham. If you are interested in volunteering in the Birmingham area, please contact her via email at katie86@uab.edu.

Hands On Birmingham released the following statement:

Cont'd...

Storm Relief Cont'd:

"We are humbled by the response to the volunteer need in the aftermath of yesterday's tornadoes. We know you are patiently waiting to get to it, so we wanted to give you a quick update. First, we are still waiting to get the go ahead from the EMA to send volunteers in. They are not finished with search and rescue yet- we must wait until that is complete for the safety of the victims and our volunteers."

Links for Ways to Help in the Birmingham area:

<http://magiccitypost.com/2011/04/27/tornadoes-kill-dozens-across-alabama-now-is-the-time-to-help/>

[tornadoes-kill-dozens-across-alabama-now-is-the-time-to-help/](http://magiccitypost.com/2011/04/27/tornadoes-kill-dozens-across-alabama-now-is-the-time-to-help/)

If you have any more information about volunteer efforts around the state, please contact emily.capilouto@gmail.com and I will be happy to pass the information along. Your support is appreciated during this time of need.

Monetary Donations:

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, please make checks payable to United Way of West Alabama. Donations can be

left in Room 130 in the Dean's Office.

Donation Location for Tuscaloosa
United Way of West Alabama
2720 6th St.
Tuscaloosa 35401

For more information about efforts in Tuscaloosa please see: <http://www.cbs42.com/content/localnews/story/Tuscaloosa-Needs-Your-Help-How-to-Volunteer/cNqtlFPxkCwI6-WkiJmLQ.csp?rss=1659>

Faculty Profile: Kenneth Fallon



Born and raised in New Orleans, Ken's interest in pathology developed long before medical school. He always had much curiosity about the anatomic complexity of all organ systems, with an especially keen interest in the central nervous system. During his undergraduate years at the University of New Orleans, histology became one of his favorite courses. After graduating from the University of New Orleans in 1985 with a degree in biology, he entered the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in New Orleans. From 1989 to 1994 he was a resident in the Department of Pathology at LSUHSC-New Orleans. After completing a residency in anatomic and

clinical pathology, Ken's surgical pathology practice in the 1990's was a combination of both community hospital settings and that of Charity Hospital in downtown New Orleans.

In 2001, he entered the neuropathology fellowship program here at UAB. He returned to practice at LSUHSC-New Orleans in 2003. In August 2005, however, Hurricane Katrina necessitated relocation from New Orleans. Post-Katrina, he accepted a locum tenens at UAB. He then spent 3 years at West Virginia University where he was awarded Clinician Teacher of the Year in 2007 and Educator of the Year in 2008.

Ken returned to UAB in August 2009 as Associate Professor in the Division of Neuropathology. He provides a variety of services at both UAB and the Birmingham VA Medical Center which includes neuropathology, general surgical

pathology, autopsy neuropathology, and general autopsy pathology. He also provides support for neuropathology research in dementia. He has great enthusiasm for teaching in both practical, sign-out based settings and in his lectures which cover a wide variety of topics in neuropathology.

Ken also enjoys gardening and has an avid interest in local history. He and his wife Rose will celebrate 19 years of marriage in May. They have 2 children, a son (Kenny Jr., 16) and daughter (Katherine, 14) who are enjoying their time in high school. This summer, Ken looks forward to reminiscing his own high school years as he revisits with fellow alumni at their 30-year reunion.

Where are They Now?

From the Pathology Residency Program



John T. Lam, M.D.

Dr. John Lam completed his residency training at UAB in 2000. He graduated from the Tulane University School of Medicine in 1990 and served in the US Army Medical Corps before residency. He served as CP Chief Resident at UAB 1998-1999. After residency, he completed a three year fellowship in Cancer Gene Therapy at the UAB Gene Therapy Center. He then received hematology

and oncology fellowship training at UAB. He received board certification in hematopathology and is a fellow of the College of American Pathologists. Dr. Lam currently serves as Assistant Professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. His primary role is in clinical service interpreting bone marrow and lymph node biopsies, flow cytometry, HPLC, and other laboratory tests. He also serves as Director of the UMMC Clinical Laboratories Hematology section. He is active in teaching medical students and residents. Dr. Lam collaborates with Roy J. Duhé, Professor Pharmacology and Toxicology at UMMC,

in investigating JAK2 abnormalities in Hodgkin lymphoma and breast cancer. Dr. Lam's research interest is in identifying and characterizing biomarkers in cancers as targets for novel targeted drugs such as tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Dr. Lam states, "My residency training at UAB was invaluable and provided the experience and expertise that I rely on daily. I owe so much to Dr. Reddy and the other faculty for my training. Dr. Siegal and Dr. McDonald were also influential in broadening my research interests." John enjoys spending time with his wife Michèle and their children Anna, 14, Moses, 12, Billy Joe, 9, and Gretchen, 4.

"My residency training at UAB was invaluable and provided the experience and expertise that I rely on daily."

Portrait Unveiled:

The oil portrait of Jay M. McDonald, M.D., Chair of Pathology from 1990-2008 was unveiled during the departmental faculty meeting on April 25th. Dr. McDonald's portrait will be hung in the Jay M. McDonald Conference Room in the Chair's office in West Pavilion.



Photo from L to R:
Ray L. Watts, M.D.
Dean of SDM
Kevin A. Roth, MD, PhD
Chair of Pathology
Jay M. McDonald, M.D.

Patel Named New UAB HHMI Med-to-Grad Director:



The Department of Pathology is pleased to announce that Dr. Rakesh Patel

has been appointed as the new Director of the UAB Howard

Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Med-to-Grad Program. This program has become the model for translational research training programs and has 35 active students to date. Dr. Patel has extensive experience in graduate education and is currently serving as Director of the MCP graduate pro-

gram. He received his training at the University of Essex in the UK and joined UAB as a Postdoc in 1997. He now leads a major research program focused on the action of heme proteins and free radicals in the pathology of human disease.

Accolades:



ASCP President-Elect, C. Bruce Alexander, MD, FASCP has been selected to receive the 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education from the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC). The award will be presented at the 2011 APC Annual Meeting on July 13.



Peter G. Anderson, DVM, PhD has been selected to receive the 2011 Michele Raible Distinguished Teaching Award in Undergraduate Medical Education from the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC). The award will be presented at the 2011 APC meeting on July 13.



Dr. Margaret Brandwein-Gensler received a very posi-

tive review of her book, *Head and Neck: Cambridge Illustrated Surgical Pathology*, in the ACP News (American College of Physicians) August 2010 issue. In addition, she has recently received a CCC-CFAR grant for her project, "HPV Status and Immune Response in Lung and Head & Neck Cancers in HIV+ Patients." Dr. Brandwein-Gensler became Section Head of Surgical Pathology in November, 2009. Her considerable expertise is in head and neck pathology.



Steven L. Carroll, MD, PhD has been selected to receive the 2011 Dean's Excellence in Mentorship Award.



Ona Faye-Petersen, M.D. was awarded the President's Distinguished Colleague Award from the Society

for Pediatric Pathology, which she received at this year's annual SPP/USCAP meeting, for her leadership and extensive service, as Chair of the SPP Education Committee. This is Dr. Faye-Petersen's second time to receive this award.. She received her first, in 2002, for establishing the SPP Perinatal Section, the annual multidisciplinary Perinatal Symposia, and for directing the first, and only, of the Society's free standing, three-day courses in the subspecialty. Dr. Faye-Petersen is one of only five recipients and the first woman to receive this award, twice, since the SPP was founded in 1965.



Casey Weaver, MD has been nominated for active membership in the Association of American Physicians.

Nahm Chosen as Chair Elect of Division V of ASM:



Moon Nahm, MD, Professor of Pathology, was recently chosen as Chair-Elect

of Division V of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). ASM is a scientific organization with more

than 43,000 members in the United States and internationally. It is the largest life science professional organization in the USA, and its members include those whose interests encompass basic and applied aspects of viruses, bacteria, fungi, algae, and protozoa, as well as other aspects of microbiology. Division V of the ASM

represents professionals involved in clinical and diagnostic laboratories and promotes research and career development in this area of clinical science. The Chair-Elect becomes the Chair in the second year of service, and at that time, he will be responsible for representing the professional interests of his Division to the Society and to the public.

Spotlight on Administration—Melanie Daily:



Just recently, Melanie Daily celebrated her third anniversary with the Department of Pathology, working in

Pathology's Finance Office located in the John Whitaker building. She is the primary individual involved in the accumulation and distribution of Professional Development Funds. In addition, Melanie became the liaison between the Pathology Human Resource Office and the individual Divisions for managing and maintaining records for the Accrued Leave Reports. She has been diligent in ensuring accuracy in her recorded data and maintains a smooth monthly process to ensure timely reporting.

Melanie came to UAB with a gamut of past experience ranging from an officer with a stock brokerage firm in Birmingham to a title clerk for a car dealership, also in Birmingham. She's a quick study and enjoys a challenge. "As a matter of fact," Melanie states, "when my husband and I counseled with our pastor 24 years ago prior to our marriage, he asked for two things that we would like to accomplish in our lifetime. Immediately, learning to play the violin and speaking fluently in American Sign Language came to mind." Within several years, Melanie mastered both. "I was an interpreter for the deaf at our church for several years, and truly enjoyed it. I met the challenge head-on, and viewed it as an opportunity to be the ears of those who could not hear."

It was a devastating blow when in January 2006, Melanie completely

lost all hearing in her right ear. "My ear just stopped up one morning, and I could not get it to open back up that day for love nor money," says Melanie. "By the time I drove home that night, I knew I was in trouble—BIG trouble." The next three weeks were a blur as she fought to regain her sense of balance and normalcy. "This is the new norm for me now" states Melanie. "So if I turn my body to position you on my left side, that's why. At first, people thought I was a snob because I wouldn't answer them...now, most understand that I just can't hear out of my right ear."

Melanie and her husband Max celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary in March. They met while working together at South Central Bell. They have one daughter, Nicole, who is a freshman at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Pathology Faculty Receive Medical Student Teaching Awards:

The 16th Annual Argus Society Awards Ceremony was recently held at the School of Medicine "to honor the faculty and departments that have exhibited excellence in medical education." Once again, Pathology teaching faculty have attained a high level of recognition and numerous honors for their dedication to a mission of excellence in education.

Medical students from all four years of the curriculum and from all three medical campuses – Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa – voted to recognize and honor faculty lecturers, courses, clerkships, and departments who contributed the most to their educational experiences. Given that the nominations and awards are selected from hundreds



of individual faculty lecturers and multiple courses over the four-year medical school curriculum, it is unquestionably a prestigious honor for Pathology teaching faculty to be recognized and honored for their

commitment, service, and excellence in teaching.

Pathology faculty as well as courses led by Pathology faculty were well represented in the list of nominees and the winners for this year's Argus Awards. For the First Year Introductory Modules, Dr. Ken Waites was selected as "Best Overall Lecturer"; Dr. Peter Anderson and Dr. Ken Waites were selected as "Best Module Directors"; and the Fundamentals II Module led by Drs. Anderson and Waites was selected as "Best Module." For the First Year Organ System Modules, the Cardiovascular Module led by Dr. Silvio Litovsky and Dr. Barry Rayburn was selected as the "Best Module," and

Cont'd...

Medical Student Teaching Awards Cont'd:

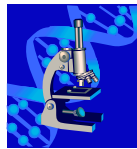
Drs. Litovsky and Rayburn were also recognized as the "Best Module Directors."

Many other Pathology faculty were nominated and recognized for their important contributions to the medical curriculum. Nominees for the First Year Argus Society Awards

included: Dr. Peter Anderson for "Best Lecturer"; Dr. Silvio Litovsky for "Best Lecturer"; Dr. Bruce Alexander for "Best First Year Organ System Module Director"; and the Pulmonary Module led by Dr. Alexander for "Best First Year Organ System Module." Nominees for the Second Year Argus Society Awards

included: Dr. Lea Novak for "Best Lecturer"; Dr. Richard Powers for "Best Second Year Module Clinical Co-director"; and the Neuroscience Module with Dr. Powers for the "Best Second Year Module."

New First Year Residents:



We're happy to announce our incoming first year residents!

Jason Brazelton (AP/CP)

Jason attended medical school at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, AL. He is currently an internal medicine resident at the University of Vermont.

Matt Cain (AP/CP)

Matt is currently a medical student at the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine in Augusta, GA.

Xiaoyan Cui (AP/CP)

Xiaoyan attended medical school at the Medical College of Qingdao University in China. She obtained a masters degree from Beijing Medical University, and then a Ph.D. from St. Louis University in Missouri. She completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California in Los Angeles. She is currently a researcher at UCLA.

Erik Kouba (AP/CP)

Erik was a chemical engineer prior to attending medical school at the University of North Carolina in

Chapel Hill, NC. He is currently a urology resident at Stanford.

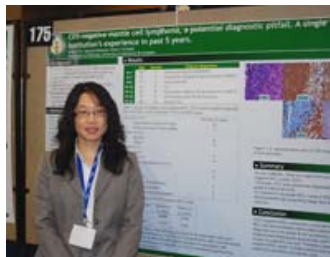
Deyin Xing (AP)

Deyin attended medical school at Nankai University in Tianjin, China. He obtained a Ph.D. from Peking Union Medical College and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Beijing. He is currently a postdoctoral associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Yaolin Zhou (AP/CP)

Yaolin is currently a medical student at Mayo Medical School in Rochester, MN.

Annual USCAP Meeting:



For the last several years UAB Pathology has had a dominant presence at the annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), being grouped among the top 20

institutions with accepted abstracts. This year was no exception as UAB was ranked in the top 5% of all 400 medical centers having abstracts accepted from around the world.

USCAP is the largest meeting in the world of Pathologists [4,200 in 2011] with the 100th anniversary meeting having seen 2,670 abstracts submitted and 1,960 accepted. All abstracts were subjected to blinded review by a mini-

mum of 4 content experts. Accepted submissions were subsequently published in Laboratory Investigation and Modern Pathology, the 2 Academy journals, and are available on-line. This corpus of 2 dozen + accepted submissions would not be possible without the diligent work of our outstanding residents and fellows mentored by a dedicated faculty and the Adams Fund which helped to sustain collection and interpretation of much of the data.

From the Chief Residents:

Thank you to Marian and Darrell for a great year! We are excited about the new residents who are joining the program in July and are looking forward to the upcoming year!

Amberly Nunez and Emily Gorman
Chief Residents, 2011-2012

Boards

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

Congratulations!

Chris Kragel was appointed as one of UAB's representatives to the CAP Residents Forum.

National Meetings

ASFA

The annual ASFA meeting will be held on June 1 - 4, 2011, in Scottsdale, Arizona. **Taylor Deal** will give an oral presentation entitled "Novel ADAMTS-13 Mutations in an Obstetric Patient with Upshaw-Schulman Syndrome." Faculty mentors are Drs. Jill Adamski and Marisa Marques.

Caitie Halverson will give an oral presentation entitled "Evaluation of fibrinogen levels in patients with acute cardiac transplant rejection who receive daily therapeutic plasma exchange. Faculty mentors are Drs. Jill Adamski and Marisa Marques.

AAOMP

The annual American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology will be held on April 28 - May 3, 2011, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

George Garib will give a poster presentation entitled "CD30-Positive T-cell Lymphoproliferative Disorder of the Oral Mucosa vs. TUGSE?" Faculty mentors are Drs. Patricia DeVilliers and Vishnu Reddy.

Farewell 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:

Kathrina Alexander: Surgical Pathology Fellowship, UAB

Shuting Bai: Surgical Pathology Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Amanda Crowe: Private Practice, Decatur, AL

Virginia Dailey: Private Practice, Decatur, AL

Zendee Elaba: Private Practice, Hartford, CT

George Gorgon: Interviews in progress

Rob Hackney: Continuation of Neuropathology Fellowship, UAB

Ben Havard: Cytopathology Fellowship, UAB

Shantel Hebert-Magee: Accepted a regional academic Cytopathologist position

Marian Kraemer: Surgical Pathology Fellowship, Stanford University, Stanford, CA followed by a Gastrointestinal Fellowship, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Liz Kerr: Lupton Research Fellow-

ship, UAB

Ami Linder: Surgical Pathology Fellowship, UAB

Faisal Mukhtar: Transfusion Medicine Fellowship, interviews in progress

Zenggeng Pan: Hematopathology Fellowship, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA

James Post: Faculty, Children's Hospital, Birmingham, AL

Emily Reisenbichler: Breast Fellowship followed by a Surgical Pathology Fellowship, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Darrell Sanders: Hematopathology Fellowship, UAB

Mark Steciuk: Private Practice, Jacksonville, FL

Xiaojun Wu: Hematopathology Fellowship, UAB followed by a Surgical Pathology Fellowship, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, New York, NY

Outgoing Reception

Primary faculty and residents and fellows are invited to attend the 2011 Outgoing Reception from 6 pm to 8 pm on Thursday, May 12, at the Vestavia Hills Country Club. For more information, please contact Karen Lewis at 934-4060 or kflewis@uab.edu.

2011 USCAP Meeting in Washington D.C. – Qian Dai and Chris Kragel



From the Residents Cont'd:

- Dinner at USCAP with faculty and residents



2011 Joint Meeting of the International Society of Dermatopathology in New Orleans, LA

Resident Social at Cocina Superior

Resident Johnny Ross with wife Tara and son Jack



Goodbye Dr. Hameed!

Residents and faculty wished Dr. Hameed farewell as he begins his new position of Director of Surgical Pathology and Associate Director of Anatomic Pathology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Hameed is an incredibly talented pathologist, great teacher and mentor to many. We wish him the best of luck as he makes this transition.



- Dr. Andea, George Garib, Zende Elaba and Thuy Nguyen (from left to right)



Dr. McDonald Receives the Gold-Headed Cane Award:



L-R: Dr. Charles Parkos (President, ASIP), Dr. Jay M. McDonald, and Dr. Kevin A. Roth

Dr. Jay M. McDonald received this year's ASIP Gold-Headed Cane Award. This is the most prestigious honor granted by ASIP to a member, in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching, excellence in the field, and leadership in Pathology.

Dr. McDonald received the Gold-Headed Cane, a mahogany cane with a 14-karat gold head and engraved band, at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on April 11, 2011 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.

From the Graduate Students:

Accolades/Awards:

Jack Heath—Finished 9th Place in the Mercedes Marathon on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011 with a time of 2hrs 48min



Stephen K. Babitz—Accepted to NASA's 2011 Space Radiation Summer School at Brookhaven National Labs on Long Island. It takes place in June 2011.

From the website: The NASA Space Radiation Summer School ("NSRSS") at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory is designed to provide a "pipeline" of researchers to tackle the challenges of harmful radiation exposure to humans who will travel on space exploration missions. Co-sponsored by NASA's Space Radiation Research Program, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Universities Space Research Association; the three-week course has been offered each summer for seven years through an open and increasingly competitive application process.

<http://www.dsrs.usra.edu/spacerad/>

Michael Alberti—Received 3rd Place in Session #4 at the Graduate Student Research Day. "Targeting Adenovirus to leukocyte subsets for viral hand-off and gene transfer to pulmonary endothelium."

Ryan Corrick—Selected for the Endocrine Trainee Day as part of the Endocrine Society 93rd Annual Meeting and Expo to be held on June 4- 7th. The Endocrine Trainee Day Award includes a special day-long program for attendees, complementary registration to the meeting, and a \$400 travel award. <http://www.endo-society.org/endo2011/audience/fellows.cfm>

Jason W. Ashley—is the recipient of the JHS Outstanding Student in Pathology. The Honors Convocation will be held on Friday, May 6, 2011 at the Alys Stephens Center.

Yanna Ding—Chosen as a Semi-Finalist for the Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Research by a Graduate Student in the 27th Annual Trainee Research Symposium in the Department of Medicine on March 4, 2011. Her poster was entitled "Sequential effects of IL-21 and IL-17 to regulate spleen CXCR5+ follicular T-helper cells in autoimmune BXD2 mice."

Angela Gullard—Received 1st Place award in the Basic Science category of the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) National Student Research Group (NSRG) DENTSPLY/Caulk Competition. This competition took place during the 89th General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research in San Diego, California. Her poster was entitled "Dental Alterations Associated with Hyperactive TGF-beta1 in Camurati-Engelmann Disease."

Angela also received 3rd Place award in the Basic Science cate-

gory of the UAB School of Dentistry 6th Annual Scholars' Symposium. She also gave a presentation as a student speaker for this symposium.

General News:



Spring 2011 Commencement
May 7, 2011



Summer 2011
Class Registration Begins
March 28, 2011

Upcoming Events:

Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program Afternoon Social—May 6, 2011
Pittman Center
3:00pm – 5:00pm

Department of Pathology Summer PREP Program
May 23, 2011 – July 29, 2011

Graduate Program Director:

Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.

Graduate Program Support:

Nicole Newton

934-2445

Pathology Service Awards:

This year's Employee Service Award Ceremony was held on February 21st. The following employees received awards:

30 Years:

Robert M. Brissie, M.D.

25 Years:

James R. Oliver

20 Years:

Stephanie Byer
Virginia Goodall
Gene P. Siegal, M.D., Ph.D.

15 Years:

Cassandra Cummings
Victor Darley-Usmar, Ph.D.
Karen F. Lewis
Karen M. Lewis

10 Years:

Xu Feng, Ph.D.
Holly E. Henderson
Michael E. Jordan
Donna W. Knight
Kristina TC Panizzi Woodley
Elouisa Presnall
Karina C. Ricart
John J. Shacka, Ph.D.
Jun Xu

5 Years:

Tao Yu
Samantha Gromko
Gordon S. Hearn
Kerry L. Heaton
Jennifer F. Whiddon
Majd Zayzafoon, M.D., Ph.D.
Jianhua Zhang, Ph.D.

The Department of Pathology would like to thank its staff and faculty for their dedication and hard work.



New PA in the Department of Pathology:



Every year, there are more open positions for Blood Bank-

ing/Transfusion Medicine (BB/TM)-trained physicians than the number of graduating fellows. Thus, the competition for the best and the brightest is fierce and many TM services such as ours struggle to attract attending physicians. We were very fortunate to have attracted Jill Adamski, MD, PhD, in July of 2010. However, since Dr. Huang's retirement in December and Jose Lima's move to the American Red Cross in November, we are back at two faculty members staffing the transfusion and the apheresis services. We are thankful to be able to

hire moonlighting physicians such as Tad Cherry and Marla Troughton for some nights and weekends, but it is clear to everyone that our service load demands more attending physicians. As we contemplated our reality, we recently decided to try a new model of care with a Physician Assistant (PA). Although the UAB PA curriculum does not include specific training in BB/TM, it is broad-based and provides excellent basic knowledge to its students. Cristina Evans graduated last December from UAB and came highly recommended by her program director. After the diligent work of a lot of people and Drs. Roth and Smith full-support, Cristina started working only a month ago and has already made a tremendous impact. She works full-time with the attending and resident

physicians, as well as the BB staff. Cristina is already in charge of coordinating the care of the sickle cell disease patients who need chronic red cell exchange or have other special transfusion requirements. She also helps coordinate the apheresis schedule in order to make sure that we efficiently plan and execute every procedure within each workday and avoid staying late on a regular basis. During her first month, we performed a record number of apheresis procedures (> 170) and she was essential to help take care of the patients in a variety of roles. We are convinced that this new model of care will continue to be a success as Cristina learns more and more about our service.

—Marisa B. Marques, MD

Relay for Life Helps ACS Fund Groundbreaking Cancer Research:



A small step led to a giant leap in a UAB laboratory supported by grant funding from the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Associate Professor Andra Frost, M.D., is one of many UAB researchers who have benefitted from the ACS, the nation's largest private, not-for-profit source of funds for scientists studying cancer.

Frost's Anatomic Pathology lab has shown that the Gli1 protein and Gli-mediated transcription — known for their roles in the progression of skin and pancreatic cancer — also play a

role in the progression of ER-negative and triple-negative breast cancers.

"Our data indicate that Gli1 and Gli-mediated transcription are important in the invasion, migration, metastasis and survival of these breast cancers," Frost says. "Now, we're looking at inhibitors to see if they would be effective, targeted therapies in this sub group of breast cancers that doesn't have any. We couldn't have uncovered this information without support from the ACS."

Funding for this and other types of cancer research at UAB is supported by events such as Relay for Life, scheduled from 6 p.m. Friday, April 1 to 6 a.m. Saturday, April 2, in the UAB Mini Park. Registration for the event is \$10 and is under way

now online at www.relayforlife.org/uab. You can form a team or join one of more than 20 accepting members.

"The ACS is a vital resource for cancer researchers who are in the early stages of their research careers," Frost says. "It provides funding that enables them to generate preliminary data so that they can compete for funding from other sources. ACS support enabled us to obtain additional funding that moved the work of our laboratory forward."

Frost's research offers hope that inhibitors of Gli-mediated transcription can be developed to deliver targeted therapies to treat triple-negative and ER-negative breast cancers and prevent metastasis — the process where the cancer spreads from the primary tumor to distant locations in the body.

Cont'd...

Relay for Life Cont'd...

Frost is working with a chemist at the North Dakota State University, Mukund Sibi, to synthesize and test compounds that will inhibit Gli-mediated transcription.

Researchers discovered several years ago that Gli1 and Gli-mediated transcription is important for cancer invasion — a process by which the cancer cells leave the primary

tumor and travel through the normal tissue surrounding the tumor. After that, the cancer cells can gain access to a blood vessel and make their way through the blood stream to another organ and spread there.

If a compound can be created to prevent recurrence and metastasis, the long-term outlook for many

cancer patients could be dramatically improved, she says.

—This story was reprinted from the March 23rd edition of the UAB E-Reporter.

20th Annual Paulette Shirey Pritchett Lecture:

The 20th Annual Paulette Shirey Pritchett Lecture was held on April 4, 2011. Our honoree was Eric

Green, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. His talk was entitled "Charting a Course for Genomic Medicine." A reception was held in

Pittman CAMS honoring both Dr. Green and the Pritchett family immediately following the seminar.



New Endowed Professorship:



The Department of Pathology is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Victor M. Darley-Usmar as the inaugural Endowed Professor of Mitochondrial Medicine and Pathology.

The biochemical mechanisms that occur in the mitochondrion through which cells generate energy using oxygen metabolism has been known for several decades. Until recently the mitochondrion, also known as the powerhouse of the cell, was seen to be a passive victim of the pathological stress associated with chronic diseases

such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This picture is now changing with the recognition that mitochondria are active signaling centers and determine the fate of the cell and this changes during the pathology of disease. The foundation of this Endowed Professorship in Mitochondrial Medicine and Pathology is in recognition of this emerging field and supports leadership in this area of research in the Department of Pathology and UAB.

Dr. Darley-Usmar is Vice Chair for Research in the UAB Department of Pathology and Director of the Center for Free Radical Biology. Dr. Darley-Usmar is an internationally recognized leader in mito-

chondrial pathobiology and is the Past President of the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine. He serves on the editorial boards of multiple journals including the *Biochemical Journal*, the *Free Radical Biology and Medicine Journal*, and the *American Journal of Pathology*. Dr. Darley-Usmar has made many major scientific contributions to our understanding of mitochondrial pathology and medicine and he has been an academic leader at UAB for over 15 years.

If anyone has any news items, accolades, etc. to be put in the quarterly newsletter, please send it to the Path In Focus e-mail address at: pathinfocus@uab.edu.

Thank you.

Pathology Grant Awards:

MARGARET BRANDWEIN-GENSLER

UAB/CCC Ctr for AIDS Research
HPV Status and Immune Response in Lung and Head & Neck Cancers in HIV+ Patients
\$100,000 3/01/11-2/28/12

XU FENG

Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA)
Identification of Anti-RANK Signaling Compounds via High Throughput Screening (HTS)
\$100,000 1/01/11-12/31/12

WILLIAM GRIZZLE

Cardiovascular Medical Research and Education Fund
Center for Tissue Processing to Support Research

\$767,778 4/01/11-3/31/14

DENNIS KUCIK

VA
VA-IPA: Kiran Gupta
\$2,805 1/01/11-1/31/11

DENNIS KUCIK

NASA
Mechanisms, Early Events, and Dose Dependence of Radiation-Induced Atherosclerosis
\$1,207,447 2/01/11-1/31/14

MOON NAHM

NIH
The Role of wjE Disruption in Pneumococcal Serotype 11A Humoral Escape
\$102,203 3/01/11-4/01/14

JOANNE MURPHY-ULLRICH

Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA)
Development of Small molecule Antagonists for Blockade of TSP1
\$100,000 1/01/11-12/31/12

KEVIN A. ROTH

NIH/NINDS
Core B - UAB Neuroscience Core Center
\$248,597 (Yr 1) 2/01/11-1/31/16

RALPH SANDERSON

Sigma Tau Research
Pre-Clinical Investigation of SST 0001 (G4000) in Multiple Myeloma Models
\$124,120 4/01/09-3/31/12