Message from the Chair

September 1, 2013 will be the beginning of my sixth year as chair of the UAB Department of Pathology. The preceding week will be highlighted by a multi-day evaluation of the Department and my performance as chair by a team of reviewers consisting of three external Department of Pathology chairs and several internal UAB leaders under the direction of the School of Medicine interim Dean, Dr. Anupam Agarwal. I look forward to this exercise and the opportunity to document our strengths and receive constructive criticisms on our weaknesses.

In reflecting back on the last five years, I am particularly proud of several accomplishments. We have significantly increased the diversity of our faculty, established a Division of Informatics that has received international recognition and successfully recruited new senior faculty from MD Anderson, Harvard School of Dentistry, and Albert Einstein School of Medicine. We remain in the top twenty best NIH funded Departments of Pathology and in the top five for NIH funding per faculty member. Our molecular diagnostics capabilities have been enhanced and we recently received significant new investments for our biorepository program. Our residents, fellows and graduate students have received numerous awards and honors from national organizations and are increasingly competitive for academic positions throughout the country. Our clinical and research laboratory facilities have been significantly upgraded and we have established a unique Mitochondrial Medicine Laboratory for profiling mitochondrial bioenergetics in human samples. We are now embarking on an entirely new initiative to develop a Community Practice Pathology Program which will increase our service area beyond metropolitan Birmingham and enhance opportunities for further departmental growth.

These items are just examples of our shared success since 2008. However, several goals that I had set for myself and the department have not yet been met. It is my hope that the five year department review will provide important insights into our strengths and weaknesses and assist in the development of a strategic plan that will energize the future growth of our already outstanding department.

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

Faculty Profile: Deniz Peker, M.D.

Dr. Peker attended Erciyes University School of Medicine (Turkey) and Utrecht University Medical School (the Netherlands) and received her M.D. degree in 2002. While earning her medical degree, she was awarded a national Future Young Scientist Award for her research on dendritic cell immunotherapy on mesothelioma.

Dr. Peker worked at NHS Musgrove Park Hospital Department of Hematology, a major institution for chronic lymphocytic leukemia research, as a research scholar under supervision of Dr. Stephen Johnson. She then began her first residency training at Anatomical Pathology in the University of Istanbul in 2004.

In 2006, she continued her residency training in the U.S. in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Mount Sinai Medical Center. During Dr. Peker’s final year in 2010, she received the Howard Kane award for her accomplishments as the Chief Resident.

During the course of her residency she participated in research involving HIV-related lymphoproliferative disorders. She published and presented her work at various national and international society meetings which lead to her being presented the Klausner Award for outstanding resident research in 2009 and 2010.

Following her residency training, she pursued a two year Hematopathology fellowship at the University of South Florida-Moffitt Cancer Center in 2012. She Cont’d...
Faculty Profile:  Deniz Peker, M.D. Cont’d...

completed the first clinical year and continued her research during the second year of her fellowship. Dr. Peker conducted several research projects as a clinical and research fellow with a focus on pathophysiology and clinicopathological features of chronic myelomonocytic leukemia and high grade diffuse large B-cell lymphomas.

Dr. Peker joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham faculty in 2012 as a tenure track Assistant Professor. She is boarded in AP/CP and Hematopathology. Dr. Peker’s current research activity is focused on high grade large cell lymphomas and therapy related myeloid neoplasms. Deniz is a native of Turkey and spent six years in Florida. She is now enjoying the culture and outdoor activities that Alabama offers. She is a dog-lover and has two rescue dogs, Sir Dexter and Bella.

Faculty Profile:  Robert W. Hardy, Ph.D.

Dr. Hardy was originally from Canada and received his B.Sc. Degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Waterloo in Waterloo Ontario (1975). After a 5 year stent working in Medical and Industrial Laboratories he obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Clinical Biochemistry at the University of Toronto (1988). His Ph.D. thesis was mentored by Dr. Steve Soldin and focused on optimizing breast cancer chemotherapy by tailoring dosage based on the blood concentration of active metabolites. From 1988-1990 he did a postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University in the laboratories of Drs. Jay McDonald and Jack Ladenson, where he obtained training in Clinical Chemistry and diabetes/insulin resistance research. His research investigated the role of fatty acids in causing insulin resistance in adipocytes. He continued this research completing a post doctoral fellowship at UAB with Dr. McDonald and becoming a Research Instructor in the Department of Pathology in 1991. He rose through the ranks becoming an ABCC certified Clinical Chemist in 1997, Senior Associate Editor for Laboratory Investigation (2008), Chair of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Southeast Section (2009) and a Professor (2010). Through these years he continued his research work on fatty acids and insulin resistance and fatty acids and breast cancer. More recently he is working on the translational aspects of mitochondrial bioenergetics with Drs. Darley-Usmar, Ballinger and Chacko. Dr. Hardy teaches the Pathology Residents, Medical Students, Graduate Students and is the course director for Fundamentals I and II for the first year Dental and Optometry students. He is in the Division of Laboratory Medicine and where he is the Section Head of Clinical Chemistry and technical director of the UAB Hospital Chemistry Laboratory as well as Specimen Receiving, and the RNICU blood gas laboratory. Dr. Hardy is a fellow of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and presently serves on the American Board of Clinical Chemistry.

Rob and his wife Susan have been married 19 years this May and have two children, Neil and Kathryn. Susan has been a pharmacist at Brookwood Medical Center for 25 years, Neil will be a freshman at Georgia Tech and Kathryn will be a junior at Spain Park High School this fall. Rob enjoys traveling with his family, golf, running and listening to music.
UAB Pathology at APC Meeting—July 9-12, 2013

UAB Pathology was well represented at the most recent APC/PRODS/PDA/UMEAS meeting held in Boston. Representing the Department were:

APC (Chairs) - Kevin Roth, Department of Pathology Chair
PRODS – (Residency Program Directors) - Bruce Alexander, MD, Program Director, and Greg Davis, MD, Residency Selection Committee Chair.
PDAS (Department Administrators) – Don Bowen
UMEDS (Course Directors) – Pete Anderson, DVM, PhD

The APC summer meeting has developed into an important meeting place for chairs, program directors, financial managers of departments and educators. UAB has benefited from this meeting on an annual basis and the above all indicate a very positive experience with the meeting. It will be held in Boston next year.

Where Are They Now?

Ana Paula Louro, M.D.

All of my memories from the Pathology program at UAB are great. My first memory is being very happy that I was accepted into the program. When I started the residency, I was focused on doing CP only. At that time I couldn’t see me doing AP in the future and because of that, the residents thought I was kind of weird. But then, after a while, thanks to Dr. Alexander who always encouraged me, I tried an AP rotation and, to my surprise, I loved it. Anyway, my pathway during the residency program was backwards, but in the end it went well, I think. I am deeply thankful for all the help and support I had from Dr. Marques during the entire Residency, not only as a teacher and a mentor, but also as a friend. I miss her company and advice every day. I also have great memories from my two fellowship years (Cytopathology and Neuropathology), where I had a lot of fun and could be around and learn especially from Dr. Eltoum, Dr. Cchieng, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Roth and all the other attending faculty members. They taught me how to face the daily diagnostic challenges with patience and caution. I also enjoyed very much the relationship with the other Residents, who made me feel at home.

After leaving UAB, I returned to Brazil and joined a private practice group in Vitoria, ES, called “PAT Anatomia Patologica” Laboratory, where I work signing out surgical pathology and cytopathology cases. I also work at the City Morgue, doing a “large volume” of autopsies, once a week. Other than that, I have a 14 year old daughter and a 11 year old son. I enjoy going to the beach and to the mountains in my spare time. Most of all, I love travelling around the world, especially going back to the US as often as possible, because I miss it a lot and hope that one day I will live in the US again!
Yabing Chen, Ph.D. was selected as a Chartered Member of the NIH VCMB Study Section and will serve until 2016.

Dr. Shuko Harada was featured in a CAP article this month. To access the article, please visit the CAP website at www.cap.org.

Robin Lorenz, M.D., Ph.D. received notice that the MSTP T32 Training Grant was renewed with an increase in slots to a total of 14.

Dr. Lorenz was also named as the President of the Academy of Clinical and Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS).

Lalita Shevde-Samant, Ph.D. has been selected to be a Chartered Member of the NCI CDP Study Section and will serve until 2019.

Sara Hicks has been working in Anatomic Pathology since 2008 as an Office Service Specialist I. In addition to routine office duties, faculty are dependent upon her for her prompt attention to their need for clinical slides, especially those associated with Renal Pathology and the Pathology VA contract. Sara is also responsible for monitoring and ordering supplies for several AP areas, trouble shooting vendor payments, mail delivery as well as primary support for the grant routing process. Her supervisor, Barb Lazarre, calls Sara the “glue that holds AP together”. Sara also has a supporting role with Pathology Chair’s Office as back up for certain office duties. Prior to coming to UAB, Sara also worked at UAB Medical Center West as an EKG technician for about a year.

Sara and her husband Steve have been married for 36 years and are blessed with 3 children, Dara, Jimmy, and Amanda. They are also proud grandparents of 3 grandchildren, Asa, Anthony and Breanna. Sara and Steve formerly owned a business specializing in food, floral decorations, gifts baskets and wood craft. Sara still enjoys these activities and continues inventing new recipes to try out on family and friends. AP looks forward annually to special treats Sara will prepare during fall and winter holidays.

Sara and Steve love living on the Warrior River and being on the water daily. Sara’s morning routine consists of a visit to the deck, watching the bream and catfish swim to the sea wall waiting on her for their breakfast. Fishing is an integral part of Sara’s life combined with vegetable and flower gardening. Weekends are full as Sara remains active in her church where she and Steve teach the 4-6 year old Sunday School class as well as participating in the Children Worship service.
From the Chief Residents:

We’re off to a great start this year with six strong first year residents, eleven fellows, and eighteen returning residents. As you can see below, we continue to have significant numbers of abstracts accepted for national pathology meetings, thanks to support from both the pathology department and from Adams grants.

Taylor Deal and Benjamin Hill
Chief Residents, 2013-2014

NATIONAL MEETINGS:

The following abstracts have been accepted to The American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) meeting which will take place in Washington DC from October 10th-14th:

- Squamous (basal-like) breast carcinoma with p63 expression mimicking cutaneous carcinoma - Halverson CB, Pavlidakey P, and KM McKay.
- Fibromatosis-like metaplastic mammary carcinoma mimicking dermatofibroma - Vishwas Parekh and KM McKay.
- Metastatic undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma mimicking atypical fibroxanthoma - Taylor Deal, KM McKay.

The following abstracts have been accepted to The American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) meeting which will take place in Orlando from November 8th-12th:

- Triple Negative Breast Cancer: Are There Rapidly Distinguishable Cytomorphological Features? - Alex Hanna, Dr. Hebert-Magee, and Dr. Eltoum.

The following abstracts have been accepted to National Academy of Medical Examiners (NAME) meeting which will take place in Portland from October 11th to 15th:

- Creation of a Queriable Toxicology Database Available to Forensic Pathologists – M. Cain, Dr. Brisse, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Almeida, and Dr. Davis

Cont’d…
From the Chief Residents: Cont’d...

Computer Extraction of Data from Autopsy and Toxicology Reports – M. Cain, Dr. Brisse, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Almeida, and Dr. Davis

The following abstract has been accepted to the AABB meeting which will take place in Denver from October 12th to 15th:

**Ficin-Treated Cells in ID-MTS Gel Test Identify Clinically Significant Antibodies Which May Mimic Non-Specific Reactivity** – Benjamin C. Hill, Courtney A. Hanna, Jill Adamski and Marisa B. Marques.

The following abstract has been accepted to the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians & Scientists 48th Annual Meeting which will take place in Atlanta from June 6th to 8th:


**PUBLICATIONS**

The following paper has been accepted for publication in the Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine:

**Breast Implant-associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma:**

Review of A Distinct Clinico-pathological Entity – Jie Xu and Shi Wei

The following paper has been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Hematology:

**Novel G377S (c.1246G>T) mutation associated with Gaucher disease type 1** - Zhou Y, Kraemer RR, Peker D, Wakefield DN, and de Idiáquez Bakula DA

**AWARDS**

Yaolin Zhou received the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award at the 2013 ACLPS meeting.

Photos from the 2013 Outgoing Resident Reception:
From the Chief Residents Cont’d….

Congratulations to the following residents for passing their board exam!

**AP/CP**
- Chris Kragel
- Thuy Nguyen
- Zhiyong Ren

**AP**
- Liz Kerr
- Rong Li

From the Graduate Students

**ACCOLADES/AWARDS:**

**Robert Bone**—Received a UAB Graduate Student Association Travel Award and a UAB Diabetes Research Center Travel Award to support attending the 73rd American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions on June 21-25, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois.

**Paul Daft**—Received 2013 AS-BMR Young Investigator Award for the abstract presentation Tumor-initiating Stem Cells are Regulated by α-CaMKII-induced VEGF in Human Osteosarcoma.

**Kim Dunham-Snary**—Awarded the Eleizer S. Award for Best Diabetes Abstract for the 4th Annual UAB Diabetes Research Day (UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center). Kim gave an oral and poster presentation on May 7, 2013. The title of her presentations was "The Role of Mitochondrial Genetic Background on Body Composition and Energy Balance".

Kim was also selected as an Early Investigation Commendation Awardee from the Society of Heart and Vascular Metabolism. 4 trainee abstracts were selected from all submissions and will give both an oral and poster presentation at the 11th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Society in Cambridge, Maryland 29 Sept - 2 Oct, 2013. The title of Kim’s submission is “Influence of the Mitochondrial Genome on Myocardial Function and Metabolism”.

**Jack Heath** received Honorable Mention for the 2013 Diabetes Research Day with the abstract entitled "Diabetic Vascular Calcification Requires O-GlcNAc Modification"

**Qinglan Liu**—UAB DRTC (Diabetes Research Training Center) travel award, and presented poster "Novel Agonists of the NR4A3 orphan nuclear receptor augment glucose transport system activity in skeletal muscle cells and lower blood glucose in db/db mice" at the 73rd ADA (American Diabetes Association) Scientific Sessions annual meeting in Chicago, IL, June 21-25, 2013.

**Mark Stewart**—has been appointed as an NIH predoctoral trainee supported by the Cell and Molecular Biology Training Grant. Mark is in Dr. Ralph Sanderson’s laboratory.

**PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Robert Bone**—Presented the poster "Increases in glucose concentrations promote beta-cell autophagy via mTOR-independent mechanism" at the 73rd American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions, June 21-25, 2013 in Chicago, IL.

**Angela Gullard**—The manuscript entitled "Research experiences impact U.S. dental students’ positive attitudes toward research and science" was accepted in May for publication in spring 2014 in the Journal of Dental Education. This publication is the work of four DDS/PhD students involved in the AADR National Student Research Group: Holman, S., Wietecha, M., Gullard, A., Petersen J.

**GENERAL NEWS**

Students who have graduated since August 2012:

- Scott Tanner
- Mike Nelson
- Joshua Baalwa
- Liselle Bovell
- Matthew Beatty
- Erin McCoy
- Matthew Vallejo
- Rebekah Wharton
- Angelina I. Londoño-Joshi

**Graduate Program Director:**
Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.

**Graduate Program Support:**
Cynthia Brown
934-2848
cinbrown@uab.edu
From the Postdocs/Visiting Scientists:

**Dr. Tanecia Mitchell**, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar’s laboratory was recently selected as the first recipient of the Dale Benos Scholar Award which honors an outstanding postdoctoral trainee on the “Interdisciplinary Training in Kidney-Related Research” training grant.

**Katherine Michel**, a postgraduate student in Dr. Hel’s laboratory, has received a T32 training grant fellowship “Basic mechanisms of AIDS pathogenesis” as of May 1, 2013. Nathan Bowers, another postgraduate student in the lab, has received a T32 training grant fellowship “Program in Immunology” as of July 1, 2013. The selection process was highly competitive and their success is a great recognition of their excellent work.

**Dr. Joel Jules**, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Yi-Ping Li’s laboratory has been selected to receive the 2013 ASBMR Felix Bronner Young Investigator Award for the abstract presentation “Conditional ablation of Cbfβ in different stages of skeletogenesis results in a novel cleidocranial dysplasia mouse model revealing a new role of Cbfβ in postnatal skeletal and tooth development”. It is awarded to the highest ranking abstract submitted by a young investigator with a focus on bone.

**Guochun Zhu**, a Visiting Scientist in Yi-Ping Li’s laboratory has been selected to receive a 2013 ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation “C/EBPα Is a Novel Regulator in Osteoclast Lineage Commitment and Regulates Both Bone Resorption and Bone Formation Synchronously.”

**Mengrui Wu**, a Visiting Scientist in Yi-Ping Li’s laboratory has been selected to receive a 2013 ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation “RANKL/M-CSF-PI3K-Akt signaling in osteoclast differentiation and function is regulated via the direct interaction between G protein α subunit and Class IA PI3K”.

Pathology Faculty Publications:

Ashley Filiano, Telisha Swain, Russell Johnson, Martin Young, Karen Gamble, and Shannon Bailey. “Chronic ethanol consumption disrupts the core molecular clock and diurnal rhythms of metabolic genes in the liver without affecting the suprachiasmatic nucleus.” PLOS One In Press.


Pathology Grants Awarded:

JOHN CHATHAM  
NIH/NHLBI  
“Protein O-GlcNacylation and the Regulation of Cardiac Function”  
$52,711  06/01/13-05/31/13

YABING CHEN  
VA-IPA  
Yong Sun  
$106,839  04/01/13-03/31/15

VICTOR DARLEY-USMAR  
American Heart Association  
“Role of Mitochondrial DNA Haplotypes in Bioenergetics and Inflammation in the Macrophages”  
$52,000  07/01/13-06/30/15

WILLIAM GRIZZLE  
NIH  
“Cooperative Human Tissue Network”  
$360,857  04/01/13-03/31/14

ROBIN HATTON  
UAB/IAT  
“Functional Characterization of Genetic Susceptibility Elements in Multiple Sclerosis”  
$15,000  04/08/13-04/07/14

ZDENEK HEL  
NIH  
“Neutrophil-mediated Immune Suppression as a Mechanism of HIV-1 Pathogenesis”  
$220,125  04/15/13-03/31/15

DENNIS KUCIK  
VA-IPA  
Kiran Gupta  
$138,218  10/01/12-09/30/14

JAY McDONALD  
VA-IPA  
Kaiyu Yuan  
$116,836  04/01/13-30/31/15

RAKESH PATEL  
HHMI  
“One Online Flipped Classroom to Enhance Student Learning of Pathobiology”  
$60,000  04/01/13-03/31/15

RAJEEV SAMANT  
NIH  
“Role of NMI in Retarding Breast Tumor Growth”  
$249,672  01/01/13-12/31/13

JOHN SHACKA  
NIDA/Virginia Commonwealth University  
“Regulation of NIV and Opiate-Directed Synoptodendritic Injury/Death in Striatum”  
$660,448  06/18/13-06/17/15

LALITA SHEVDE-SAMANT  
NIH  
“Molecular Determinants of Breast Cancer Malignancy”  
$137,028  04/01/13-03/31/16

CASEY WEAVER  
JT Pharmaceuticals  
“JT Pharm (JPT)-UAB Immune-Mediated Disease Program”  
$660,448  06/18/13-06/17/15

CASEY WEAVER  
NIH  
“Molecular Regulation of MS Susceptibility Genes”  
$345,157  06/10/13-05/13/17

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.

Angie Schmeckebier
Dear UAB Department of Pathology Friends and Colleagues:

The UAB Department of Pathology is recognized nationally for excellence in biomedical research, undergraduate and graduate medical education, and diagnostic pathology. This rise to prominence has been accomplished through the hard work and dedication of numerous Department of Pathology faculty and trainees who have made UAB a phenomenal environment for pathology education and clinical practice. Several decades ago, the former Departments of Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology of the University of Alabama School of Medicine merged into a single Department of Pathology of the UAB Health System. More than 250 residents have received their graduate training in Pathology at UAB and have gone on to populate the state, region and the nation. In fact, the vast majority of Pathologists in the state of Alabama have received some or all of their training here at UAB. This program of excellence in graduate medical education has been appropriately balanced by a world-class graduate program that has similarly trained generations of scientists who fill academia, industry and government service. Our department has been bolstered in recent years by an ever increasing number of post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows and junior faculty members who have achieved academic, research, and/or clinical excellence, and ascended to leadership positions at UAB or other institutions.

Please consider making a gift to the Department of Pathology at UAB to support our missions of clinical practice, teaching, research and service. Any amount would be most gratefully received and would be fully deductible*. One could direct it to a particular area of need, to fund current and future endowed professorships or create new awards, prizes or similar recognition opportunities to honor yourself, a family member, a favorite professor, etc.

We would be pleased to assist you and your professional advisors in including the UAB Department of Pathology in your estate plan or in exploring other giving strategies. A simple tear off sheet is found below.

* One should always check with their tax advisor.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Please fill out each of the 3 Sections:

A1—Enclosed, please find my contribution to the UAB Department of Pathology in the amount of:

___ $50  
___ $100  
___ $500  
___ $1000  
___ Other: _____________________

Please make all checks payable to the UAB Department of Pathology and return them to Ms. Lynne Roden, Departmental Administrator, 500 22nd Street South; Suite JNWB 404, Birmingham, AL 35294-0500.

Cont’d...
A2—Please contact me to discuss further:

Name: _________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
Telephone Number: ______________________________
E-mail Address: _________________________________
*Please indicate your preferred means of communication.

B—I wish to direct this gift to the Department towards:

___ Where the need is the greatest
___ Teaching
___ Research
___ Named Chairs or Professorships
___ Awards for teaching/research/clinical excellence
___ Naming opportunities (Rooms, collections, equipment, etc.)

C—Person(s) and complete address to be acknowledged for tax purposes:

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Do you want this gift to be anonymous? Yes ___ No ___

Do you want to honor a particular person or event?
Specifics: _______________________________________________________

D—If you prefer to donate via credit card, please call the UAB Development office at (205) 975-5659.