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Message from the Chair:



The Department of Pathology is committed to excellent clinical care, education and research. Dr. Selwyn Vickers, Dean of the School of Medicine, has emphasized that one way to promote excellence in each of these areas is to recruit and retain a diverse faculty. The UAB Department of Pathology has had a fairly diverse faculty for many years; however, significant further progress has been made over the last six years. For example,

41% of the tenure track faculty appointees since 2008 are female and 54% of all faculty hires during this period self-identify in ethnic or non-white racial categories. To assist in our diversity efforts, our executive leadership team recently met with Dr. Mona Fouad, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, and discussed the development of a department diversity plan to be completed by January 1, 2015. Dr. Silvio Litovsky, Associate Professor in the Anatomic Pathology Division, has been appointed departmental leader for these efforts. Working diligently with Drs. Fouad and Litovsky, I am

confident that we will continue to develop a culture of acceptance that supports the recruitment of the best faculty, students and staff to UAB.

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

Faculty Profile: Rajeskarar Namakkal-Soorappan, Ph.D.



Dr. Rajeskarar Namakkal-Soorappan (Raj) is a new addition to the Department of Pathology, continuing his independent career as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Molecular & Cellular Pathology. Dr. Raj completed his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in the laboratory of Dr. Halagowder Devaraj (Vice-Chair, University Grants Commission, Govt. of India) at the University of Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. His thesis studies focused on the biochemistry of glutathione me-

tabolism/depletion and oxidative stress dependent regulation of LDL-oxidation. Raj also received his M.Sc., and M.Phil., degrees from the University of Madras. A graduate with a doctoral degree in Biochemistry from the University of Madras in March 2001, Raj obtained his first postdoctoral training through Indian National Postdoctoral award from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi. He was hosted by Dr. T. S. Chandra (Professor of Biotechnology) in the Department of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) from Feb-2002 to Dec-2003. It is clear that Raj received solid training as a graduate student, as reflected by

several first author publications in respected journals. His 16 plus years of research experience in the redox biochemistry since his PhD program helped him to impressively test the reductive stress hypothesis in human cardiac disease in Dr. Ivor Benjamin's laboratory at the University of Utah Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. This particular concept received a wide recognition in the scientific community and was published in the prestigious journal, Cell (2007) with Raj as the leading author. Notably, this paper has been ranked 4th in top 20 Cell featured articles accessed. This achievement assured Raj a position in the top tier of young biomedical researchers in the field.

Cont'd...

Pathology In Focus
Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief:
C. Bruce Alexander, M.D.

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Faculty Profile: Rajasekaran Namakkal-Soorappan, Ph.D. Cont'd..

In his early-career stage as Instructor of Medicine at the Department of Medicine, University of Utah, Dr. Raj expanded his interests in the regulation of myocardial redox homeostasis and transcriptional mechanisms. During this time, Raj was awarded a beginning Grant-in-Aid from the American Heart Association to study the role of "Nrf2 signaling in Reductive Stress mediated cardiac hypertrophy". He also took this time to explore various signaling pathways related to the regulation of redox homeostasis in stressed and aging heart. This led to Raj being awarded an intramural pilot grant from the Center for Aging, Utah and subsequently an R03 award from the National Institute of Aging focusing on physical exercise mediated Nrf2 regulation and antioxidant defense in heart and skeletal muscle. In 2010, he was promoted as Assistant Professor (Research-track) in the Department of Medicine at the University of Utah and as of this July he joined us here at UAB. Recently, Raj was awarded an R01 from the NIH-Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to study the "Reductive Stress Induced Proteotoxic Cardiac Disease". Dr. Raj's major research work is aimed at uncovering the transcriptional regulation of myocardial redox homeostasis, reductive stress, proteotoxicity

and pathological cardiac remodeling. His research also focuses on the role of Nrf2-Keap1 signaling and redox regulation in myocardium and skeletal muscle in the contexts of aging and physical exercise. Raj's recent scientific studies on "Nrf2 signaling and Cardiac/Skeletal muscle function and stem cell regeneration/ differentiation in aging, exercise and reductive stress setting" has been published in *Antioxidants & Redox Signaling*, *PLoS-one*, *Cardiovascular Research*, *BBA-Molecular Basis of Disease*, *Free Radical Biology and Medicine* (#2).

In addition to his research activities, Raj had an active role in the training of numerous undergraduate, graduate students and residents while in the University of Utah. Currently, Raj has a technician and two postdocs in his lab and plans to incorporate graduate students in the near future. He served in the University of Utah master's degree program dissertation committee and constantly reviewing grants/abstracts for American Heart Association and the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine since 2010. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

While not in the lab, Raj enjoys writing stories/screen plays for TAMIL movies with his art mentors: famous/renowned south Indian movie director Bharathiraja and writer Rathnakumar. He also enjoys spending time with his wife Vasanthi Rajasekaran and their two daughters (Sneha-11 and Archana-8). The family enjoys the outdoors, learning, speaking & teaching TAMIL cooking south Indian/Tamil foods and serving at communities as a family.

Faculty Profile:



Dr. Huy P. Pham is the newest addition to the division of Laboratory Medicine in the Depart-

ment of Pathology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He joined the section of Transfusion Medicine and Apheresis as an Assistant Professor in July 2014 after completing his fellowship training in Transfusion Medicine in the joint program between the New York Blood Center and Columbia University Medical Center.

Dr. Pham immigrated to Rosemead, California from Vietnam with his parents as refugees from communist regime in 1996. After spending 5 years in Southern California for middle and high school education, he came to Northern California and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering with High Honors in 2005. He then received his medical education from the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. Throughout medical school, he was fascinated with the challenges and complexities of hematology and hemostasis. This love for hematology coupled with his background in mathematics and engineering led him choosing a career in

Clinical Pathology for which he completed his residency training in at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital – Columbia University Medical Center. In preparation for a career in clinical academic medicine, he expanded his knowledge base in statistical analysis and study designs by enrolling in a Master of Public Health program in Biostatistics. Besides learning about statistical methods and inferences, during his time at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, he was introduced to the field of cost-effectiveness analysis study and modeling. He started several research projects in this area, which he continued to work throughout his fellowship year, and more importantly, this area has emerged as one of his main research interests.

Besides his research interest in analyzing the cost effectiveness of novel therapies and treatments in Transfusion Medicine and Apheresis as well as monitoring the appropriateness of blood component utilization in the hospital, Dr. Pham is also passionate about teaching to medical students, residents and fellows. He believes in the comprehensive training model for Clinical Pathology, and is trying to incorporate other aspects of Laboratory Medicine into his discussion of Transfusion Medicine and Apheresis cases with the trainees during daily rounds. He is creating a library of educational Webinars, Podcasts from different

sources including from American Society of Clinical Pathology on various Transfusion/Apheresis and Biostatistics topics.

Outside of work, Dr. Pham likes watching soccer games and reading about soccer tactics and strategies. He also enjoys traveling and sampling different ethnic foods with his family, and is looking forward to many cultural activities that Birmingham and the vicinities can offer. He looks forward to having opportunities to collaborate with other researchers in the field of cost-effectiveness analysis and Transfusion Medicine/Apheresis and to having a long academic medicine career at UAB.

Dr. Marisa Marques Named President of ASFA



L to R: Drs. Ben Hill, Marisa Marques and Lance Williams

Marisa Marques chairs a successful annual meeting of the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) and the World Apheresis Association (WAA) and becomes ASFA President

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) was officially formed in 1981 and has the mission of advancing apheresis medicine worldwide for patients, donors and practitioners through education, evidence-based practice, research and advocacy. ASFA's vision is to lead apheresis medicine by continually improving patient and donor care. Every 3 years, ASFA publishes evidence-based guidelines to guide the use of therapeutic apheresis in the United States and beyond, through translations to other languages such as Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

This past April, ASFA hosted its 35th annual scientific conference in San Francisco and Marisa Marques chaired the organizing committee with Dr. Hans Vrieling from the Netherlands, representing the WAA. WAA is an umbrella organization for national and international professional societies devoted to apheresis, approximately 15 at

this time. The annual meeting is the only one of its kind that offers a focus on apheresis medicine in both the donor and patient settings. It is a key educational and networking event for physicians, scientists and allied health professionals in the field of apheresis medicine. Among the over 500 participants, 80% were from North America with the remainder from 35 different countries, including 12% from Europe, 4% from the Asia-Pacific region, 3% from South America, and the remainder from the Middle East and Africa. Approximately 92% of the attendees rated the quality of the conference as "excellent" or "good", and 94% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives. More than 130 abstracts were presented, and 6 of them were from UAB residents (Briana Gibson, Ben Hill and Jessica Tracht), Transfusion Medicine fellow (Radhika Dasararaju) and a medical student (Alex Mann). Dr. Lance Williams and Dr. Jill Adamski (currently at the Mayo Clinic) also attended the meeting and contributed to the work presented by our trainees.

Following the meeting, Marisa received the following feedback from Dr. Vrieling and from Dr. Perseghin (Italy), current President of WAA:

Hi Marisa,

Again, thank you for everything

and the perfect cooperation between ASFA and WAA. We really had a good meeting in SF.

Best wishes,

Hans

Dear Marisa, I would like to thank you and your colleagues from ASFA for your friendly welcome and for the hospitality during the joint ASFA-WAA congress in San Francisco.

I hope that we will cooperate in close collaboration in the forthcoming years.

Kindest regards

Paolo Perseghin

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Marques became President of ASFA for the upcoming year. This is the first time that an Alabama physician leads the society. She joined the ASFA Board of Directors in 2008 when she received the society's Lecturer Award. She has been Secretary, Vice-President, and President-elect. As President, Marisa intends to expand ASFA's partnerships with other organizations whose members are involved in apheresis such as the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA), American Society of Hematology (ASH), and others. In addition, she is reorganizing the committees' structure and planning to move the society's efforts forward toward clinical research. Thanks to the efforts of several colleagues from institutions across the country, ASFA is getting ready to lead the field of apheresis research in the near future. Marisa's involvement with ASFA is

Cont'd...

UAB's Quality Enhancement Plan Cont'd...

another example of how the UAB Department of Pathology plays an important national and international role in the advancement of patient care and knowledge.

—Marisa Marques, M.D.



UAB Graduate Student Receives National Award...



Uduak Udoh, a fourth year Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine (PBMM) doctoral

student, in the laboratory of Dr. Shannon Bailey was awarded the Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award at the 2014 Research Society on Alcoholism's (RSOA) 37th Annual Scientific Meeting in Bellevue, WA, for her work on alcoholic liver disease and the molecular circadian clock. Uduak presented her results from her dissertation project that was judged in a research poster session and an oral podium presentation. With the assistance of the UAB

Department of Pathology Travel Award and RSoA Student Merit Award, Uduak attended the RSoA Meeting and presented her work titled: *"Hepatic Glycogen Metabolism is Impaired by Alcohol Consumption: Possible Role of the Liver Molecular Clock."* Her studies demonstrate that chronic alcohol consumption significantly decreases glycogen levels in the liver by disrupting diurnal oscillations of critical glycogen metabolism and signaling regulatory genes and proteins that are under control of the molecular circadian clock. Glycogen is a key store of glucose needed for maintenances of energy metabolism and blood glucose levels. While chronic alcohol consumption is known to disrupt circadian behaviors (e.g.,

sleep), emerging studies show that chronic alcohol consumption disrupts clock in peripheral tissue including the liver and that this contributes to liver pathology. Ultimately, her studies address this thought-provoking question and highlight the molecular clock as a novel therapeutic target for alcoholic liver disease.

The Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award is named after Enoch Gordis, M.D., a former director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). This award is given by the RSoA and NIAAA in recognition of outstanding biomedical and psychosocial research among graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

From the Chief Residents:

From the Chief Residents

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

Jason Brazzelton & Matt Cain
Chief Residents, 2014—2015

National Meetings and Publications

Dr. Ruby Ma had a case report accepted to the ACLPS 2014 meeting entitled "*Systemic Lupus Erythematosus complicated by macrophage activation syndrome, portal vein thrombosis and ischemic colitis – an autopsy case report*" with faculty mentors Drs. Reddy and Reilly.

Dr. Ruby Ma had a case report printed in the Austin Journal of Clinical Pathology entitled "*Extensive Urinary Malakoplakia with Lymph Node Involvement: A Case Report*" with Drs. Nix, Telford, Siegal and Shen. She also had two abstracts accepted to ASCP 2014, the first entitled "*Reduction of E-cadherin and Aberrant Expression of β -catenin Are Associated with a Higher Risk of Metastasis in Signet-Ring Cell Carcinoma*" with Drs. Zhiyong Ren, Michael Conner, Gene Siegal, and Shi Wei. Her other abstract "*Solitary, Adult-onset, Intraosseous Myofibroma of the Finger: Report of a Case*" was mentored by Drs. Gene P Siegal and Shi Wei.

Dr. Yaolin Zhou had three poster presentations accepted to ASCP 2014, the first entitled "*Ultrastructural Study of Hybrid Oncocytic/Chromophobe Tumor in Birt-Hogg-Dubé Syndrome*" and mentored by Dr. Dejun Shen. Her second

"Multifocal Epithelioid Hemangioma of the Penis" was mentored by Drs. Kris McKay and Dejun Shen. The third poster "Metastatic Oligodendroglioma in a Patient with No Surgical Treatment" was mentored by Dr. Vishnu Reddy.

Additionally, **Dr. Zhou** had a poster accepted to Association for Molecular Pathology 2014, entitled "Validation of Cytochrome P450 (CYP) 2C19 Genotype Testing for Antiplatelet Therapy" coauthored by Drs. Armstead, Coshatt, Limdi, and Shuko Harada.

Dr. Xiaoyan Cui will present at the Applied Immunohistochemistry & Molecular Morphology with her topic "The Utility of Phosphohistone H3 in Breast Cancer Grading" that was mentored by **Dr. Wei**. She also had an abstract, "Carcinoma In Situ Involving Sclerosing Adenosis: Seeking the Salient Histologic Characteristics to Prevent Overdiagnosis" accepted to the ASCP 2014 Annual Meeting with **Dr. Wei**.

Dr. Alex Feldman, joining the residency program this July, presented an electronic poster at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Pathology Informatics for his work on "PEIR-VM: A universal, open standards, web 2.0 whole slide imaging repository". This was coauthored by Dr. Lever, Israel Ponce-Rodrigues, Dr. Pete Anderson, and Seung Park.

Dr. Tiansheng Shen had an abstract accepted for poster presentation to CAP 2014, entitled "Atypical Fibrous Histiocytoma (AFH) of Bone" with faculty members Drs. Gene Siegal and Shi Wei.

Dr. Vishwas Parekh and faculty

member Dr. Deniz Peker had a manuscript, "Malignant Transformation in Von Meyenburg Complexes: Histologic and Immunohistochemical Clues with Illustrative Cases." Accepted for publication to the journal Applied Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Morphology. **Dr. Parekh** also had an oral presentation entitled "Therapy-related leukemia cutis is associated with poorer clinical outcome." accepted to the American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) with Drs. Taylor Deal, Kris McKay and Deniz Peker. Additionally, **Dr. Parekh** had five abstracts accepted for poster presentations as listed below:

ASDP 2014

"When you hear hoof beats think horses, but don't forget the zebras: Spongiotic dermatitis as a feature of atypical complete DiGeorge syndrome", coauthored with Dr. Alex Wong and Kris McKay.

"Henpecked woman—a dermatopathologic conundrum" coauthored by Dr. Charles Knapp and Kris McKay.

"Dualing" TCRs: A case of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma with co-expression of T-cell receptors $\alpha\beta$ and $\gamma\delta$.", coauthored by Drs. Charles Knapp and Kris McKay.

ASCP 2014

"Littoral-cell angioma presenting as spontaneous splenic rupture: Report of a rare case." with faculty member Dr. Deniz Peker.

Residency Program Director:

C. Bruce Alexander, M.D.

Residency Program Support:

Karen Lewis
934-4060

Cont'd...

From the Chief Residents Cont'd....

ASCP 2014

"Renal angiomyolipoma invasive to the renal vein and inferior vena cava: Report of a rare case." with faculty member Dr. Dejun Shen.

Resident and Faculty Events

We would like to thank Dr. Rebekah McIntosh for hosting our first resident social at home. We appreciate the Pathology Department supporting these events. This was a fun time where incoming residents had an opportunity to meet current and outgoing residents. We would also like to thank Dr. Pat Bucy for hosting the CP faculty and resident dinner. First year residents had an opportunity to meet faculty and appreciate outstanding lab medicine cooking!



Gabe Koenig, at the resident social, as he commandeers the Slip'N Slide from the toddlers!

Weaver Named Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology



[Casey Weaver, M.D.](#), the Wyatt and Susan Haskell Professor of Medical Excellence in the [Department of Pathology](#), has been elected a Fellow of the [American Academy of Microbiology](#).

Fellows of the Academy are

elected annually through a highly selective, peer-review process, based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. There are more than 2,400 Fellows representing all subspecialties of microbiology, including basic and applied research, teaching, public health, industry and government service.

Weaver, who earned his medical degree at the University of Florida, joined UAB in 1992. In addition to appointments in the Departments of Pathology,

Medicine and Microbiology, he is a scientist with the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases Center, the Center for AIDS Research and the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

His laboratory studies the mechanisms by which CD4 T cells control adaptive immunity.

--This was reprinted from the [UAB Medicine News](#) website.

Medical Education Faculty Development in Ethiopia:

Until recently, Ethiopia had just one physician for every 100,000 people, but over the past several years the country has dramatically increased the number of doctors it trains.

This year, the government opened several new medical schools and they have also been increasing enrollment at its existing schools. The medical student enrollment is almost tenfold higher than just five, six years ago according to Ethiopia's foreign minister.

This massive increase in students has put a strain on the Ethiopian educational system. In order to help Ethiopian medical educators deal with this influx of new students the UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health has been working with these schools to improve their access to teaching materials.

Using funds from the NIH Fogarty Institute Medical Education Partnership Initiative grant program the Sparkman Center supported a faculty development session for faculty from 12 medical schools in Ethiopia. The workshop given by Dr. Peter Anderson, UAB Department of Pathology, focused on using virtual microscopy resources and other instructional technology to teach histology and histopathology. This hands on workshop on

virtual microscopy and additional sessions on other aspects of technology enhanced learning and pedagogy were well received by the Ethiopian medical educators.

12 medical schools participated in the virtual microscopy faculty development conference presented by Dr. Anderson



Dr. Anderson explaining design strategies to Ethiopian medical educators during the hands-on faculty development workshop on virtual microscopy.



Group photo of the Ethiopian educators representing 12 medical schools from all parts of the country who came to Addis Ababa to participate in the virtual microscopy faculty development conference presented by Dr. Anderson

From the Graduate Students:

Publications/Presentations:

Robert Bone— Gave the oral presentation entitled "Fluoroketone-based Inhibition of the Ca²⁺-independent Phospholipase A₂beta in Neotates Reduces Incidence of Type 1 Diabetes" at the 7th Annual Midwest Islet Club Conference held May 21-22, 2014 in Birmingham, AL.

Robert also gave the oral presentation entitled "Early Administration of a Fluoroketone Inhibitor of Ca²⁺-independent Phospholipase A₂beta Reduces Type 1 Diabetes Incidence in the NOD mouse" at the American Diabe-

tes Association 74th Scientific Sessions held June 13-17, 2014 in San Francisco, CA. Robert also received a Travel Award from the UAB Diabetes Research Center to attend the ADA Sessions.

Robert was a contributing author to the following publication - Lei X, Bone RN, Ali T, Zhang S, Bohrer A, Tse HM, Bidasee KR, Ramanadham S. Evidence of Contribution of iPLA₂b-Mediated Events to Human Islet b-Cell Apoptosis Due to Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines Suggests a Role for iPLA₂b in T1D Development. *Endocrinology*. 2014, *early release* -

en.2013-2134. PMID: 25004092.

Angela Gullard—was the first ever recipient of the 8th District Dental Society of Alabama Award, which is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a dental student for financial aid support.

Angela was also selected by the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Scholar Awards Board of Trustees as the Helen G. Shull Endowed P.E.O. Scholar for 2014-2015. Of the 85 P.E.O. Scholars chosen in 2014, 12 received the distinction of being named an Endowed Scholar.

Graduate Program Director:

Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.

Graduate Program Support:

Cynthia Brown

934-2848

cinbrown@uab.edu

Other Student/Postdoc News:

Three students/post-docs in Dr. Yi-Ping Li's laboratory have been selected to receive a 2014 The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) Young Investigator Travel Grant Award.

Yun Lu (student) has been selected to receive a 2014 The **American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR)** Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation "*Znf9 plays an indispensable role in skeletal development by upregulating the expression of Indian hedgehog (Ihh) and multiple limb development regulator genes*".

Mengrui Wu (post-doc) has been selected to receive a 2014 ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation "*Cbfb promotes osteoblast lineage commitment and regulates the fate of mesenchymal stem cells by suppressing the expression of key adipocyte regulators and activating Wnt/ β -catenin pathway*".

Liang Hao (post-doc) has been selected to receive a 2014 ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation "*Targeting Cathepsin K to attenuate Toll-Like Receptor (TLR) signaling inhibits rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis*

and reveals the critical function of Cathepsin K in osteoimmunology.

Pathology Publications/Presentations:

Yi-Ping Li

The research work of the pathogenesis of CCD and the role of Cbfb in postnatal skeletogenesis has been published at PNAS:

Chen W, Ma J, Zhu G, Jules J, Wu M, McConnell M, Zhou X, Tain F, Paulson C, Wang L, and Li YP. Cbfb Deletion in Mice Recapitulates Cleidocranial Dysplasia and Reveals Multiple Functions of Cbfb Required for Skeletal Development. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. PNAS*. 2014 May 21. pii: 201310617. [Epub ahead of print], PMID: 24850862 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Significance:

Cleidocranial dysplasia (CCD) is a hereditary human skeletal disease. The pathogenesis of CCD and the role of Cbfb in postnatal skeletogenesis remain unclear. We demonstrate that ablation of Cbfb in various skeletal cells results in severe craniofacial and skeletal dysplasia with the phenotype recapitulating clinical features of CCD. The findings from this study of Cbfb in the skeleton provide insight into the role of Cbfb in postnatal skeletogenesis and pathogenesis of CCD, which may assist in developing new therapies for CCD and osteoporosis.

Vishnu Ramani

Young scientist poster award at the 2014 Gordon Conference on Proteoglycans, Diverse Regulators of Health and Disease, Andover, NH, July 6-11, 2014

Ralph Sanderson

Mark Stewart, a graduate student in Dr. Sanderson's lab and member of the Cancer Biology

Theme received an individual NIH National Research Service Pre-doctoral fellowship for his project entitled: Novel Role for Shed Syndecan 1 in Promoting an Aggressive Tumor Phenotype.

Lalita Shevde-Samant

Dr. Shevde-Samant presented her lab's research at the Institute for Cancer Research (ICR), Royal Cancer Hospital, Sutton, July 9, 2014. This talk was invited by Prof. Sue Eccles, who is a part of an award-winning multidisciplinary team that has successfully taken 16 new drugs from concept to clinic in six years.

Rajeev Samant

Chaired a session on Career advancement and presented a seminar on "Negotiating your 1st academic position" in the MRS- ECAM Satellite Meeting at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany on July 27th.

Presented his group's research at the 15th Biennial Metastasis Research Society Meeting in Heidelberg, Germany (June 28th - July 1st). The presentation was invited for the session titled as: Plasticity, cancer stem cells, EMT, therapy resistance II

Based on Dr. Samant's laboratory's recent publications, he was invited to write an Editorial in the journal *Oncoscience*. This article has been currently released at <http://www.impactjournals.com/oncoscience/index.php?advance>

Invited to present his lab's research on heat shock chaper-

ones and Wnt signaling at the Institute for Cancer Research (ICR), Royal Cancer Hospital, Sutton, July 9, 2014.

This is Your Brain on Informatics:

Another edition of the hands-on immersive Informatics course taught by Seung Park, MD is under way. This is the third edition within a period of one year, with the largest and widest participation so far, spanning from medical students to faculty, and including a strong participation of the MSTP MD-PhD program as both trainers and trainees. This venue is cross registered in GBS and in the Medical curriculum, and follows a participative model that is known to empower attendees not only with new skills, but also with a lasting multidisciplinary net-

work of collaborators. It has recently gained national recognition (at Pathology Informatics 2014) as a flipped-classroom, total-immersion data sciences training experience that is without equal in the biomedical sciences. Over 45 individuals have taken or are taking this class to date, with stronger than expected participation from women and minorities. There have been 14 major clinical and/or research informatics projects designed and implemented by teams from prior classes, all of which have been presented at national research conferences and two

of which have been selected for hour-long platform presentations. For more information see http://peir.path.uab.edu/wiki/This_Is_Your_Brain_On_Informatics or contact the course director at seungp@uab.edu. For a list of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology training opportunities see <http://www.uab.edu/cb2/training/courses-training>.



Trainees organize in working groups, with each using the shared computational resources and the new skillset to pursue distinct objectives. The specific aims of each group are directed to the publication of a peer-reviewed scholarly report at the end describing the data, results and Informatics tools used to obtain them.

Accolades:



C. Bruce Alexander, M.D., FASCP has received an ASCP Mastership Designation. The Mastership

recognizes exceptional members who have made significant contributions, not only to the field of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine but also to ASCP.



Lalita Shevde-Samant, Ph.D. functioned as a member of the Organizing Com-

mittee for the 15th Biennial Metastasis Research Society Meeting in Heidelberg, Germany. This meeting took place from June 28-July 1st at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany. At this meeting, I presented our lab's research in the session on 'Microenvironment and niche'.

Dr. Shevde-Samant also organized a Satellite Meeting at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany on July 27th. This meeting, focused on metastasis, was targeted to provide a workshop and

platform for early career metastasis investigators to learn essential skills and to network with senior metastasis researchers.

As the co-Director of the UAB Cancer Biology Theme, Dr. Shevde-Samant is pleased to announce that we have published our first Cancer Biology Newsletter. This newsletter showcases the faculty and students in this theme and is an excellent medium to promote our Theme. This newsletter is posted at http://www.uab.edu/gbs/cancerbiology/images/Newsletter_Jun_2014.pdf



Rajeev Samant, Ph.D. was recently elected as a member of the Board of Directors for MRS. His term last through

2018. Metastasis Research Society (MRS) is an international society of scientists with research focus on cancer metastasis; with allied chapters in North America, Japan, Australia, China and the European union.



Dr. Gene P. Siegal was awarded the 2015 ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award.

Dr. Siegal has also been appointed to a six year term on the Mayo Clinic Alumni Board of Directors. Concomitantly, Dr. Siegal was elected to the Doctors Mayo Society.

Pathology Grants Awarded:

YABING CHEN

AHA
"Function of STIM1 in Regulating Vascular Calcification"
 \$101,912 07/01/14—06/30/16

DENNIS KUCIK

NASA
"Radiation-induced Early Changes in Gene and Protein Expression"
 \$1,124,496 08/01/14—07/31/17

ROBIN LORENZ

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA)
"Antimicrobial Molecule Expression in the FVB.mdr 1a Model of Colitis"
 \$2,500 07/01/14—08/25/14

JOANNE MURPHY-ULLRICH

DoD, Dept. of the Army—USAMRAA
"The Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Protein Calreticulin in Diabetic Chronic Kidney Disease"
 \$1,102,498 07/01/14—06/30/17

JOANNE MURPHY-ULLRICH

NIH
"The Thrombospondin1-TGF-Beta Axis in Multiple Myeloma"
 \$3,001,555 08/01/14—07/31/19

RALPH SANDERSON

NIH
"Novel Role for Shed Syndecan 1 in Promoting an Aggressive Tumor Phenotype"
 \$68,342 7/01/14—6/30/16

CASEY WEAVER

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA)
"Interplay of T Cell Subsets in IBD Pathogenesis"
 \$347,490 08/01/14—07/31/17

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.