Welcome to the second edition of The Hem/Onc Herald.

We welcome the addition of Phillip J. Buckhaults, PhD, to the Division of Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Buckhaults joined as Associate Professor on March 1, 2013.

Dr. Buckhaults received his Masters of Science in Chemistry from the University of California at San Diego in 1990 and his PhD in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia in 1996. From 1996 until 2002 he was a postdoctoral fellow, then a research associate in the laboratory of Dr. Bert Vogelstein at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center and Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. From 2003 to 2010 he was Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, South Carolina.

In 2010 he moved to the Georgia Health Sciences University Cancer Center in Augusta, Georgia where he held the position of tenured track Associate Professor in the Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He gained national recognition for his work in cancer genetics. His work is funded by a U01 award from the National Cancer Institute and has been published in high impact journals such as Science, Nature Genetics, Cancer Research, and Oncogene. In addition to authoring twenty-five peer-reviewed articles, he is the co-author of five U.S. patent applications. He will significantly enhance the UAB research enterprise in the fields of cancer genetics and molecular oncology. Please join me in welcoming him to our team!

Boris C. Pasche, MD, PhD, FACP

Phillip J. Buckhaults, PhD

March 2013

Faculty

Pictured, left to right, back row: Ayman Saad, MD, Shin Mineishi, MD, Donna E. Salzman, MD, Richard D. Lopez, MD, Stefan C. Grant, MD, JD, Kelly Godby, MD, Boris C. Pasche, MD, PhD, James A. Posey, MD, Randall Davis, MD, Lise M. Nabel, MD, Lawrence S. Lamb, Jr., PhD, Francisco Robert, MD, John T. Carpenter, MD, Theresa V. Strong, PhD, Harry P. Erba, MD, PhD, and Zhi-Xiang Xu, MD, PhD.

Left to right, first row: Eric J. Sorscher, MD, Christina Oechsenbauer, PhD, Pran K. Datta, MS, PhD, Carolina Salvador, MD, Mollie deShazo, MD, Rita Paschal, MD, Eduie M. Tabengwa, PhD, Tina E. Wood, MD, Uma Borate, MD, John C. Kappes, PhD, and Andres Forero-Torres, MD.

Not pictured: Naresh Bellam, MD, Graeme B. Bolger, MD, Scott W. Blume, MD, R. Marty Conry, MD, Diego de Idiaquez, MD, Carla I. Falkson, MD, Kevin W. Harris, MD, PhD, Racquel Innis-Shelton, MD, Alok Mohan Muliky, PhD, Susmitha Nimmagadda, MD, Larisa Perboeva, MD, PhD, Susan L. Ruppert, PhD, Katri Selander, MD, PhD, Guru Sonpavde, MD, William P. Vaughan, MD.
Stellar Performances

Grants

North Central Alabama Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure
New Light Support Group for Patients with Triple Negative Breast Cancer
PI: Andres Forero-Torres, MD
04/01/12 - 03/30/13, $25,000 yr

Carla I. Falkson, MD
UAB Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Operations Office
Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group
TYPE OF AWARD: Amendment/Mod
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $28,000
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 05/01/2012 - 04/30/2013

John C. Kappes, PhD
Center For HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology and Immunogen Discovery (CHAVI ID)
Duke University
TYPE OF AWARD: Original/New
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $96,381
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 07/15/2012 - 06/30/2013

R. Marty Conry, MD
Confidential Title
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
TYPE OF AWARD: Original/New
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $554,284
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 10/25/2012 - 10/24/2017

Randall Davis, MD
Lupus Research Institute
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $300,000
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 1/1/2013 - 1/1/2016

Andres Forero-Torres, MD
Confidential Title
Genentech
TYPE OF AWARD: Amendment/Mod
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $64,780
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 11/21/2012 - 06/27/2015

Guru Sonpavde, MD
Confidential Title
ALTOR BIOSCIENCE CORPORATION
TYPE OF AWARD: Original/New
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $237,220
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 01/17/2013 - 01/16/2018

Naresh Bellam, MD
Confidential Title
SEATTLE GENETICS, INC.
TYPE OF AWARD: Original/New
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $189,076
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 01/25/2013 - 01/24/2018
Uma Borate, MD
Confidential Title
ELI LILLY AND COMPANY
TYPE OF AWARD: Original/New
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED: $148,935
AWARDED PROJECT PERIOD: 02/12/2013 - 02/11/2018

Awards/Appointments

Rebecca Wood Service Award
Presented to Andres Forero-Torres, MD on December 2, 2012
This award is for “Outstanding service to the Breast Cancer Community and to the New Light Support Group”

Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT)
Lawrence S. Lamb, Jr., PhD has been asked to serve as a member of the FACT Processing Standards Subcommittee for a three-year term, beginning June 1, 2013.
The Standards Committee is preparing to draft the sixth edition of the FACT-JACIE International Standards for Cellular Therapy Product Collection, Processing, and Administration, due for publication in March 2015.

Papers


UAB DOM Trainee Research Symposium

Congratulations to John Clark Henegan, MD whose poster presentation titled “Association between breast cancer and constitutively decreased TGFBR1 signaling” was judged best among his colleagues at the UAB Department of Medicine’s 29th Annual Trainee Research Symposium, March 6, 2013.
He is the recipient of the Thomas N. James Award for Excellence in Research by a Resident of the Department of Medicine. In addition to a certificate of merit, he will receive a travel award of up to $1,000 to cover travel expenses to attend a single research conference, approved by his mentor, in his field of research.

Congratulations are also in order for Daniel Allendorf, MD. His poster presentation titled “Phase I/IIa study of the novel combination of bendamustine (B) with irinotecan followed by etoposide (E) and carboplatin (C) in chemotherapy patients (pts) with extensive stage small cell lung cancer (ESSCLC)” received the Honorable Mention for the J. Claude Bennett Award for Excellence in Research by an Associate Fellow.
The American Society of Hematology held its annual meeting in Atlanta. The UAB Division of Hematology/Oncology was well represented. Here are just a few of our contributions.

Posters:

Mehta A, Reddy V and Borate U. Anti CD-30 antibody-drug conjugate brentuximab vedotin (ADCETRIS®) may be a promising treatment option for Systemic Mastocytosis (SM). Poster session presented at: 54th Annual Meeting of American Society of Hematology; 2012 Dec 8-11; Atlanta, GA.


Michelle A. Fanale, Nancy L. Bartlett, Andres Forero-Torres, Anas Younes, Robert W. Chen, Jonathan W. Friedberg, Jeffrey V. Matous, Andrei R. Shustov, Scott E. Smith, MD, Jasmine Zain, Megan M. O'Meara, and Ajay K. Gopal. Retrospective Analysis of the Safety and Efficacy of Brentuximab Vedotin in Patients Aged 60 Years or Older with Relapsed or Refractory CD30+ Hematologic Malignancies. Poster session presented at: 54th Annual Meeting of American Society of Hematology; 2012 Dec 8-11; Atlanta, GA.

Naresh Bellam, MD, MPH. 3678 Phase 1b Study of TRU-016, an Anti-CD37 SMiPTM Protein, in Combination with Rituximab and Bendamustine in Relapsed Indolent Lymphoma. Poster session presented at: 54th Annual Meeting of American Society of Hematology; 2012 Dec 8-11; Atlanta, GA.

Shi Wei, Racquel Innis-Shelton, Li Nan, Jian Ruan, Rebecca S Sollie, Vishnu V B Reddy, and Yang Yang. Heparanase Expression Correlates with Bone Destruction in the Patients with Multiple Myeloma. Poster session presented at: 54th Annual Meeting of American Society of Hematology; 2012 Dec 8-11; Atlanta, GA.

Oral Presentations:

Megan Othus, Hagop M. Kantarjian, Stephen Petersdorf, Farhad Ravandi, Jorge E. Cortes, Sherry A. Pierce, Harry Paul Erba, Stefan Faderl, Frederick R. Appelbaum, and Elihu H. Estey. Declining Rates of Treatment-Related Mortality in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) Given “Intensive” Induction Regimens: A Report From the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDA) . Oral presented at: 54th Annual Meeting of American Society of Hematology; 2012 Dec 8-11; Atlanta, GA.

Ain’t No Party Like a Pasche Party!

The latest Hem/Onc Division party took place on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the home of Drs. Boris and Valerie Pasche.

Thanks to all of you for making it such a success.

We look forward to making this an annual event.
Fellowship Update

We interviewed twenty-three applicants for four fellowship positions this fall. Once again, we would like to say thank you to all of you who helped us in the interview process. It is time-consuming work, but it is vitally important work too. So, for all of you who took the time to meet with our candidates, you have helped us bring together the best and brightest physicians to be a part of our fellowship program.

And on that note, we are delighted to introduce you to our incoming class for next year, as announced on Match Day, December 5, 2012. They will begin as first-year Hem/Onc Fellows on July 1, 2013.

In alphabetical order:

Ashley Fry, MD  
UAB – (IM residency).  
U of Miss SOM (med school)

Omer Jamil, MD  
CAMC-WVU, Charleston, WV  
-(IM residency).  
Dow Med College (med school)

Ben Jones, MD  
UAB – (IM residency).  
U of South AL (med school)

Chukwuma Ndibe, MD  
Morehouse SOM  
-(IM residency).  
U of Nigeria (med school)

Take Note...

- 3/15/2013  
Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds  
Chris Vaklavas, MD  
3rd Year Fellow  
UAB Hematology/Oncology  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
West Pavilion Board Room

- 3/25/2013  
Hematology/Oncology Research Conference  
Graeme B. Bolger, MD  
Associate Professor  
UAB Hematology/Oncology  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
North Pavilion Board Room 2532

- 4/19-20/13  
Alabama Cancer Congress  
Grand Hotel Marriott  
Point Clear, Alabama  
www.alcancercongress.org

- 8/24-13  
ASCO Review  
7:30 a.m-5:00 p.m.  
Birmingham Marriott  
More details will be forthcoming.

A special Thank You to all who attended the 3/7/13 Hem/Onc Vendor Fair benefitting the Hem/Onc Fellowship Program.

Friday Afternoon Happy Hour will resume this Spring. This event is held at 4:30 p.m. in the Wallace Tumor Institute in the 5th floor common area. This is an informal gathering for those you want to simply unwind after a long week. There will be music, conversation, light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

If you have something you would like to include in the next edition of The Hem/Onc Herald, please send it by e-mail to lcroom@uabmc.edu or kellyadamson@uabmc.edu.
The Division of Hematology/Oncology bids farewell to friends/colleagues, Latacian Jones and Seng-jaw Soong, Ph.D.

**Latacian Jones** passed on November 25, 2012. She was an Administrative Associate and valued employee in the UAB Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cell Therapy Program since 2004. Her contributions to the program were invaluable. In addition, she always had a kind word for everyone and her smile was contagious. Latacian will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

**Seng-jaw Soong, PhD**, former Senior Leader of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Director of the Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Unit, passed away suddenly on December 28, 2012. Dr. Soong was a Professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology from 1998 to 2008. He led a distinguished career as a biostatistician for 40 years. He established and led the UAB CCC Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Unit from 1976 to 2008. During that time he collaborated in publishing over 330 peer-reviewed medical publications. Dr. Soong was internationally known for his research work on melanoma, and was a co-editor and co-author of all five editions of the well-recognized textbook *Cutaneous Melanoma*. In 1999, Dr. Soong was named the first recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award in the Cancer Center for his contributions to cancer research and to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. He served in a variety of distinguished leadership positions on a local level at UAB and on a national level.

Dr. Soong retired from the Cancer Center in 2008 as Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of the Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Unit and Associate Director Emeritus of the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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**Farewell to Friends/Colleagues**

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Rethinking Customer Service

The Division of Hematology/Oncology has embraced the AMC21 initiatives endorsed by the UAB Health System and the UAB Department of Medicine. We are striving to create an environment where our patients have an exceptional service experience. Most of our faculty, nurses, and administrative staff have participated in the *AIDET training sessions.

Recently, Larry Thomas, Director of Administration and Nicole Temple, Business Officer I, arranged for the UAB Organizational Learning and Development Office to provide a personalized customer service training class for our administrative staff. This session was titled the Cores of Customer Service and was facilitated by Matt Copeland, Training Specialist with UAB Organizational and Learning Development. Some of the topics discussed were: 1) Who Are Our Customers? (patients, co-workers, vendors); 2) Managing Customer Perceptions; 3) Power through Personal Influence; and 4) Suggestions for Dealing with Difficult People/Customers.

*A\nI\nD\nE\nT\n
*Acknowledge\nIntroduce\nDuration\nExplanation\nThank you

Remember this acronym when speaking with patients.