

**Jay M. McDonald, MD**

**Robert and Ruth Anderson Professor and Chair**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

We are pleased to send "Pathology In Focus" the new quarterly newsletter from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Pathology. For some of you this will be a "blast from the past" while for others it will be current information on your Department and colleagues. Either way, we hope that you find it interesting and informative.

In this first issue you will find a brief overview of the Department and its growth since I became Chair in 1990. Since we could not tell you everything that is happening in the Department in this short space, we urge you to visit our website, to get a better picture of the scope of the Department in Service, Research and Teaching.

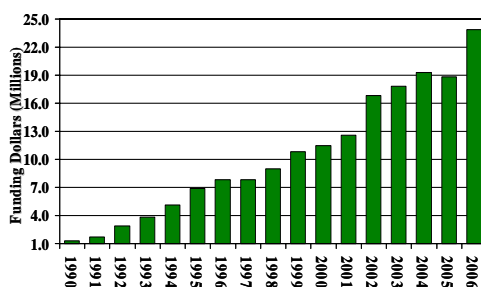
As you may already know, I have decided to step down as Chair this year. I have had 17 rewarding years here at UAB have seen the Department grow into one of the major pathology departments in the country. Much of this is due to the efforts of you, our current faculty, residents and students; you, our residents and PhD students who have gone on to bigger and better things; and you, our past faculty who have continued to grow and to take a bit of UAB with you. I will remain at UAB and continue my research program.

You can expect to see more exciting information from the Department in the issues to come. We hope that you will read them with interest and stay connected to UAB and the Department of Pathology.

Sincerely,

**Jay M. McDonald, M.D.**

**Department of Pathology  
Research Funding Growth**



**Centers in the Department**

**Center for Free Radical Biology**

Director: Victor Darley-USmar, PhD

**Center for Metabolic Bone Disease**

Director: Jay M. McDonald, MD

**Comprehensive Neuroscience Ctr.**

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

**BioMatrix Engineering and**

**Regenerative Medicine Center**

CoDirector: Joanne E. Murphy-Ullrich, PhD

**Gene Therapy Center**

Director: David T. Curiel, MD, PhD

**Core Labs in the Department**

- Brain Resource Program
- Human Bone Cell Production
- Tissue Procurement
- Congenital Heart Disease
- Laser Tissue Microdissection
- Bone Histomorphometry and Molecular Analysis
- Neo/Perinatal Dissection Lab
- Fungal Reference Laboratory
- Genetically Engineered Mouse/Marker Breeding Facility
- FRET Microscopy Facility
- Mycoplasma Reference/Research Lab

**Department of Pathology**

**Web Site**

<http://www.path.uab.edu>

**KEEP IN TOUCH.....Newsletter**

**E-Mail:** [PATHINFOCUS@uab.edu](mailto:PATHINFOCUS@uab.edu)

**Departmental Divisions**

**Anatomic Pathology**

Director: Gene P. Siegal, MD, PhD

**Forensic Pathology**

Director: Robert M. Brissie, MD

**Laboratory Medicine**

Director: John A. Smith, MD, PhD

**Molecular and Cellular Pathology**

Director: Thomas L. Clemens, PhD

**Neuropathology**

Director: Kevin A. Roth, MD, PhD

**Vice Chair**

C. Bruce Alexander, M.D.

**Teaching in Pathology**

**Medical Scientist Training Program**

- 54 Students

**Undergraduate Medical Education**

- General and Correlative Pathology
- Pathology Electives

**Graduate Programs**

Molecular and Cellular Pathology

- 51 students

**Integrated Biomedical Sciences**

- 20 students

**Resident and Fellowship Programs**

- 35 Trainees

**Post-doctoral Fellowships**

- 25 Fellows

**2007 Paulette Shirey Pritchett  
Lecture**

Monday, April 10, 2006

11:00 AM Spain Auditorium

**Hal Dietz, M.D.**

Victor A. McKusick Professor of Medicine,  
Pediatrics, Molecular Biology & Genetics  
Institute of Genetic Medicine  
Johns Hopkins University

**PATHOLOGY IN FOCUS**

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

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Gary T. Simmons, M.D.

Martha W. Simmons & Margaret Dotzler

## MESSAGE FROM THE PATHOLOGY FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) is composed of elected representatives from the five Divisions in Pathology. Its purpose is to represent the views and issues of the faculty to the Chair.

In 2006 the FAC surveyed the faculty to determine their issues and suggestions to empower faculty to sustain our already vibrant growth.

- It was determined that we needed to reach out to our faculty, trainees and alumni through a newsletter. You are reading the culmination of that effort.
- The FAC identified the need to provide incentives to increase research productivity among the departmental faculty. They developed the following program which has been implemented by the Chair:

### Small Research Grant Program

Eligibility: Primary faculty

Award: Up to \$5,000

Proposal Due Date: February 16, 2007

The Newsletter is a new beginning for us and we certainly welcome information that will make it more informative.

Sincerely,

Nirag C. Jhala MD, MIAC, Chair  
David Chhieng, MD -Anatomic Pathology  
William Benjamin, PhD -Lab Medicine  
Stephen Moser, PhD -Lab Medicine  
Gary Simmons, MD -Forensic/Neuropath  
Joanne Douglas, PhD -Molecular & Cellular Pathology

## FACULTY PROFILES



### Peter G. Anderson, DVM, PhD

Dr. Peter Anderson came to UAB in 1981 for a 3-year residency in Veterinary & Comparative Pathology and stayed an additional 2 years to finish his Ph.D. in experimental pathology. He joined the UAB pathology faculty in 1986. During his tenure at UAB, Dr. Anderson has had a robust research program and has been actively involved in collaborative

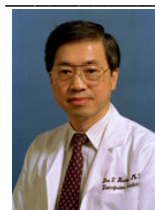
studies with a number of UAB investigators. He has participated in teaching at UAB for the past 22 years. He has developed numerous Web-based programs to support and facilitate health sciences education. These Web-based programs are used by thousands of educators around the world every day and have been recognized with awards from various education and informatics groups. Dr. Anderson takes great pride in helping students learn and in providing innovative tools for teaching. He is a Professor of Pathology and the Director of Pathology Undergraduate Education.



### Amy L. Adams, MD

Dr. Amy Adams joined the faculty of the Division of Anatomic Pathology, Section of Surgical Pathology, in 2005. She is an Alabama native, originally from Smiths Station, but spent most of her childhood in Georgia. She returned to Alabama to attend Auburn University, graduating with a B.S. in biology. She then entered medical school at the University of Alabama, graduating with her M.D. degree in 1993.

Following medical school, Dr. Adams completed a family medicine residency in Huntsville and then went into private practice in both Tennessee and Alabama. In 2001 she returned to UAB to begin residency training in the combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency program. She served as Chief Resident in Anatomic Pathology for the 2003-2004 academic year and completed a surgical pathology fellowship the following year. After completing of her fellowship, she joined the surgical pathology faculty where she is an Assistant Professor with a clinical focus on breast and renal pathology.



### Shu T. Huang, M.D.

Originally from Taiwan, Dr. Huang

came to UAB in 1978 after training in Hematology and Transfusion Medicine in New York City. He jokingly recounts that one of the first people he spoke with at UAB could not understand him, and he immediately assumed, "It must be my *New York* accent!" Everyone knows that Dr. Huang, although unassuming in manner, is an encyclopedia of knowledge. For 28 years, he has trained and mentored many residents, fellows, and junior faculty. In his quiet way, he has been able to modernize the practices of transfusion medicine at UAB. His care and concern for patients and their families is well-known. In addition to impeccable character, Dr. Huang has a wonderful sense of humor. He has the respect and admiration of all who know him by his kindness, wisdom and laughter.



### Gregory G. Davis, MD

Greg Davis is one of the Associate Coroner/Medical Examiners here in Jefferson County. He chose forensic pathology because he found autopsy work the most enjoyable challenge in pathology. Dr. Davis is pursuing his interest in studying the relationship between a history of drug abuse and sudden death. Dr. Davis's academic work mostly stems from his love of writing and teaching. He is on the editorial board of three forensic journals and is a co-editor of the ASCP CheckSample series in Forensic Pathology. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Medical Examiners. In 2004 Springer published Dr. Davis' book *Pathology and Law*, a reference describing aspects of law and attorney interaction with which pathologists should be familiar. The book has proved sufficiently popular to lead to requests for Dr. Davis to speak on law at various pathology seminars around the country. Dr. Davis is married to Sue Davis. They have two daughters. Dr. Davis has been baking bread since he was twelve years old, and he is a good pastry chef, too.

## From the Chief Residents



**Yara A. Park, M.D., CP**



**Preeti P. Sharma, M.D., AP**

All pathology residents became certified CAP Inspectors prior to the UAB Mock Inspection this year. Along with medical technology supervisors, they completed a thorough inspection of all the laboratory sections.

A number of residents also participated in away CAP inspections led by Dr. Alexander and Dr. Chhieng.

- Charleston, WV: **Jeremy Henderson, Holly Burford, and Preeti Sharma** (8/2-4/06)
- Minneapolis, MN: **Yara Park and Jeremy Henderson** (8/21-24/06)
- Ft. Walton Beach, FL: **Yara Park** (9/21-22/06)

UAB trainees had a strong showing at the annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks in Miami this past October:

- **Yara Park** presented a poster titled “Common Assays Distinguish Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation”.
- **Diane Peterson** presented a poster titled “Case Report of Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura in a Patient with a Pancreatic Mass”.

- **Hande Tuncer**, the 2003-2004 Transfusion Medicine Fellow, along with **Jeremy Henderson**, presented a platform presentation titled “Comparison of Clinical and Laboratory Parameters of HIV Positive Patients and HIV Negative Controls with Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura-Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome”.

Our residents also presented at the Southern Medical Association Meeting in Charlotte this October:

- **Preeti Sharma** gave an oral presentation titled “Intramyocardial Vascular Amyloid Deposition In Patients With Autopsy-Proven Cardiac Amyloidosis”
- **Jeremy Henderson** gave an oral presentation titled “Acquired Hemophilia: A Rare But Severe Bleeding Diathesis In Older Adults”
- **Christina Tatum**, a former UAB resident presented work she completed while at UAB with **Yara Park** titled “Not all Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias are Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura: A Clinicopathologic Correlation” and was awarded second prize for the presentation.

Many residents are already working on projects for future laboratory medicine meetings. The deadline for the submission of abstracts to the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) national meeting in San Diego in June of 2007 will be at the end of February.

Ten abstracts submitted by UAB Pathology residents and fellows have been accepted for presentation at the upcoming USCAP meeting in San Diego. Congratulations to **Drs. Meiklejohn McKenzie (PGY-1), Andrea Dickens (PGY-2), Jeremy Henderson (PGY-3), Xiuli Liu (PGY-4), Preeti Sharma (PGY-4, AP Chief Resident), Tonya Eichelberger (GI Fellow), Regina Meara (Surgical Pathology Fellow), Allyson Baker (Bone and Soft Tissue/Gyn Fellow), and Luminita Rezeanu (Bone and Soft Tissue Fellow)**.

UAB trainees continue to be well represented at the national level through CAP and ASCP.

- **Jeremy Henderson, Meredith Lakey, and Holly Burford** are Alabama delegates to the CAP Resident Forum, which meets twice a year—at the CAP Meeting each fall and at the USCAP Meeting each spring.
- **Jeremy Henderson** attended the Resident Forum meeting at the CAP Meeting in 2005, the USCAP Meeting in 2006, and the CAP Meeting in 2006.
- **Holly Burford** attended the Resident Forum meeting at the USCAP Meeting in 2006.
- **Meredith Lakey** attended the Resident Forum meeting at the CAP Meeting in 2006.
- **Jeremy Henderson** was elected as a new member-at-large of the Resident Council of the ASCP this past fall. There were four new members-at-large elected.
- **Jeremy Henderson** was one of 12 recipients of the CAP Foundation Travel Award to attend the Eleventh Annual Conference on Advancing Practice, Instruction, and Innovation through Informatics (APIII) on August 15 – 18, 2006, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He was also one of two recipients of the CAP Foundation/Cerner Health Conference Travel Award to attend the 2006 Cerner Health Conference on October 8 – 11, 2006, in Orlando, Florida.