

Message from the Chair

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A critical component of our departmental mission is to support a strong training environment in which students at

all stages of their careers are encouraged to participate in and advance scientific research. Many of our faculty are actively engaged in mentoring UAB undergraduate students through a variety of formal and informal mechanisms. The department has sponsored a summer research program for undergraduates through the Program for Research Experience in Pathology (PREP) for over 15 years and six PREP students will again be welcomed to departmental laboratories this summer.

This past year, the School of Medicine instituted a requirement for medical students to participate in a scholarly activity project during their education. To encourage our faculty to serve as mentors for these students and to defray the costs related to the student's research, the department provides funds to the mentor at the beginning of the student's scholarly activity rotation. Similarly, we have expanded research opportunities for Pathology residents and clinical

fellows through the funding of mentored small clinical research grants and the development of a translational research core laboratory in the Division of Anatomic Pathology.

Our Pathology graduate program has over sixty students and is amongst the largest at UAB and Pathology departments nationwide. The department provides significant financial support towards graduate student tuition, stipends and research activities. Graduates of our program have been remarkably successful and almost 90% have remained in academics. As the school transitions to theme-based graduate education, it is important for the department to support the talented graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the laboratories of our departmental faculty. Presenting one's research at scientific meetings is an important mechanism by which Department of Pathology graduate students and post-docs receive national recognition and engage the scientific community. Unfortunately, travel funds are often limited and thus, meeting participation becomes prohibitive. To assist the scientific development of our graduate students and post-docs, and to defray the costs incurred by their faculty

mentors who often cover scientific meeting expenses through discretionary funds, Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar, Vice-Chair for Research, and I will establish a Departmental Travel Award Program. We have committed \$25,000 to this new program in the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year and will announce program details in the next few months.

I feel that despite difficult economic conditions, it is important for the department to prioritize support for scientific training and education.

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

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Faculty Profile: Margaret Brandwein-Gensler, M.D.

Her first book, "Head and Neck Pathology" has been published by Cambridge Press as part of the Illustrated Surgical Pathology Series.



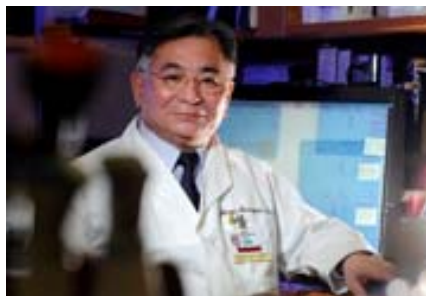
Dr. Brandwein-Gensler is a recent transplant from New York, where she was born. She completed medical school at Upstate Medical College in Syracuse, followed by one year of Otolaryngology residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, where she discovered her interests lay in pathology. After her residency in Pathology at Mount Sinai Medical Center and a fellowship in Surgical Pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, she spent the years from 1990 to 2004 at Mount Sinai Hospital in the departments of

Pathology and Otolaryngology as Division Chief, Head and Neck Pathology. In 2004 she moved to Montefiore Medical Center to serve as both Division Chief, Head and Neck Pathology, and Director of the Tissue Microarray Facilities, and was a Professor in Pathology and Otolaryngology until November 2009, when she joined UAB as Head of the Surgical Pathology Section and Professor of Pathology and Surgery. She is a charter member and past president of the North American Society for Head and Neck Pathology and serves on the editorial boards of Head and Neck Pathology, Oral Oncology, and ENT Journal. Her first book, "Head and Neck Pathology" has been published by Cambridge Press as part of the Illustrated Surgical Pathology Series.

Dr. Brandwein-Gensler's current research interests include validation of her risk model for predicting risk for early disease progression and decreased survival for patients with low-stage oral/oropharyngeal squamous carcinoma, and the impact of productive HPV infection with host immune response to oral/oropharyngeal carcinoma.

Her personal passions including cooking, dollhouse miniatures, and painting. One of her dollhouses was featured in "American Miniaturist." Dr. Brandwein-Gensler has four children (none of whom will pursue medical careers), four step-children, and three grandchildren.

Faculty Profile: Hiromi Kubagawa, M.D.



Hiromi Kubagawa (b. 1946), Professor of the Department of Pathology with secondary appointments in Microbiology and Medicine, received the M.D. degree

from Juntendo University (Tokyo, Japan) in 1971, completed a residency in Anatomic and Surgical Pathology at Nihon University, and conducted immunopathological studies in the laboratory of Dr. Yoshihiro Hamashima at Nihon University (1971-1975) and Kyoto University (1975-1976). He performed his postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Dr. Max D. Cooper on the clonal origin of B

cell malignancies using individually specific (idiotypic) antibodies, and joined the pathology staff in 1983. In 1986 he spent a year with Dr. Martin Weigert in the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia where he learned molecular biology. His outside interests include music, reading, cooking, and watching sports (especially, college basketball and football).



UAB-Related Foreign Travel Process Now Online!!

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the development of a new Web-based process for faculty, staff and students to request and receive approval for UAB-related foreign travel. This new system will replace the paper form with a fully electronic, automated process that has been streamlined and simplified for easy submission, review and approval.

Beginning March 1, all UAB-related Foreign Travel Requests must be made online through the UAB forms site at www.uab.edu/uabforms. UAB policy requires prior presidential approval for all UAB-related foreign travel, includ-

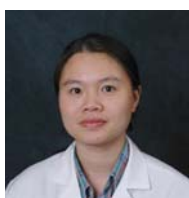
ing for all students who participate in Study Away programs and/or travel overseas as part of UAB-related activities.

Faculty and staff may direct questions regarding the online foreign travel request to the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Development/Faculty Affairs at 205-934-0513 or peelc@uab.edu. Students may direct questions to the Office of Study Away at 205-975-6611 or studyabroad@uab.edu.

Training sessions for using the new system will be offered by the Office of the Provost. You may

access a training schedule at www.uab.edu/provost.

Where are they now?



Xiuli Liu, MD, PhD

Dr. Xiuli Liu completed her residency

training at UAB in June of 2007. She also did her GI pathology fellowship under the guidance of Dr. Nirag Jhala and Dr. Audrey Lazenby at UAB in the academic year 2005-2006. Dr. Liu had received her MD degree from Beijing Medical University in 1990 and her PhD degree in Toxicology from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, in 2002. Currently, Dr. Liu works as a staff pathologist in the Department of Anatomic Pathology at Cleveland Clinic Foundation

(Cleveland, Ohio) as one of the 9 GI and Liver Pathologists, signing out cases of gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, and molecular tests for colorectal cancer. Additionally, Dr. Liu is an assistant professor of pathology in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University and actively involved in medical school teaching and resident teaching. Also, Dr. Liu has strong research interest in Liver and Pancreas Pathology and is actively collaborating with several basic scientists on research projects in the field of NAFLD, liver transplant, hepatocellular carcinoma, colorectal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. Dr. Liu would like to express her great gratitude

towards all the UAB Pathology faculty and staff who trained her during her residency years. It was their mentoring and encouragement that prepared her to succeed in her current profession. To the current UAB pathology residents, Dr. Liu would like to say that UAB Pathology Residency Program is definitely one of the best training programs because it represents the pathologist training trend characterized by balanced AP and CP training, active engagement in translational research, and developing skills in literature review and scientific presentation (the best example would be the "Shark Tank".)

Dr. Liu would like to express her great gratitude towards all the UAB Pathology faculty and staff who trained her during her residency years.

Spotlight on Pathology Support: Ova Peeples



Ms. Ova Peeples is an OAI in the Department of Pathology, Division of Laboratory Medicine. In her role, she provides assistance and support to Drs. Ken Waites, Stephen Moser, and William Benjamin, Jr.; as well as coordinates other divisional duties such as the division's on-call schedules.

Ms. Peeples came to work at UAB in Pathology/Laboratory Medicine as a temporary employee in 1992 after having served in temporary positions in several other areas of UAB. In November of 1993, she accepted the Department's offer to become a full time member of the Laboratory Medi-

cine team. After over 16 years in the Department, Ova can still attest, "I love my job and the people I work with, and that is what makes me love to come to work."

Gina Heaton, administrative supervisor of Laboratory Medicine, states that all her peers deeply respect her; hence she has earned the nickname, "Momma Ova." She has seen her job change drastically over the years from a very manual, paper intensive process to a situation where most everything is electronically processed. Over the years, Ova has always been eager to take on new challenges, learn new approaches and systems. In this way, she has been a great example to her peers and a reliable team member.

Before coming to UAB, Ova worked for Joslyn Mfg & Supply for 22 years and the A. P. Green Company for 12 years.

Ova has known hard work all her life. Recalls Ova, "As a country girl, growing up in Hamilton, Alabama wasn't easy; everybody had hard chores to do. Our family depended entirely on the land for our survival, and there were many difficult times. I came to Birmingham in 1954, where I met my husband Ken. We have been married for 55 years and have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren."

Ova enjoys spending time with family and friends and considers her friends at UAB as a great blessing.

UAB Researchers Discover Antibody Receptor Identity, Propose Renaming Immune-System Gene



Researchers at the [University of Alabama at Birmingham \(UAB\)](#) have uncovered the genetic identity of a cellular re-

ceptor for the immune system's first-response antibody, a discovery that sheds new light on infection control and immune disorders. The discovery is such a crucial part of immunology that UAB researchers, in conjunction with Japanese researchers, are asking that the gene linked to this antibody receptor be renamed to better describe its role in early immune responses.

The proposed name is the Fc mu receptor (FCMR) gene; it describes a key region of the immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody that binds this receptor. IgM is by far the largest antibody in the circulatory system, and it is the first antibody on the scene in response to an invading pathogen,

such as a virus or bacteria. The IgM-tagged pathogens then trigger various immune responses through this receptor FCMR. The new findings are reported online in the [Journal of Experimental Medicine](#) and in the publication's Nov. 23 print edition.

Previously, researchers who had identified this gene thought they were dealing with a molecule that regulated cell death and they named it "toso" - a reference to the Japanese medicinal sake often drunk on New Year's Day to symbolize a long life. But the toso name is inaccurate, as were many of the earlier descriptions of this gene's function, says Hiromi Kubagawa, M.D., a professor in the [UAB Department of Pathology](#) and the lead study author.

"The new study shows, and DNA analysis helped us to confirm, that the Fc mu receptor is made from the gene we describe," Kubagawa says. "This is a fundamental discovery that science has been waiting to

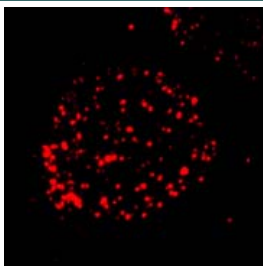
answer for nearly 30 years."

To identify the true FCMR gene, the UAB researchers used chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells as a source of this gene, since such leukemia cells are known to over-express the Fc mu receptor. This enabled researchers to identify the FCMR gene more efficiently.

The potential novel agents that target and regulate FCMR function hold promise in fighting cancer, AIDS and autoimmune disorders, says Kubagawa. The genetic description and request for renaming the gene does not prove it has a direct role in any particular disease; however, it fills a crucial gap in understanding the science behind immune deficiencies and allergy diseases.

The study is a partnership between UAB, Brookwood Medical Center in Birmingham, RIKEN Research Center for Allergy and Immunology in Yokohama, Japan, and the University of Tokyo.

—Reprinted from UAB Reporter



FCMR Expression by Immunofluorescence.

From the Chief Residents

Recruiting season has come to a close and we are eagerly awaiting a successful Match Day coming up in March! We'd like to thank all the residents, faculty, and staff for their strong efforts. We would like to acknowledge in particular Dr. Cheryl Palmer, in her first year as Chair of the Admissions Committee, as well as Karen Lewis for all their hard work this year in making our recruiting efforts a success.

- *Amanda Crowe*

- *Mark Steciuk*

USCAP Meeting 2010

As usual, a number of our residents have authored abstracts for the annual United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Meeting in Washington, D.C. this coming March. They are listed below along with their faculty mentors. Congratulations and good luck to all!

Amberly Nunez: "Success of EUS-FNAB and Flow Cytometry in the Diagnosis of Deep-Seated Lymphoproliferative Processes" (Dr. Darshana Jhala)

Virginia Dailey: "Interobserver Variability in Determining Carcinoma Extent Based on Percentage in Radical Prostatectomy (RP) Specimens" (Dr. Omar Hameed)

Elizabeth Kerr and Virginia Dailey: "Should Saved Interval Sections of Prostate Needle Biopsy (PNBx) Specimens Be Examined Microscopically?" (Dr. Omar Hameed and Dr. William Grizzle)

Elizabeth Kerr: "Sinonasal Malignant Melanomas (SNMM): A Clinicopathologic Review of 17 Cases" (Dr. Nasser Said-Al-Naief and Dr. Omar Hameed)

Elizabeth Kerr: "Correlation of Microvascular Density (MVD) with Pathological Features and Outcomes of Mucosal Malignant Melanoma (MMM) of the Head and Neck" (Dr. Omar Hameed and Dr. Nasser Said-Al-Naief)

Marian Kraemer: "An Analysis of Prognostic Markers in Basal Cell Carcinoma: Can We Predict Behavior?" (Dr. Aleador Andea)

Marian Kraemer: "Growth Factor Receptor Expression and Microvascular Density in Adrenal and Extra-Adrenal Pheochromocytomas/Paragangliomas (PG)" (Dr. Omar Hameed and Dr. William Grizzle)

Emily Reisenbichler: "Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and In-Situ Hybridization (ISH) for HER2 on a Single Slide Is Feasible and Allows Direct Comparison at the Individual Cell Level" (Dr. Omar Hameed and Dr. Aleador Andea)

Mark Steciuk: "Numerous, Fine, Clear, Cytoplasmic Vacuoles May Be a Helpful Cytologic Feature in the Diagnosis of Pancreatic Endocrine Neoplasm on Pancreatic Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration" (Dr. Darshana Jhala and Dr. Nirag Jhala)

Ami Linder: "Implementation of

the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology (BSRTC) Has Little Impact on the Rate of Diagnostic Errors or the Rate of Frozen Sections Requested for Thyroid Lesions" (Dr. Isam Eltoum and Dr. Omar Hameed)

Shuting Bai: "Salivary Mucoepidermoid Carcinoma: Clinicopathologic Study of 72 Patients" (Dr. Margaret Brandwein-Gensler)

Congratulations!

...to **Marian Kraemer** and **Emily Gorman**, who attended the College of American Pathologists Council on Scientific Affairs Leadership Meeting in Galveston, Texas this February.

...to **Amberly Nunez**, who was recently appointed to the College of American Pathologists Toxicology Resource Committee.

...to **Jeremy Henderson**, who was appointed to a one-year term as the junior member of the College of American Pathologists IS189 Committee.

NEW UPCOMING CHIEF RESIDENTS!!!

Finally, a hearty congratulations and good luck to **Marian Kraemer** and **Darrell Sanders** on recently being named by the Chair as upcoming chief residents for Anatomic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine respectively, for the 2010-2011 academic year, effective

From the Chief Residents cont'd...

April 1, 2010. To quote the immortal Dr. Seuss: "Oh! The Places You'll Go!"

Resident Social at Surin!



Outgoing Reception

The 2010 Outgoing Reception will be held on Thursday, May 13th. Time and location will be announced at a future date.

Accolades:

Faculty Accolades:



Joanne Murphy-Ullrich was named to the Editorial Board of The Journal of Biological Chemistry July 2010-2015 for a second term (previous one 1995-2000).



Ralph Sander-son was elected as a Council Member for the American Society for Matrix Biology.



Yabing Chen joined an AHA ATVB early career committee, became an ATVB editorial board

member and received an AHA fellowship.



Selverangan Ponnazhagan became a GENES editorial board member.



Darshana Jhala was invited to address 17th Thai - Japan Society of Cytology in

Chiang Mai, Thailand and then proceeded from there to address Hong Kong Society of Cytology. Hong Kong to kick off their 2010 CME activities. This is a picture of memento received by her from Co Chair of the Thai - Japan Society of Cytology, Professor Naito from Japan.

Postdoc Accolades:

Anandi Sawant received the Tandra

Chaudhuri Award for Excellence in Cancer Research

David Kryzwanski received 1st Place, Session 4: 2010 Postdoc Research Day (sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Education and the UAB Postdoctoral Assoc.) for oral presentation "Racial Differences in Mitochondrial Bioenergetics May Contribute to Endothelial Dysfunction and CVD Susceptibility."

Benjamin Beck was a runner-up for the John R. Durant Award for Excellence in Cancer Research.

Chadrakumar Shanmugam received the AACR Scholar-in Training Award to give an oral presentation at the 2010 Meeting. The title of his talk is, "Clinical Relevance of Lymph Node Evaluation in Stage II and III Colon Cancers." Dr. Shanmugam is a postdoc fellow in Dr. Upender Manne's laboratory.

From the Graduate Students:

Accolades/Awards:

Thomas Bodenshtein—Received the John R. Durant Award for Excellence in Cancer Research.

Thomas was also nominated for the 2010-2013 term that will officially begin in April at the AACR 101st Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Of the thirteen active members of the Council, only Thomas and one other member are serving as graduate students.

Since its inception in 1996, the Associate Member Council has served as the leadership body of the Associate Members of the AACR -- more than 6,000 graduate students, medical students and residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows who are enrolled in educational or training programs leading to careers in cancer research.

Each year, four Associate Members are chosen for three-year leadership terms through a competitive selection process. The members of the Council develop programs that address the particular needs of early-career scientists. Additionally, the Council acts as an advisory body to the AACR leadership on issues of concern to the next generation of cancer researchers.

The Council supports AACR's mission to prevent and cure cancer by promoting the professional development of early-career scientists throughout the world. The goal of the Council is to foster excellence in cancer research through initiatives related to communications, education and training, and collaboration. The Council also provides a venue for discussion about the challenges

of a cancer research career, and seeks solutions to sustain this important workforce.

Mick Edmonds was the runner-up for the John R. Durant Award for Excellence in Cancer Research

Niroop Kaza received an SSPR/APA Trainee Travel Award from the Southern Society of Pediatric Research to the Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans, February 25-27, 2010. Selected for Oral Presentation - "Decreased Expression of TGF β Receptors During NEC May Sensitize Intestinal Macrophages to Bacterial Products and Augment Mucosal Inflammation".

Niroop also received a SPR Research Award (MD/PhD, PhD category) for the Pediatric Academic Societies Annual meeting in Vancouver, May 1-4, 2010. Name of the abstract or poster presented at meetings - "Decreased Expression of TGF- β Receptors During NEC Sensitizes Intestinal Macrophages to Bacterial Products and Activates Inflammatory Signaling in These Cells".

Angela Gullard will be competing as a semi-finalist in the Junior category of the 2010 AADR Hatton Awards Competition. The AADR/CADR Annual Meeting will be held March 3-6 in Washington, D.C. Abstract title: "TGF- β Mouse Model Demonstrates Altered SIBLING/MEPE Expression."

Yanna Ding received the AFMR Scholar Award by submitting an abstract "Nuclear Expression of CXCR5 in Spleen Follicular T Helper Cells in Autoimmune BXD2 Mice" to the AFMR Southern Region meeting in

New Orleans with title of PhD trainee, MD.

Publications/Presentations:

Liselle Bovell—Her findings on expression of microRNAs in colorectal cancer submitted to the Annual Meeting of American Association for Cancer Research, to be held in April 2010 in Washington, D.C., has been identified as newsworthy and she received an invitation to give an oral presentation to the media. The title of her talk is, "Higher Expressions of miR-21, miR-106a, miR-181b, and miR-203 are Associated With Poor Prognosis in Colorectal Cancer Patients". (Mentor - Upender Manne, Ph.D.)

Joseph Ritchie—Co-author of a book chapter recently published in the book **Cell-Extracellular Matrix Interactions in Cancer**.

Sanderson RD, Yang Y, Purushothaman A, Khotaskaya YB, **Ritchie JP** and Ramani VP. "Proteoglycans in Cancer." Cell-Extracellular Matrix Interactions in Cancer. Eds. Zent and Pozzi. Springer: New York, Dec. 14th 2009. 191-215.

Graduate Program Director:

Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.

Graduate Program Support:

Nicole Newton

934-2445

New Pathology Kickball Team!



There has been a kickball team put together for the Department of Pa-

thology. The name of the team is the "A-Team". The regular season starts 3/1/2010 and goes through 4/9/2010. The official schedule will be released by this Friday.

The roster for the "A-Team" is:

- ◆ George Garib
- ◆ Riley Ballard
- ◆ Thuy Nguyen
- ◆ Frank Anderson
- ◆ Darrell Sanders
- ◆ Marian Kraemer
- ◆ Sam Borak
- ◆ Liz Kerr
- ◆ Zhiyong Ren
- ◆ John Ross
- ◆ Matthew Woods
- ◆ Will Davis
- ◆ Michelle Posey
- ◆ Arianne Fulce
- ◆ Emily Gorman
- ◆ Brendan Alexander
- ◆ Amberly Nunez
- ◆ Charles Nunez

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: pathinfofocus@uab.edu.

Thank you.

Pathology Grant Awards

The following grants were recently awarded to pathology faculty:

YABING CHEN

VAMC
VA IPA
\$37,043 10/1/09-9/30/10

YABING CHEN

VAMC
VA IPA
\$94,290 10/1/09-9/30/10

ZDENEK HEL

NIH (CCC)
Immunologic Uniqueness of the Female Genital Tract in HIV Pathogenesis—Project 3
\$503,095 9/26/09-8/31/10

JAY McDONALD

VAMC
VA-IPA
\$94,290 1/11/10-1/10/12

RALPH SANDERSON

NIH/University of Wisconsin
Synstatin Therapy for Multiple Myeloma
\$627,408 1/1/10-11/30/14

RALPH SANDERSON

NIH
Novel Heparanase Inhibitors for Cancer Therapy
\$2,032,306 2/1/10-12/31/14

DANNY WELCH

METAvisor
Mechanism of Action of the KISS1 Metastasis Suppressor
\$55,000 2/1/10-1/31/11

DANNY WELCH

Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Hughes Med-Grad Fellowship Program
\$700,000 4/1/10-3/31/14

MAJD ZAYZAFOON

NIH/CSMC
Prostate Cancer Bone Metastasis -Biology and Targeting
\$1,220,433 9/24/09-7/31/10