

Message from the Chair

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Over the last two years we have accomplished many of the short-term goals that I established when I became Chair in September 2008. These include retention of multiple key faculty members, recruitment of excellent new faculty, substantial laboratory and administrative space renovation and acquisition, increased support of faculty professional development funds, medical licens-

ing fees, and bridge funds and commitment of significant resources to undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and medical student research and scholarly activities. The newly created Division of Informatics will become a reality in 2011 and several senior faculty appointments will be announced in the upcoming months. After slipping somewhat over the last three years, total pathology research funding has increased substantially over the last year and we anticipate further research

growth over the next year. Although I am very pleased with what we have been able to accomplish under very stressful economic conditions, there is still much to do. I look forward to working with the faculty, administration, and students to meet both short-term and long-term departmental goals.

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

Faculty Profile: Darshana Jhala, M.D.



Dr. Darshana N. Jhala is an Associate Professor of pathology in the division of anatomic pathology

and the Leader, FNA services, in the section of Cytopathology. She is also the Medical Director of the successful Cytotechnology Program at Auburn University, Montgomery. She has been at UAB since 2000. After AP/CP residency training and obtaining board certification with first rank and a gold medal from the Gujarat University, B. J. Medical College, India, she did a research fellowship in GI Pathology at The Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In addition, while in research she also managed workflow for the flow cytometry lab.

Following this, she completed her AP/CP residency at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, a Hematopathology Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine and MD Anderson Cancer Center, and a Cytopathology Fellowship at UAB.

She is an internationally known cytopathologist and has extensively contributed in peer reviewed literature with publications in journals including American Journal of Clinical Pathology, Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Annals of Diagnostic Pathology, Cancer and GI Endoscopy. She has received the Mentor Sky of Fame award by the American Society of Cytology for the past four years consecutively. She has been invited to give workshops and courses both nationally and internationally, with international presentations in Singapore, Thailand, China, Taiwan, India and Japan. Dr. Jhala's areas of interest include

EUS-FNA of lymph node, pancreas, and mediastinal lesions, and also Pap smear.

Dr. Jhala has a Bachelor's Degree in Classical Vocal Music. She was the youngest participant in the history of classical vocal competition to win the first prize in her home state of Gujarat. She was a winner on Mehfil, a regional program similar to American Idol. She is a graded artist for All India Radio and frequently performs on TV-Asia. In 2007, she was the only US soloist invited to perform on the same stage in India with internationally recognized music directors and singers from Bollywood.

Dr. Jhala has been married to Dr. Nirag Jhala for 22 years. They have two children; Khushboo and Amol. Dr. Jhala spends her free time singing and reading literature.

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Faculty Profile: Stephen L. Carroll, M.D., Ph.D.



Dr. Steven Carroll is Professor of Pathology, Neurobiology and Cell Biology. In October 2008, he was appointed Director of the UAB Division of Neuropathology.

Dr. Carroll is a native Southerner who received his B.S. degree from the University of Memphis in 1981. He attended Baylor College of Medicine, receiving his Ph.D. in Cell Biology in 1986 and his M.D. in 1988. After completing a postdoctoral research fellowship, Anatomic Pathology Residency and Neuropathology Fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine, Dr. Carroll was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Washington University School of Medicine Department of Pathology. In 1997, Dr. Jay McDonald made Dr. Carroll an offer he couldn't refuse and he joined the UAB Department of Pathology. Dr. Carroll is an attending neuropathologist at University Hospital, the Birmingham VA, UAB Highlands Hospital and Children's Hospital. He serves as a Scientist in the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, the Mental Retardation Research Center, the Center for Aging, the Center for Glial Biology in Medicine, the Civitan International Research Center, the Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics and the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center and is a Senior Scientist in the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Carroll is an active member of the American Association of Neuropathologists, the Society for Neuro-

science, the American Society for Investigative Pathology and the Southern Working Association of Neuropathologists. He has served on the Editorial Boards of *The American Journal of Pathology*, *The Journal of Neuropathology* and *Experimental Neuropathology* and *Brain Research Bulletin* and is the Section Editor for the Development and Repair and Neurobiology of Diseases sections of *Brain Research Bulletin*. He has served on numerous study sections for NIH, the DOD and other granting agencies, including a term as a permanent member of NIH's Neurogenesis and Cell Fate study section. Dr. Carroll was appointed this year to NIH's College of CSR Reviewers.

Dr. Carroll is strongly committed to teaching medical students, residents and graduate students and participates in multiple courses and journal clubs devoted to their training. He was selected as Lecturer of the Year by the Washington University School of Medicine medical students three times (1995, 1996 and 1997). Dr. Carroll was also recognized for his teaching by the UAB medical students, who through the Argus Society selected him as Best Lecturer in 1998 and 1999 and as Best Small Group Leader in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2007; he was a finalist for these awards in 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009. Dr. Carroll is a two-time winner of the Caduceus Club's Donald Taft Memorial Award for Best Basic Science Professor (1998, 2000) and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Joint Health Sciences (1998, 2000). However, what he is most proud of is having been part of a

team of highly talented neuropathology teachers headed by Dr. Rich Powers that was consistently selected as the Best Section by the second year medical students for over 10 years. At present, the teaching location where Dr. Carroll can be most consistently located is in Dr. Danny Welch's Friday afternoon cancer journal club, where he acts as one of the resident faculty curmudgeons.

Dr. Carroll's research program is focused on the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of neurofibromatosis type I-associated neurofibromas and malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors and the development of new therapies for these neoplasms. He is also the Director of the Molecular and Cellular Neuropathology Core within the Alabama Neuroscience Blueprint Initiative. Dr. Carroll's research is funded by NINDS, NCI and the DOD.

Dr. Carroll has been married to Pam Carroll for 32 years. They have two daughters, the older of which is a research technician in Houston and the younger of which is a lawyer in Chicago. Their younger daughter has just gotten engaged and Dr. Carroll and his wife are currently buried under massive amounts of wedding planning details (which include, to his horror, attempts to rope him into wedding dress shopping expeditions). Dr. Carroll and his wife live in Homewood with their dog Booth, who adopted them after they met at the Birmingham Humane Society. At present, Dr. Carroll's free time is totally consumed by a never-ending cycle of remodeling his home one room at a time.

Dr. Carroll is strongly committed to teaching medical students, residents and graduate students...

Where are They Now?

From the Graduate Program:



Carrie A. Elzie, Ph.D.

Dr. Carrie A. Elzie obtained her Ph.D. degree in

Molecular and Cellular Pathology from UAB in 2006, after obtaining her BS degree in Biology from Le-noir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina in 2000. In the UAB Pathology Graduate Program, she was guided and instructed in Dr. Joanne Murphy-Ullrich's laboratory, where her research focused on thrombospondin-calreticulin signaling.

After obtaining her Ph.D. at UAB, Dr. Elzie was accepted to a three-year Scientist-Educator Postdoctoral Fellowship at Vanderbilt University, combining traditional basic science research with extensive training in gross anatomy. While there, her research centered on G-protein signaling in the laboratory of Dr. Chris Janetopoulos. During her fellowship, she also taught in the Vanderbilt School of Medicine and the undergraduate program.

In July 2009, Dr. Elzie returned to UAB as an Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, teaching gross anatomy in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the School of Optometry. In November of 2009, she was named Course Director of Gross Anatomy and Director of the Anatomical Donor Program. Her time is divided between developing new teaching initiatives in the areas of gross anatomy and medical

imaging, and working with the generous individuals and families who have selflessly contributed to medical education through anatomical donation. She received the 2010 Best Lecturer Award in the Musculoskeletal Module, and the 2010 Best Basic Science Instructor Award in the School of Optometry. Dr. Elzie is a member of the American Association of Anatomists, and the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society.

Dr. Elzie has many memories of long hours in the lab, great friends, inspiring mentors and personal growth; but she says her absolute favorite memories center around dancing with Dr. Jay McDonald at the annual Pathology Christmas parties, where "his spirit truly shined on the dance floor." She states that, "... it is only because I had such a wonderful experience here as graduate student that I considered coming back (to UAB) for my career."

While in Nashville, Dr. Elzie married Dr. Jeremy Grall, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Music at UAB, with a specialty in classical guitar and musicology.

From the Residency Program:



Irina Mikolaenko, M.D.

Dr. Irina Mikolaenko was a resident in

the combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency program at UAB from 1998 – 2002 and "remembers with warmth and gratitude" her training years at UAB. She fell in love with neuropathology while doing an elective rotation during residency. Following residency she completed two neuropathology fellowships (Johns Hopkins University 2002-2004 and Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard University 2004-2005) and is board certified in anatomical and clinical pathology and neuropathology. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology, Division of Neuropathology at New York University. NYU has a very busy neurosurgery department with more than 15 full time neurosurgeons. The Division of Neuropathology takes two neuropathology fellows each year (in case any of our current residents might be interested). Irina's husband is a neurologist subspecializing in neurointensive care. He works in a busy private practice in Long Island. Her twin daughters are first year medical students at Touro college of Osteopathic Medicine in New York.

"... it is only because I had such a wonderful experience here as a graduate student that I considered coming back (to UAB) for my career."

Dr. Carrie Elzie

Annual Medical Education Conference:



Peter Anderson, D.V.M., Ph.D., Professor and Director of Undergraduate

Chung Shan Medical University (CSMU) is the 'sister' medical school to UAB School of Medicine and has had a long standing relationship with UAB.

Pathology Education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was invited to speak at the Annual Medical Education Conference at Chung Shan Medical University in Taichung City, Taiwan. Chung Shan Medical University (CSMU) is the 'sister' medical school to UAB School of Medicine and has had a long standing relationship with UAB. Students from CSMU can elect to participate in clerkships at UAB, and CSMU faculty have visited UAB to observe and become familiar with the new medical curriculum at the UAB School of Medicine. Dr. Anderson was invited to participate in the one-day Medical Education Conference at CSMU in May 2010. The title of his presentation was: "Teaching and Learning in the Information Age: The Pedagogy of Technology-Enhanced Learning." Dr. Anderson also led a workshop at CSMU on "Practical Approaches to the Implementation of Technology-Enhanced Health Sciences Education." Participants in the CSMU Medical Education Conference included faculty from CSMU as well as faculty members from the other medical schools of Taiwan.



CSMU Faculty Attendees

Dr. Anderson's visit to Taiwan also included a tour of the CSMU campus and hospital and a discussion session with medical students at CSMU. An informal lunch with the Dean was held in the dedicated "UAB Conference Room" in the CSMU Hospital. After the meetings, Dr. Anderson was treated by the CSMU group to a weekend visit to the Sun Moon Lake resort in central Taiwan. Sun Moon Lake is the largest lake in Taiwan and the area around the lake is home to the Thao tribe, one of aboriginal tribes in Taiwan. The east side of the lake resembles a sun, while the west side resembles a moon, hence the name.



Sun Moon Lake

Accolades:



Dr. Peter Anderson, Professor and Director of Pathology Undergraduate Education re-

ceived the ***Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology*** at a special ceremony held at the 21st International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville Florida. The conference brought together more than 800 faculty from colleges and universities in 20 different countries.



Dr. William Grizzle was appointed to serve as a Senior Editor

for *Clinical Cancer Research*.



Dr. Joseph Messina was appointed to the founding editorial board of

Hepatic Medicine: Evidence and Research.



Dr. Stephen Moser was appointed to a second 5 year term as an Editor of the *Jour-*

nal of Clinical Microbiology, effective July 2010-2015.



Dr. Danny Welch, a renowned expert in the biology and genetics of cancer metastasis, has been se-

lected to serve on the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Scientific Advisory Council. The newly established council includes more than 60 top-ranked scientists, physicians and advocates from seven nations and a wide range of disciplines who will help guide the organization's extensive research program. Welch will serve a two-year term.



Dr. Majd Zayzafoon received a commendation for service as a Senate Committee Member.

Spotlight on Administration: Don Bowen



Don Bowen is the Business Director for Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pa-

thology. He oversees the professional billing, serves as liaison with the division directors, Hospital Administration and other departments as well as pathology needs outside the walls of UAB. He coordinates the quality assurance activities and serves as a representative on committees of the

Hospital and Health Services Foundation.

Don was employed by the institution before it had the name "UAB". While working his way through school in 1962, he was the Hospital's first full-time venipuncturist. After spending time in the Air Force, he returned to UAB to work with Drs. Kirklin and Sheppard in experimental surgery. He went back to school and returned to UAB in 1971 to work in the Hospital Laboratories. After spending time

on the evening shift, and then operating the outpatient laboratories for the Department, he became the manager for the outpatient laboratory services for the Hospital. He joined the Department of Pathology in his present position in 1993.

Outside of work, he enjoys his family; wife and three sons with their families and five grand children. All three sons and their families live in Nashville so Joyce knows the road well between here and there.

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!

*Darrell Sanders and
Marian Kraemer*
Chief Residents, 2010-2011

Boards:

Best wishes to those residents taking board exams this fall. You have worked hard and will do well!

National Meetings:

Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) - The Annual ACLPS meeting was held on June 3-5 in Nashville, TN. **Qian Dai** gave an oral presentation titled "Aberrant Expression of Two Novel Histone Deubiquitinases in Breast Carcinoma (BC)." Faculty mentor was Dr. Omar Hameed.

American Society for Clinical Pathology—The Annual ASCP Meeting will be held on October 27-31 in San Francisco, CA. **Xiaojun Wu** will give an oral presentation titled "Is There a Role for Fatty Acid Synthase in the Diagnosis of Prostatic Adenocarcinoma?—A Comparison with AMACR". Her abstract has been selected as one of the ten finalists for the AJCP Resident Research Award. Faculty mentor is Dr. Omar Hameed. **Qian Dai** will present the poster "The Role of Bone Marrow Biopsy Immunohistochemistry in Myelodysplastic Syndromes: Staining Pattern and

Patient Survival Analysis." Faculty mentor is Dr. Vishnu Reddy. **Elizabeth Kerr** will present the poster "Ovarian Malignant Mixed Mullerian Tumor." Faculty mentor is Dr. Michael Conner.

College of American Pathologists—The Annual CAP Meeting will be held on September 26-29 in Chicago, IL. **Shuting Bai** will present the poster "Characterization of Bone Marrow Stromal Cell Markers Expression in Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)." Faculty mentor is Dr. Vishnu Reddy. **Elizabeth Kerr** will present the poster "A Much Needed Competency: How to Bring a New Test In-House." Faculty Mentor is Dr. Marisa Marques.

Publications:

Shuting Bai is first author on "Characterization of CXCR4 Expression in Chondrosarcoma of Bone", which has been accepted for publication in *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*. Dr Gene Siegal is co-author and faculty mentor.

Committees:

Amberly Nunez has been elected to serve a one year term as the resident/fellow member on the ASCP Non-Gyn Assessment Committee beginning in October. Her charge is to oversee, enhance, and develop the programs and tests associated with the Committee, which include Glass-slide, Image-based, and Online programs. **Darrell Sanders** has been appointed to the Health Information Manage-

ment (HIM) Committee for UAB Hospital as a resident member.

Congratulations to...

...**Mark Steciuk**, **Amberly Nunez**, and **Qian Dai** who were awarded Adams Grant funding for research. Faculty mentors are Dr. Vishnu Reddy, Dr. Darshana Jhala, and Dr. Yongsheng Ren, respectively.

Resident and Fellow Outgoing Reception:

Primary faculty, fellows, and residents attended the 2010 Outgoing Reception on Thursday, May 13, at Vestavia Hills Country Club. Residents and fellows finishing their training received certificates of completion. Awards were presented to **Liz Kerr** (Jay M. McDonald Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine Presentation and Kracke Award for Best Presentation in Anatomic Pathology), and **Mark Steciuk** (Roger Denio Baker Prize in Anatomical Pathology).



Liz Kerr (center) stands between Dr. Bruce Alexander (far left), Dr. Jay McDonald (left) and Dr. Pat Bucy (right) as she accepts the Jay M. McDonald Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine Presentation.

From the Chief Residents, cont'd:



Amanda Crowe presents Dr. Omar Hameed the Leonard H. Robinson Award for Excellence in Anatomic Pathology Teaching.



Residents Emily Gorman (left), Amberly Nunez (middle), and Charles Nunez enjoy a little after work downtime during a resident social at Mellow Mushroom.

From the Graduate Students:

Accolades/Awards:

Rebekah Wharton—received a position on the Program in Immunology T32 Training Grant.

Publications/Presentations:

Lena Gamble—Medical Scientist Training Program, Department of Pathology Presented "Modification of Conditionally Replicative Adenoviruses (CRAbs) for Treatment of Ovarian Cancer" at the Peter Kohler Pavilion, on April 19th, 2010

Warram, Jason, Borovjagin, Anton, Zinn, Kurt. A genetic strategy for combined screening and localized imaging of breast cancer. *Molecu-*

lar Imaging and Biology (In Press)

General News:

Last Quarter Defenses

Dario Vitturi
Terry Lewis
Carolyn Durham
Shaoning Jiang

Last Quarter Graduates

Anne Diers
Miho Murakami
Gin Chuang

Graduate Student Picnic:

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Summer 2010 Depart-

ment of Pathology Picnic!

Awards:

Jason Ashley: In appreciation for outstanding service as 2009-2010 Presiding Officer



Jason Ashley receiving his award from Dr. Rakesh Patel.

From the Graduate Students cont'd...

Tara Edmonds: In appreciation for outstanding service as 2009-2010 Vice Presiding Officer

Tara Edmonds:
Voted Most Outstanding MCP Graduate Student for outstanding leadership and service



Tara Edmonds receiving her awards from Dr. Rakesh Patel

Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar:
Voted Most Outstanding Faculty of the year by the MCP Graduate Students in appreciation for leadership and dedication to graduate student education



Dr. Darley-Usmar receiving his award from Jason Ashley.

Department of Pathology Travel

Award Began: May 25, 2010
Five applicants to date. Travel Awards have been paid to **Blake Zelickson** (MCP Student) and **Gloria Benavides**, (Pathology Post-doc) attended the 2010 5th International Conference of Neurons and Brain Diseases at The University of Bristol, Bristol, UK from June 29 to July 1, 2010.

Blake presented a poster entitled *Hypoxia/Reoxygenation Alters Mitochondrial Function in Endothelial Cells*, which covered his recent work showing that submitting endothelial cells to hypoxia and reoxygenation (as a model of ischemia/reperfusion) causes mitochondrial dysfunction, and that this dysfunction can be exacerbated with the addition of lipid peroxidation products which are known to be produced during ischemia/reperfusion.

Gloria presented a poster entitled *Inhibition of Apoptosis Partially Restores Mitochondrial Function*, where she assessed the effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS) on mitochondrial respiration of endothelial cells. She demonstrated that ROS are cytotoxic and are associated with the activation of caspase-9 and caspase-3. Treatment with caspase-3 or caspase-9 inhibitors prior to ROS exposure rescues mitochondrial function.

Graduate Program Director:

Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.

Graduate Program Support:

Nicole Newton

934-2445

The Tech Check:

Jan Pauls is the histotechnologist who is stationed in the frozen room. She trained at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas and has been working in pathology for over 30 years. Jan received her ASCP Board of Registry Certification in 1985. She came to UAB in 1997, and all of the residents and fellows that have trained here since that time probably have

a favorite Jan story. Her primary responsibility is cutting frozen sections, but her involvement is much broader than that. She is active in teaching the pathology residents how to approach the frozen section and in keeping the senior pathologists in line. She also cuts sections for research histology and cuts frozen sections for immunofluorescent studies.

Away from work, Jan enjoys cooking, reading, family, home improvement projects and spending time with her dog, Joplin. She has one daughter, Kaytie, who following in her mother's footsteps, is currently training in histotechnology.

New Senior VP/Dean, School of Medicine Announced:



Ray L. Watts, M.D., has been named senior vice president for Medicine and dean of the School of Medicine. "After a thorough national search that resulted in many excellent candidates, the very best

fit for UAB came from within," said UAB President Carol Garrison.

website: <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/MediaRelations/>

Watts currently holds the John N. Whitaker Endowed Chair in Neurology and chairs the Department of Neurology. He is an internationally renowned leader in Parkinson's disease research and care, serves as the chief of the Neurology Service for UAB Hospital and is president of the UA Health Services Foundation. Watts' appointment will begin Oct. 1, 2010.

The full press release regarding Dr. Watts' appointment can be found at the UAB Media Relations

Pathology Grant Awards

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.

The following grants were recently awarded to pathology faculty:

ZDENEK HEL

NIH

Depletion of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells (MDSCs) in HIV-1 Infection

\$402,875 07/07/10-06/30/12

DENNIS KUCIK

VA-IPA

\$119,958 02/01/10-01/31/12

ROBIN LORENZ

NIH

Medical Scientist Training Program

\$3,585,199 07/01/10-6/30/15

JOSEPH MESSINA

NIH

Hepatic Insulin Resistance Following Hemorrhage

\$1,278,214 07/01/10-06/30/15

DANNY WELCH

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Hughes Med-Grad Fellowship Program

\$700,000 04/01/10-3/31/14