UCLA Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Website

Our website is getting lots of attention! During January, we had:

- 10,935 visits to the website
- 8,121 unique visitors
- 30,736 page views
- from 121 countries

This is a 12% increase in unique visitor traffic compared to just six months earlier – and we expect growth to be even stronger this year. This means greater opportunity for your labs, news and efforts to get noticed.

If you would like information about traffic on your area’s webpages, we can provide you with detailed tracking information. This can be very helpful to track interest in a new service, advertisements, or to knowing traffic trends to your pages.

The website is a great resource for easy access to the information you need. We encourage you to become familiar with the “For Faculty and Staff” section on the front page. Here, you’ll find frequently used information about the business office, contracts and grants, purchasing, reimbursements, travel, conference rooms, forms portal and more.

Consider making http://pathology.ucla.edu your homepage. The front page of the website has been designed to give quick access to many commonly used sites, including the Faculty and Staff pages, division pages, as well as through the “Quick Links” on the top left side where you can find one-click access to the “Mednet” page, Path IT Service Now, our intranet pages, emergency and safety information, manuals, and more.

The website is also an important resource of information for visitors from outside the department, as well as an opportunity to highlight and promote your programs. You can help us make the website better and attract more attention by:

- Let us add your lab (or similar) pages. Contact us for information.
- Don’t be shy about sending us your (or your colleagues) big news; e.g. awards, accolades, grants awarded, or publications released. Your good news is good news for us too! We will be happy to post your upcoming department-related seminars and events.
- Add http://pathology.ucla.edu (or your specific Path and Lab landing page) to your email signature line and business cards. This helps increase traffic to the website which means increased attention to your efforts.
- Email us with your requests or news, and don’t forget…

Path and Lab is now on Facebook—please “Like” us!

Annual Holiday Party

Happy 2014! The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine continues its wonderful Holiday Party tradition. Below are highlights of the celebration. Click here for more photos
Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Alistair Cochran is a senior author of an important study showing that lymphatic mapping and sentinel node biopsy, with immediate complete lymph node dissection if the sentinel nodes contains metastases, significantly prolongs disease-free survival for patients with intermediate and thick melanomas, and prolongs distant disease free survival and reduces death from melanoma for patients with intermediate thickness primary melanomas. | Abstract

Rita Effros, Ph.D., discusses the challenge of meeting the needs of an aging Baby Boomer generation in The Silver Tsunami, in the Winter 2014 U Magazine | More Info

Dr. Wayne Grody explored the difference between Hollywood fact and fiction, and discussed his film and TV advisory experiences in the Smithsonian’s Genomics, Hollywood Style program, webcast on January 29. The Voice of Russia explores what makes Dr. Grody “Hollywood’s go-to scientist.”

Dr. Oliver Hankison has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of science (“AAAs”) for his scientifically distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. His election was announced in the Nov. 29 Science journal.

The UCLA Kidney Exchange Program celebrated its 100th transplant on Dec. 2. Congratulations to UCLA Immunogenetics, Renal Pathology and all who made this important milestone a reality. Read More

Dr. Dennis Goldfinger was recently chosen by the American Society for Apheresis to receive the annual Francis S. Morrison Memorial Lecture Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the field of apheresis medicine and apheresis professionals who have made a lasting difference in the field at the national level.

A Promise Fulfilled—UCLA’s Clinical Genomics Center’s exome sequencing program is featured in the Winter 2014 edition of U Magazine. More Info

Dr. Michael Teitell has been appointed Associate Director for Clinical Integration of the UCLA-Caltech Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). More Info

He has also been appointed UCLA’s next Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) effective July 1, 2014. The FAR provides a faculty voice and perspective in the administration and oversight of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Drs. Samuel Strom, Hane Lee, Kingshuk Das, Eric Vilain, Stanley Nelson, Wayne Grody and Joshua Deignan have successfully demonstrated a way to alleviate significant labor and cost burdens to clinical laboratories wishing to use next-generation sequencing technology by reducing the amount of required Sanger-based confirmation without sacrificing test quality. Genetics in Medicine

Dr. Siavash Kurdistani has been appointed Co-Director of the UCLA-Caltech Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), having previously served as an Associate Director.

More Info

Dr. Stan Nelson was quoted in an article by Al-Jazeera America, about personalized medicine discussing UCLA’s Exome Sequencing program, which enables parents to obtain a clear diagnosis and effective treatment for children with rare genetic disorders.

Drs. Samuel Strom and Hane Lee are co-authors on a recently published paper in Human Molecular Genetics establishing HDAC8 as an important gene for patients with clinical features of Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. A mutation and phenotype discovered through Clinical Exome Sequencing performed at UCLA helped define the spectrum of conditions.

Read More

Dr. Jianyu Rao, Kimberly Mislick, Marie Sohsman and Yong Ying are among the authors of a groundbreaking study laying the groundwork for broader validation of label-free quantitative biophysical markers for clinical diagnoses for cancer and inflammation. This could help to reduce laboratory workload and improve clinical decision making. Read More
Congratulations Alisa!

Our very first recipient of the Loni Calhoun CLS Educational Scholarship and Conference Stipend Award

UCLA Blood Bank has established an award to honor Ms. Loni Calhoun for her commitment to the field of Transfusion Medicine.

Ms. Calhoun is a passionate immunohematologist and consummate teacher who is always willing to share her knowledge. She recently retired from UCLA after 27 years in the blood bank as a Transfusion Medicine Education Coordinator and Technical Specialist, then another 6 years as a per diem blood bank CLS.

The purpose of this award is to encourage our staff to become active in the Transfusion Medicine community by attending educational meetings and participating in our state blood bank society. Each year, the award recipient will receive a 1-year membership to the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS) including “sponsorship” by senior members, registration for one regional seminar and registration plus a $750 travel stipend to attend the CBBS annual meeting.

Our first awardee is Ms. Alisa Wood. Alisa started her career in the blood bank as a hospital laboratory technician in 2003 and pursued her CLS degree in 2008. With her passion for transfusion service, she returned to the blood bank after working 5 years as a generalist at the Santa Monica Hospital. Alisa has a thirst for knowledge – she is always inquiring about patients, asking questions about Immunohematology, and attending seminars. She also shows initiative in the blood bank by taking an active role in quality-driven projects.

We are very happy to present this award to Ms. Wood.
Welcome New Employees

**February 2014**

Eric Basanes – CLS, Brentwood Annex
Vladymyria Caringal – CLS, Brentwood Annex
Ciara Stewart – CLS, BURL
Kerry Doughty – CLS Registry, Brentwood Annex
Alexander Funk – CLS, RRH Core Lab
Yan Li – CLA, Molecular Pathology
Caroline McNeal – CLS Registry, Brentwood Annex
Allison Nomura – Sr. CLS Specialist, Brentwood Annex
Diana Peraza – CPT I, SMH
Luke Sesco – Brentwood Annex
Xinhe Wei – CPT, RRH Core Lab

**December 2013**

David Avalos - Health Info. Coder II
Laura Bedolla - HLT II, Outreach
Norma Meneses - CLS Sup., SMH
Alicia Middleton - HLT, Brentwood
Philippe Quitevis - CLS, Blood Bank
Mannohsan Sagoo - Health Info. Coder
Jackelyn Shinn - Sr. Admin. Analyst, Path Business Office
Nevine Wahba - Admin. Spec., Clinical Lab Report Office

**November 15, 2013**

Benedick Aguas - CLS, Core Lab
Andrea M. Alvarez - SRA I, Immunogenetics
Emily Rader - Admin Specialist, Support Services
Thomas Truong - CLS, Blood Bank
Jessica Victorio - HLT II, Support Services
Jesus Villanueva, Jr. - HLT, Immunogenetics
Doris (He) Xu - HLT II, Cytology

**January 2014**

Steven King - MLT, Santa Monica Hospital
Raquel R. Sulat - CLS, Cytogenetics
Jennifer Yi - HTL I, Neuropathology

**November 21, 2013**

Leticia Alvarez - CPT I, Support Services
Marlene Diosomito - CLS, Flow Cytometry
Debreguenet Fikru - CPT, Support Services
Shelly Rajput - Admin. Spec., Float Pool, Blood & Platelet Center
Maria Rayas-Rivera - Admin. Spec., Float Pool, Report Office
Alice Seidman - Hospital Medical Transcriber, Report Office

**New members of the UIC team**

Prabitha Natarajan—Postdoc
Jesus Villanueva—HLT
Shontell Taylor—HLT
Holiday Events

**Pathology’s Got Heart - February**

The “Heart” of the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine was on full display during the Countdown to Valentine’s Day posted on the website and Facebook page. If you have slides or photos of interest to share (not just hearts!), please email them.

- Small liver slide submitted by Dr. Charles Lassman
- GI slide submitted by Dr. Sarah Dry
- Slide submitted by Dr. Michael Teitell (by way of Steve Peckman of the Broad Research and stem Cell Center)
- Heart vessel slide submitted by Dr. Charles Lassman
- Genitourinary slide submitted by Dr. Jiaoti Huang
- Heart vessel slide submitted by Dr. Charles Lassman
- Small liver slide submitted by Dr. Charles Lassman

**Holiday Lunch Parties - December**

Holiday Cheer! The Department of Pathology & Lab Medicine hosted various inter-department holiday lunches to show appreciation for all the hard work faculty and staff have provided throughout the year.

**Pathology’s Men of Movember - November**

Movember, an annual worldwide event which sees gentlemen nurture fledgling moustaches in an attempt to raise awareness of men’s health issues, has come to UCLA Pathology!

While naysayers abounded, our inaugural year saw a jaw dropping THREE (3!) volunteers take on the challenge. This tenacious trio braved the arched eyebrows and stupefied stares of curious and/or horrified onlookers alike, showing us all the true face of courage – or at the very least, blind single mindedness.

So next November when you see legions of (now inspired) pathologists and staff roaming the halls of our great institution with a half baked attempt at a man-stache, cut them some slack, give them a hug, and remember – it’s for a good cause people.

-Serge Alexanian

Left to Right: Philip Scumpia (Fellow, Dermatopathology), Serge Alexanian (Fellow, Dermatopathology), Matthew DeNicola (Fellow, Hematopathology)
PATHOLOGY RESEARCH ALUMNI COMMITTEE & PUBLICATIONS

One of the goals of the Pathology Research Alumni Committee is to highlight publications from our current and recently former graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents in the departmental newsletter. If anyone has additional publications (newly published, first-author only) that should be highlighted, please contact Doug Smoot (dsmoot@mednet.ucla.edu).

-- Joshua Deignan, PhD, FACMG
Assistant Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Chair, Pathology
Research Alumni Committee

PUBLICATIONS:

November 2013 – February 2014

**GSRs:**

Maomeng Tong – GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)
A modular organization of the human intestinal mucosal microbiota and its association with inflammatory bowel disease.

Parissa Solaimani – recent GSR (Oliver Hankinson lab)
Genome-wide RNAi high-throughput screen identifies proteins necessary for the AHR-dependent induction of CYP1A1 by 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin.
Solaimani P, Damoiseaux R, Hankinson O.

Xin Rong – CMP Student (Peter Tontonoz lab)
LXRs regulate ER stress and inflammation through dynamic modulation of membrane phospholipid composition.

Airie Kim – CMP Graduate (Tomas Ganz lab)
A mouse model of anemia of inflammation: complex pathogenesis with partial dependence on hepcidin.
Kim A, Fung E, Parikh SG, Valore EV, Gabayan V, Nemeth E, Ganz T.
Blood. 2013 Dec 19. [Epub ahead of print]

Jeanette Grant – CMP Graduate (Steven Dubinett lab)
A Novel Molecular Pathway for Snail-Dependent, SPARC-Mediated Invasion in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Pathogenesis.
Grant JL, Fishbein MC, Hong LS, Krysan K, Minna JD, Shay JW, Walser TC, Dubinett SM.

**Post Docs:**

Yoko Kidani - postdoc (Steven Bensinger lab)
Lipids rule: resetting lipid metabolism restores T cell function in systemic lupus erythematosus.


Nicole Valenzuela - current postdoc (Elaine Reed lab)
Antibodies in transplantation: the effects of HLA and non-HLA antibody binding and mechanisms of injury.
Valenzuela NM, Reed EF.

Residents/Fellows:

Aaron W. James - Resident
Review of signaling pathways governing MSC osteogenic and adipogenic differentiation.

Aaron W. James - Resident
Abnormal karyotypes in osteochondroma: Case series and literature review.
James AW, Tirado CA, Levine B, Dry SM.

Aaron W. James - Resident
Clavicular and meningeal alveolar soft part sarcoma: An unusual case and literature review.

Albert Su – current Resident
Malignant melanoma with neural differentiation: an exceptional case report and brief review of the pertinent literature.
Su A, Dry SM, Binder SW, Said J, Shintaku P, Sarantopoulos GP.

Annie Wu – current Resident
Bifid cardiac apex in a 25-year-old male with sudden cardiac death.
Wu A, Kay D, Fishbein MC.

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## Upcoming IMED Seminars

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<td>Feb. 26th @ 12pm</td>
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<td>Craig Venter, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Life at the Speed of Light</td>
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<td>March 5th @ 12pm</td>
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<td>Thomas Sudhof, M.D.</td>
<td>Towards a Molecular Understanding of Synapse Formation, Autism, and Schizophrenia: Neurexins and Company</td>
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<td>March 6th @ 12pm</td>
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<td>The Curative Potential of T Cell Immunotherapy for Cancer</td>
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<td>Joan Steitz Ph.D.</td>
<td>Noncoding RNAs: With a Viral Twist</td>
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<td>James Spudich, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>May 28th @ 12pm</td>
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<td>David Kessler, M.D.</td>
<td>The End of Overeating</td>
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UCLA Immunogenetics—Cell Exchange

Lead SRA Arlene Locke presented data from a pilot study at the 39th Annual meeting of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in Chicago, IL, on November 17-21, 2013. The pilot study was initiated in August, 2012 by the International Cell Exchange Program at the UCLA Immunogenetics Center, a program which provides laboratories around the world with a means to validate their typing methods and reagents. The goal of the pilot study was to develop a PT survey to correlate antibody testing and virtual crossmatch prediction through the comparison of MFI data with flow crossmatch outcomes among centers. Analysis of the data led to the conclusion that the incorporation of solid phase assays into proficiency testing surveys based on flow cytometric crossmatch tests should be considered.

The International Cell Exchange celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and will soon feature the Flow Crossmatch Exchange, which will test two cells with known types against four unknown sera, with the purpose of comparing MFI data with crossmatch outcome. The exchange will be shipped three times per year, with the first shipment scheduled for April 9, 2014. Single antigen and flow crossmatch results will be reported online via the Cell Exchange Program website.

UCLA Blood & Platelet Center

The UCLA Blood & Platelet Center is very proud to have been featured on the front page of the Daily Bruin! Remember to donate blood at either our Gayley or Ackerman locations! Our patients are depending upon you!

Make an appointment today: CLICK HERE
Contact - (310) 825-0888
Email - gotblood@ucla.edu

Today our Patients at UCLA Need:

Visit UCLA Pathology Outreach at USCAP
March 1–7 | More Info

Visit UCLA Clinical Genomics at ACMG
March 25-29 | More Info

Newsletter Committee: Arnold Scheer, Daisy Castro, Khanh Andrews, Karyn Greenstone, Bushra Yasin

Send us your suggestions for future newsletters at: Email Dcastro@mednet.ucla.edu

Annual Meetings

103rd USCAP Annual Meeting
Our largest number of accepted abstracts ever.

ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting
March 25-29 | Exhibit Dates: March 26-28

Visit UCLA Pathology Outreach at USCAP
March 1–7 | More Info

Visit UCLA Clinical Genomics at ACMG
March 25-29 | More info