UCLA Alumni at USCAP 2014

Dr. Jonathan Said, AP Division Chief, hosted a lovely reception at the San Diego Bayfront Hilton on Mar. 3 in conjunction with the USCAP meeting, for UCLA faculty and alumni. Around 50 alumni enjoyed a terrific variety of hot hors d’oeuvres and an open bar. There was a great mix of older and younger alumni, and a lot of people were able to chat with friends they had not seen in years! Afterward 10 of us ventured into the “Gaslamp Quarter” of San Diego for dinner at a fantastic Indian restaurant. Can’t wait for next year!

Dr. Valerie McWhorter
Chair, UCLA Pathology Alumni Committee

Photos courtesy of Paul Backlund and Valerie McWhorter

Dr. Charles Lassman Stepping Down as Director of Residency and Fellowship Education

Dr. Charles Lassman will step down as Director of Residency and Fellowship Education for the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in July of this year. Dr. Lassman has served in this position since 2003.

Throughout his tenure in this capacity, Dr. Lassman has been a tireless supporter of the residency program and advocate for the medical school and medical education. He is a dedicated educator with a reputation for his engaging and relevant teaching style, and for always being available to ensure trainees’ needs are met. He is also known as an avid bicyclist and world traveler, eager to share his knowledge of obscure world history with his students.

“Our trainees have benefitted greatly from his years of outstanding and visionary leadership, and for his personal support of our trainees and students,” said Dr. Jonathan Braun, Chair of the Department. “We are thrilled that he will continue to serve as Surgical Pathology Fellowship Director and Chief of both Renal and Liver pathology.”

The Charles Lassman Educational Fund has been set up in Dr. Lassman’s honor, to promote pathology education and ensure the continuation of Dr. Lassman’s vision. Tributes, which will be shared with Dr. Lassman, are also encouraged. Information about the fund, including where to send tributes, can be found on page 4.
Clinical Alumni News

Clinical Alumni Spotlight-Jonathan Lucas, MD

Dr. Jonathan Lucas is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside. He graduated from the University of Nevada School of Medicine in 1994 followed by an AP/CP residency at UCLA, where he was also Chief Resident.

He fondly remembers Dr. Walter Coulson (now 87 years old) participating in resident teaching (as do many of us!). Dr. Elizabeth Wagar was the Residency Director at that time and made a particular impression on Dr. Lucas, as she arranged a career-altering forensics rotation for him. After residency, he headed east and completed a fellowship with the New York Chief Medical Examiners Office. He worked a short stint at the Queens office in 2000-2001 before finding his permanent home at the San Diego County Medical Examiners Office, where he currently serves as Chief Deputy Medical Examiner.

Dr. Lucas analogizes forensic pathologists to family physicians who see "all comers", from fetuses to centenarians, regardless of their insurance health plan or any other factor that would set them apart from the other three million people in the county that he serves.

While forensic pathologists are in the public sphere both in the media and before juries, Dr. Lucas finds the most rewarding aspect of being in forensics to be the interactions he has with decedents' families. It is his task to explain the medical and toxicology aspects of the case to what are essentially lay people. Dr. Lucas found this aspect of forensic pathology to be a bit of a shock after being insulated from patients and their families during his five years of pathology training. He finds most meaningful the opportunity to serve grieving families at the most difficult of times, when their lives are falling apart.

Dr. Lucas is engaged and enjoys spending time with his soon-to-be step-daughter who is 10 years old. He and his fiancé enjoy sampling the many restaurants in San Diego, especially seafood, although he hesitates to call himself a "foodie." They also enjoy traveling, including recent trips to Mexico and New York. A trip to Hawaii and French Polynesia is in the works.

Valerie McWhorter, M.D.
Chair, UCLA Pathology Alumni Committee

Member News

Scott Eric Wang, class of 1984, has represented Rhode Island for more than 20 years in CAP as a state issue advisor. Dr. Wang will be featured in “These Three Words,” an upcoming documentary about living with cancer, sponsored by RI Film Collaborative.

Dr. Jonathan Braun, during a visit to United Family Health in Beijing in January with Alumnus Marie Sohsman Lithgow, Class of 2013. Dr. Lithgow is now on faculty at University of Massachusetts, Worcester SOM.

Please send your news to pathologywebsite@mednet.ucla.edu—share your life, family and professional events with your fellow alumni!

...and welcome to future alumni

Steve Fauce, PhD, wife Amy, and brother Ethan, welcome the newest member of the family, Zachary, born February 12, 2014, weighing 7lbs, 8oz.

Alarice Lowe, MD (class of 2010), husband, Justin and sister Gabby, welcomed the birth of daughter Olivia Joy Lowe, on January 22. She weighed 6 lbs, 6oz.

Olivia Joy Lowe, born January 22, 2014
Steve Fause, PhD, is currently a Senior Development Scientist for the Chemistry Systems Business Center branch of Beckman Coulter Diagnostics in Brea, CA. Steve completed his undergraduate studies at Pomona College with a B.A. in Molecular Biology before joining the UCLA ACCESS program in the summer of 2002. After completion of his doctoral degree in the spring of 2008, Steve began an industry postdoc assignment with Geron Corporation in Menlo Park, CA. During his 2 years with Geron, Steve worked for the Preclinical Development department, focusing mainly on small molecule drug screening and indications for telomerase activator candidates. Upon completion of his Postdoc studies with Geron, Steve joined Beckman Coulter as one of the founding members of the Scientific Development Program. This program allowed Steve to do 4-month rotations through 3 different Beckman Coulter locations, before settling in Brea for his permanent position. Currently, Steve is also working part-time as an instructor for Coastline Community College in Garden Grove, teaching evening classes of Microbiology lecture & lab.

Steve and his wife, Amy, were married in the summer of 2008 before moving to Mountain View, CA in the Bay Area. They moved back to southern California in 2010. Amy has worked in various teaching positions and is currently a middle-school science and math teacher in Chino Hills. Steve and Amy live in Chino with their 2 sons, Ethan (age 3) and Zachary (age 2 months). In his free time, Steve enjoys watching sports and playing outside with his sons and black lab, Bronco.

Steve and Amy Fauce with sons Ethan and Zachary.
Alumni Giving

The Department is very pleased to announce the Charles Lassman Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Educational Fund in honor of our friend and colleague, Dr. Charles Lassman, who will be stepping down from his post as Program Director of the Residency and Fellowship programs in July. Donations to the Charles Lassman Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Educational Fund can be made in any denomination and will support trainee development through the purchase of books and supplies, lecture programs, travel to attend seminars and conferences, research project seed grants, and orientations, graduations, and other trainee events.

As a much loved and admired mentor and educator to many of us through the years, the alumni committee strongly supports this effort and hopes that those who can, will be generous in their giving to the department. Tributes to Dr. Lassman, as well as tax deductible contributions to this fund, or any of the other opportunities mentioned below, can be made by completing and returning the attached form. Donations can also be made by visiting https://giving.ucla.edu/pathologyDF. If applicable, please note “for the Charles Lassman Educational Fund” either on the form or in the “notes” section online.

New in Path and Lab -

Clinical Exome Sequencing is a test offered by the UCLA Clinical Genomics Center for identifying disease-causing DNA variants within the 1% of the genome which codes for proteins (exons) or flanks the regions which code for proteins (splice junctions). This test is intended for use in conjunction with the clinical presentation and other markers of disease progression for the management of patients with rare genetic disorders.

By surveying virtually all protein-coding regions in the genome with this single test we not only replace the potential need for multiple costly single-gene sequencing tests but also drastically improve the odds of identifying a high-risk variant, which can then be used to guide appropriate clinical management. The data are presented to our Genomics Data Board which includes Board Certified Pathologists, Molecular Geneticists, Molecular Cytogeneticists, Clinical Geneticists, Genetic Counselors, and Informatics Specialists where all of the data are reviewed. In practice, about 50% of the patients have a clearly causal DNA variant identified. For information, call Clinical Outreach at 310-267-2680.

Alumni are encouraged to contact Jonathan Braun directly at 310-794-7953 to discuss community engagement, tax strategies or other collaborations to meet mutual objectives.

Ways you can help:

Charles Lassman Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Educational Fund: Any denomination
Trainee Books and Materials Grant: $200
Work-place visits (off-site): $250
Achievement Recognition: $300
Summer Youth Trainee (recruitment) Program: $500
Research Seed Grants: $500-$2000
Pathology Teaching Awards (to fund research) $1000
Sponsor a Trainee to attend Seminar or Conference: $2000

Coming Soon!
The 2014 UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Annual Report

Publications: November, 2013 – February, 2014...continued from previous page


Visit our Alumni Webpages:
http://pathology.ucla.edu/body.cfm?id=446

Giving to Pathology is easy and available online by visiting http://pathology.ucla.edu/body.cfm?id=47
We want to help you stay in touch! If you have information you would like to share in a future edition of UCLA Path & Lab Alumni News, would like to be added to our Database, or to update your records, please complete this form and return to UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; 924 Westwood Blvd., Ste. 705, Los Angeles, CA 90095. You may also email this information to pathologywebsite@mednet.ucla.edu or fax to 310-267-4486. (*required information)

Name (f/m/l)*: ________________________________  Phone (cell/home) ________________________________

Email: __________________________________________  Home Address: ___________________________ City/ST/Zip: ___________________________

Company Name: ___________________________  Title: ___________________________  Work Email: ___________________________

Work Address: ___________________________  City/ST/Zip: ___________________________  Work Phone: ___________________________

Preferred Contact (Home/Bus Email, Phone, etc.): ___________________________  Please check one: __ Clinical Alumni   __ Research Alumni

Year Residency/Fellowship Completed*: ____________  May we include you in our shared Alumni Data Base?  ___Yes   ___No

Personal News you would like to share for possible inclusion in a future edition of Alumni News (examples include family engagements, weddings, births, and retirements): ____________________________________________________________

Professional News you would like to share for possible inclusion in a future edition of Alumni News (examples include publications, new affiliations and promotions). Please include any relevant information, such as dates, titles and companies: ____________________________________________________________

Employment Opportunities you would like publicized in Alumni News (please attach relevant information): ____________________________________________________________

Other: __________________________________________________________________________

Would you like to be contacted as a future Alumni Spotlight or for other Newsletter information?  ___Yes   ___No

If you would like to share tributes to Dr. Lassman: Either email to pathologywebsite@mednet.ucla.edu, or write them on the back of this form or on a separate sheet of paper and mail back to the Dept. of Pathology, 924 Westwood Blvd., #705, L.A., CA 90095

I am pleased to support the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (please complete above contact information). Please accept my/or our gift in the amount of:  □ $5,000  □ $2,500  □ $1,000  □ $500  □ $250  □ Other Amount $__________

☐ Direct gift to The Charles Lassman Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Educational Fund

☐ Please acknowledge my gift in upcoming newsletter/annual report as (include spouse/partner name, if applicable):

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Credit card #: ___________________________  Expiration (mm/yy): ___________________________  Amount to be charged now: $__________

You may also make your gift online at https://giving.ucla.edu/pathologyDF, or call us at 310-794-7953 with any questions.

Thank you for your tax-deductible gift in support of the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Please review UCLA and The UCLA Foundation’s Disclosure Statements for Prospective Donors at www.uclafoundation.org/disclosures or contact the development representative listed on this form.

If you do not want to receive further fundraising communications from the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, please contact the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Development, 10945 Le Conte Avenue, Suite 3132, Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1784.

Please return forms to: UCLA Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, 924 Westwood Plaza, Suite 705, Los Angeles, CA 90095; or email to: pathologywebsite@mednet.ucla.edu
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