National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week –April 24th-30th

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week by acting as “Diagnosis Detectives”. Ronald Reagan had games like a Crime Scheme photo contest and Code word scramble contest based on common laboratory items. There was even a Whodunnit Mystery where Core Lab staff had to solve the case of the missing Mr. Meditech.

The 2016 Lab Gives Back Initiative was the People-Animal Connection (PAC). The UCLA PAC program has grown from a single-pet therapy team in 1994 to more than 60 volunteer human and canine teams, which makes UCLA one of the most comprehensive Animal-Assisted Therapy programs in the nation. The Ronald Reagan Core Clinical Laboratory donated over $1000 to the program. Two of the PAC dogs, Finn & Remey, brought their owners to say thank you to the laboratory staff.

-Khanh Andrews

UCLA Blood & Platelet Center—Nurses Week 2016 (May 6th—12th)

Every year, millions of nurses join together to celebrate National Nurses Week from May 6th through May 12th. The celebration ends on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of nursing. This year’s theme is Culture of Safety, which is a key aspect when drawing and collecting blood products for human transfusion. A nurse must be present to oversee the collection process of red blood cells, platelets and plasma. It is the nurse’s role to ensure a blood product is collected in such a manner that upholds the regulations and standards that guide the blood collection industry.

The UCLA Blood & Platelet nurses wear many hats from leaders to educators, to scientists. The nurses provide our donors with excellent education, care and guidance about their donation on a daily basis. UC Health would not be able to provide such outstanding service to our community if it were not for our exceptional nurses. Thank you to Doris, Shara, Soraya, Rosie, Dorothy, Ramon, Lilian, Michele, Delia, Blanca, Yanira and Sabrina. We greatly appreciate everything you do for our donors, patients and community.

-Sabrina Smulders, RN, BScN
**Awards and Recognitions**

Leica Biosystems and UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine announce a collaboration that will accelerate innovation and the adoption of digital pathology. [Read More]

Dr. Hanlin Wang received the Distinguished Pathologist Award from the Chinese American Pathologists Association (CAPA) during the 14th CAPA Annual Meeting, along with the USCAP meeting. [Read More]

Dr. Dinesh Rao, on his recent publication in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. This study was also featured in UCLA Newsroom’s, Health and Behavior section, ‘Cellular Protein Plays Important Role in Aggressive Childhood Cancer’. [Read More]

Dr. Sheeja Pullarkat, was featured on the new UCLA DGSOM website – Under Health News, “A day in the life”. [Read More]

Dr. Hanlin Wang received the Distinguished Pathologist Award from the Chinese American Pathologists Association (CAPA) during the 14th CAPA Annual Meeting, along with the USCAP meeting. [Read More]

Congratulations to Dr. Sophia Apple on her award. She was recognized at the 2016 College Outstanding Alumni Awards dinner hosted by her Alma Mater, Wright State. [Read More]

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Dr. Rita Effros is inspiring College Kids to Understand the Aging Process. USA Today published a Kaiser Health News story showcasing a UCLA course that helps undergraduate students gain empathy for the elderly and encourages them to pursue careers working with seniors. [Read More]

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**BEAKER Go-Live**

It is with great pride and more than a little awe that we wish to congratulate the wonderful team of laboratory faculty and staff, ISS personnel, Epic build team, and UCLA executive leadership that together made the Beaker build and GoLive launch such a success. The planning for this project began well over a year ago and involved hundreds of participants and many thousands of hours of preparation and hard work. We are thrilled that the finished product is now here and we are confident this will greatly enhance our capabilities to streamline and improve care for our patients.

With an operation this big, it is not possible to thank everyone individually and appropriately in an email. However, we hope no one will mind if we call out just a few of the tremendously dedicated people who made this endeavor so successful. First, we would like to recognize Jennifer Fralick, the project manager for both AP and CP builds, for her wonderful leadership and tireless enthusiasm. From the lab leadership team we would like to thank: Ann Shadler, CK Or, Greg Hohman, Nigel Pilkington, Mike Reyes, Paul Colonna, Sarah Dry, Linda Baum, Alyssa Ziman and Mary Alice Mita. The support from ISS and the hospital has been tremendous and we would not have been able to succeed without guidance and hard work from Gale Henke and Jeanne Markland from ISS and Laura Yost, Shannon O’Kelly and Mike Pfeffer from UCLA Health leadership. We are also very grateful to the many members of the Epic build team who have had to spend so much time with us in Southern California as part of this build. Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the leadership of Scott Binder for orchestrating all parts of this amazingly complex project. Without the leadership and support of Drs. Pfeffer, Binder and Braun we would not have been able to launch go-live on time. [Meet the team]

Tom Drake, MD  
Steve Hart, MD  
W. Dean Wallace, MD  
Physician Informaticists
Awards and Recognitions Continued...

A Peek at Transfusion Medicine

We are proud to announce our 2016 recipient of the prestigious Loni Calhoun CLS Educational Scholarship and Conference Stipend Award – **Voicu Suciu**. This award is presented to individuals who demonstrate a passion for transfusion service, along with a thirst for knowledge. Its purpose is to encourage our staff to take initiative and be active in the Transfusion Medicine community through education and leadership.

Voicu completed his one-year Clinical Immunohematologist Scientist (CIHS) training program with Transfusion Medicine in 2015 and joined the blood bank family right after. He currently works on the evening shift.

In April, he went to the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS) meeting and was introduced to the CBBS committee by Ms. Loni Calhoun. With his zeal to learn, he asked valuable questions and impressed many committee members. Voicu is preparing for the Specialist for Blood Bank (SBB) exam on his own time by reading reference books, designing personal study plans and asking questions. His determination and dedication are an inspiration to our entire staff.

Congratulations, Voicu!

- Shih-Mao Teng, MS, MT(ASCP) SBBCM

Laboratory Safety—Operations Management

The following research laboratories qualified to join the Pathology Safety Pizza Party, as part of the Laboratory Safety Incentives Program: Dr. David Dawson Lab, Dr. Sarah Dry Lab, Dr. Michael Fishbein Lab, Dr. Jonathan Braun Lab, Dr. Sam French Lab, Dr. Jonathan Said Lab, Dr. William Yong Lab, Dr. Linda Baum Lab, Dr. Gay Crooks Lab, Dr. Wayne Grody Lab, Dr. Elena Stark Lab, Dr. Peter Tontonoz Lab, Dr. Madhuri Wadehra Lab, & Dean Fisher Lab.

The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Laboratory Safety Incentives Program (introduced this year) inspires labs to be more safe. Labs that receive 4 or less violations during an Environmental Health & Safety Lab Safety Inspection and correct each violation (Both 48-Hour and 30-Day) within the follow-up period, will be able to participate in the Pathology Safety Pizza Party. Congratulations to labs that performed well, we appreciate all of the hard work that is put into making labs a safer workplace.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to strive for a better safety culture in our department!

-Dylan Acogny, MS

The Chase Child Life Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital, UCLA

Like previous years, Pathology employees participated in the 2016 Bruin Run/Walk benefitting the Mattel Children’s Hospital. Team Arayah, was led by Captains Leslie Chew and Tami Langevin. This program provides emotional support to patients and their families to help them cope with the stresses of their illnesses and hospitalizations. Many staff and faculty who could not participate in the 5k run/walk lent their support with generous donations.

**Read Aryah’s story**

We hope more will join us next year!
Welcome New Employees

**June 15, 2016**

- Brad Anderson – Path Assistant Student
- Connie Diblasi – Outreach Accounts Manager
- Christine Dvorsky – Path Assistant Student
- M. Wyatt Dvorsky – Adm Assist, Blood & Platelet Center
- Riki Higashida – HLT II, Cytogenetics
- Melissa Monarrez – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center
- Maria Navarette – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center
- Tamara Rubel – Outreach Accounts Manager
- Chau Tang – Sr. CLS Specialist, Regulatory Affairs
- Vahid Zarrabi – CLS, Molecular Diagnostics Lab

**May 10, 2016**

- Left to Right
- Alma Espina – CLS, Brentwood
- Cristina Luna – CPT, SM Hospital
- Chrissie Dawson – Adm. Specialist, Regulatory Affairs
- Bernadette Sandoval – Manager Personnel & Payroll, Path HR
- Marisol Trejo – HLT, R&D Brentwood
- Edgar Avetisian – Hosp. Lab Assist, Brentwood
- Andrew Sincuir – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center
- Jeffrey Wong – CLS, Brentwood
- Florence Portiz – CLS, Brentwood

**April 13, 2016**

- Left to Right
- Sarah Santos – Sr. CLS Supervisor, RRH Support Services
- Rita Tapia – Histologist, Histology
- Genevieve Quevedo – HLT I, Redondo Beach Draw Station
- Melissa Lau – HLT II, Molecular Diagnostics
- Jesada Mathiyakom – CLS, Brentwood
- Justin Kram – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center

**March 9, 2016**

- Left to Right
- Irene Waltemade – HLT II, Anatomical Pathology SMH
- Amber Garibay – Cytogenetics Sr. Spec, Cytogenetics
- Hoa Tran – Cytogenetics Tech II, Cytogenetics
- Dustin Simmons – CLS, Brentwood Virology
- Heidi Merkin – SAO III, Fellowship Coordinator
- Olfa Abudass – Sr. CLS Spec, Quality Monitor SMH

**February 10, 2016**

- Left to Right
- Brad Anderson – Path Assistant Student
- Connie Diblasi – Outreach Accounts Manager
- Christine Dvorsky – Path Assistant Student
- M. Wyatt Dvorsky – Adm Assist, Blood & Platelet Center
- Riki Higashida – HLT II, Cytogenetics
- Melissa Monarrez – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center
- Maria Navarette – HLT II, Blood & Platelet Center
- Tamara Rubel – Outreach Accounts Manager
- Chau Tang – Sr. CLS Specialist, Regulatory Affairs
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**Newsletter Committee: Daisy Castro, Bushra Yasin, and Khanh Andrews**

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