CAP/AABB Inspection was a success

On Monday October 27, a 15-member team from Vanderbilt University Medical Center arrived at the doors of the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center ready to serve as inspectors for the College of American Pathologists (CAP). Two representatives from Scottsdale, AZ served as inspectors for the American Association for Blood Banks (AABB). Laboratory accreditation is of paramount importance because it establishes a level of excellence that we then strive to exceed. The teams spent two and a half days scrutinizing all areas of the department including but not limited to: Ronald Reagan Core Laboratory and Support Services, Santa Monica Hospital, Brentwood Annex, Anatomic Pathology, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratories, and the Bruin University Reference Laboratory at Panorama City.

Other than a few easily remedied minor deficiencies, the team of inspectors had nothing but the highest praise for the department that was clearly above and beyond CAP & AABB expectations. With sincere admiration, the inspectors mentioned that UCLA was a beautiful facility that was a pleasure to visit. They were very impressed by the sense of ownership and the focus on patient care all sites displayed via a superb level of collaboration & communication. When asked whether they would want a loved one treated here at UCLA, the team unanimously stated, “Wholeheartedly Yes!”
Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations to **Dr. Linda Baum**, who has been inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. [Read More]

Congratulations to **Dr. Rita Effros** as she takes office as the president of the Gerontological Society of America. [Read More]

Congratulations to **Dr. Wanwisa Himakhum** who has been chosen as the recipient of the Foundation Travel Scholarship from the American Society of Cytopathology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Haodong Xu**, and his laboratory for their recent paper in the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology. [Read More]

Infectious Disease Isolation Laboratory

As part of a global effort to prepare for and respond to the Ebola virus outbreak, several members of the department have assisted with the development of an Isolation Laboratory at the Ronald Reagan Medical Center. Laboratory testing will be done in the patient’s room with point-of-care testing (POCT) meters to ensure that no blood leaves the secured area except under special monitored circumstances. Department volunteers will receive complete and comprehensive training on all of the POCT meters that will be used; they will also receive complete training in the donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as recommended by the Los Angeles County of Public Health. These important steps toward preparation serve as a good reminder of the critical importance of hand hygiene and PPE as part of our daily routine. We deal with patients with infections such as tuberculosis and HIV and by multidrug resistant bacteria on a daily basis; these infections are far more common and potentially just as deadly as Ebola.

Social Impact Award from LA Based Anti-Human Trafficking Organization

Dr. Scott Nelson recently received the Social Impact Award at the gala dinner of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) in Los Angeles. The Thai CDC is a 501c non-profit organization committed to serving the community of recent immigrants from Thailand and other countries. It is a nationwide leader in the fight against human trafficking and to this point has provided relief to over 2000 victims of modern day human slavery. Activities in this regard include rescue and immediate care of such victims, as well as providing medical, legal, language, and immigration support; they also partner with the judicial system in the ultimate prosecution of human traffickers. Community development activities are many and include providing recent immigrants with the skills and knowledge to be self-sufficient citizens and residents of our community. The Thai CDC is responsible for the establishment of Thai Town as an officially designated community in East Hollywood, and is responsible for the building of low income senior housing and many other needed community resources. Dr. Nelson served on the Board of Directors of the Thai CDC for 8 years, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors for 6 years. Having lived in Thailand as a young man, Dr. Nelson has retained ties with Thailand and has worked actively with Thai non-profit organizations and the Thai medical community. He is fluent in the Thai language and his wife, Prapajit is from Thailand.

Our Award Winning Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) Class of 2015

Congratulations to the CLS class of 2015! Their poster entitled “Laboratory Techniques Used for Monitoring Renal Transplant Patients” was a winner at the Student Forum Day of the 2014 California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology’s (CAMLT) annual meeting. The CAMLT holds a Student Day at their annual meeting; the purpose of this is to encourage students entering the laboratory profession to network and become involved in organizations such as CAMLT. Presentations and posters from laboratory students in training programs throughout California were part of the CAMLT student Day.

Cathrine Chong, Alejandra Cortez, Kristine Gih, Jafrin Hossain, Do Nguyen, Joseph Nolasco, Giancarlo Rodriguez, and Rose Silvas received a one year CAMLT membership for their winning poster.
November Events—Movember

The men and women of the UCLA Pathology Department celebrated Movember in fine form. This year marked a new high in our department’s tradition of Movember participation. Movember is a month long movement of mustache growth to raise awareness and funds for men’s health, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health issues.

Core Lab assists UCLA Wellness with “Movember” Men’s Health Clinic

“Movember” is the month formerly known as November, where men and women across the globe join together to raise awareness for men’s health issues. Men grow and women support a Mo (mustache) for 30 days to become walking, talking billboards for men’s health causes such as prostate and testicular cancer initiatives. On “Movember” 20, at the John Wooden Center, staff from the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center Core Laboratory (Volunteers who were at the event: Lavita Boyd, Khanh Andrews, Lauren Stompe, Nathan Okawa, and Dawn Stene) assisted with performing FREE cholesterol and glucose. The purpose was to help students, faculty, and staff at an event entitled “Mo Your Numbers”, an effort designed to help the public learn their numbers and get educated about their health. This year nearly 400 attended and 146 were screened - a fantastic increase in participation. UCLA Health was able to provide a much more comprehensive screening to participants. A special thank-you to Lavita for coordinating this enormous effort. We truly appreciate everything you have done to make this a success and demonstrate a professional laboratory presence at this event.

October – Halloween

Pathology Faculty and Staff get into the Halloween spirit.

Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) Essay Contest

Joseph Nolasco, a California State University Dominguez Hills affiliated Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) student placed first in the CLMA Greater Los Angeles Chapter’s 2014 Essay Contest. Joseph’s essay describing how he would encourage others to pursue a career in Clinical Laboratory Science was awarded the top prize of $1000 during the chapter’s Annual Young LAB Summer Soiree. The theme of Joseph’s essay was to raise awareness of the prominent role that CLSs play in patient-care by instilling the importance of teamwork and education.

The CLMA is an international association of over 1,800 clinical laboratory professionals. The mission of the CLMA is to “empower laboratory professionals to achieve excellence in leadership through forward-thinking educational, networking, and advocacy opportunities”.

Welcome New Employees

December 2014

Juvy T. Carig – CPT, Support Services
Melissa Cobarrubias – Cytotechnologist, Cytology
Marine Kupalyan – Admin Assist III, Cytology
Diana Pearson – CLS, RRH Core Lab
Frodina N. Pinckney – CLS, Flow Cytometry/Bone Marrow
Sonnyboy Viray – CPT, Support Services

November 2014

Chanida Anukul – Sr. CLS Specialist, SMH
Wei Bai – Sr. CLS Specialist, Molecular Pathology
Dennis D. Bedural – CPT III, RRH Core Lab
Emmanuel Deang – HLT I, Brentwood
Thuy Nguyen – CLS, Brentwood
Patrick Ravelo – CLS, SMH

Welcome Dylan Acogny, our new School of Medicine Ergonomics, Safety, and Compliance Coordinator to Pathology

Dylan will be working in the Operations Management group assisting Pathology’s Research labs and school employees in safety and ergonomics. Dylan was born in France, but has lived in Southern California for most of his life. He is a recent graduate from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where he completed his Masters in Environmental and Occupational Health, establishing research, critical thinking, analysis, and scientific writing skills. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Environmental and Occupational Health from CSUN as well, which set his foundation in scientific knowledge. His educational and professional focus has been on safety and he brings with him experience working at Amgen and Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center. He has knowledge of industrial hygiene, safety, ergonomics, laboratory research, radiation safety, and waste management. Dylan is excited to be a part of the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine team and looks forward to collaborating with everyone to support the department and share his knowledge to aid anyone in need of assistance.

October 2014

Lalaine Bartolome – CLS, Brentwood
Gina Bonifacio – HLT, Flow Cytometry
Malaya Garcia – HLT, Cytogenetics
Christina Gunning – CLS, SMH
Kelly Jew – CPT, SMH
Wing Kwok – HLT, Blood Processing Lab
Arminda Mestre – HLT, Cytogenetics
Janice Minko – CLS, SMH
Gay Vergara-CLS, SMH

Juvy T. Carig – CPT, Support Services
Melissa Cobarrubias – Cytotechnologist, Cytology
Marine Kupalyan – Admin Assist III, Cytology
Diana Pearson – CLS, RRH Core Lab
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Emmanuel Deang – HLT I, Brentwood
Thuy Nguyen – CLS, Brentwood
Patrick Ravelo – CLS, SMH
June—November 2014

GSRs:

**Maomeng Tong – Recent GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)**
Sampling of Intestinal Microbiota and Targeted Amplification of Bacterial 16S rRNA Genes for Microbial Ecologic Analysis.
Tong M, Jacobs JP, McHardy IH, Braun J.

Reprogramming of gut microbiome energy metabolism by the FUT2 Crohn's disease risk polymorphism.

**Jonathan Jacobs – GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)**
Immune and genetic gardening of the intestinal microbiome.
Jacobs JP, Braun J.

**Lisa Kohn – CMP Graduate (Gay Crooks lab)**
Human lymphoid development in the absence of common γ-chain receptor signaling.

**Michael Arensman – CMP Student (David Dawson lab)**
The CREB-binding protein inhibitor ICG-001 suppresses pancreatic cancer growth.
Arensman MD, Telesca D, Lay AR, Kershaw KM, Wu N, Donahue TR, Dawson DW.

**Jennifer Chou – CMP Graduate (Rita Effros lab)**
Prostaglandin E2 promotes features of replicative senescence in chronically activated human CD8+ T cells.
Chou JP, Ramirez CM, Ryba DM, Koduri MP, Effros RB.

**Parrisa Solaimani – Recent GSR (Oliver Hankinson lab)**
SIN3A, Generally Regarded as a Transcriptional Repressor, Is Required for Induction of Gene Transcription by the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor.
Solaimani P, Wang F, Hankinson O.

William Kim – CMP Graduate (Gay Crooks lab)
Erythropoiesis from human embryonic stem cells through erythropoietin-independent AKT signaling.

Post Docs:

**Ronik Khachatoorian – Postdoc (Samuel French lab)**
Structural characterization of the HSP70 interaction domain of the hepatitis C viral protein NS5A.

**Lin Lin – Recent Postdoc (Jonathan Braun lab)**
Human NK cells licensed by killer Ig receptor genes have an altered cytokine program that modifies CD4+ T cell function.

**Dhong Hyun Lee – Recent Postdoc (Jonathan Said lab)**
Synergistic effect of JQ1 and rapamycin for treatment of human osteosarcoma.
Lee DH, Qi J, Bradner JE, Said JW, Doan NB, Forscher C, Yang H, Koeffler HP.

**Thomas Zangle – Recent Postdoc (Michael Teitell lab)**
Live-cell mass profiling: an emerging approach in quantitative biophysics.
Zangle TA, Teitell MA.

**Christina Priest – Postdoc (Peter Tontonoz lab)**
SUMOylation places LRH-1 in PROXimity to lipid metabolism.
Priest C, Tontonoz P.

**Stephen Lee – Postdoc (Peter Tontonoz lab)**
Eosinophil in fat: pink is the new brown.
Lee SD, Tontonoz P.
Publications Continued

**Randall Chin – Postdoc (Jing Huang lab)**
The metabolite α-ketoglutarate extends lifespan by inhibiting ATP synthase and TOR.

**Residents/Fellows:**

**Jennifer Woo – Resident**
A Novel Association of Biventricular Cardiac Non-Compaction and Diabetic Embryopathy: Case Report and Review of the Literature.

**Aaron James – Resident**
Splenic hamartomas in Alagille syndrome: case report and literature review.

Circulating tumor cells in sarcomas: A brief review.

Clinical and histopathological diagnosis of glomus tumor: An institutional experience of 138 cases.

Cytogenetics of melanoma: A brief review.


**Michael Alberti – Resident**
Influence of serum separator tubes on mycophenolic acid concentrations determined by HPLC.
Alberti MO, Fukuchi AM, Kelly KA.

**Atsuko Seki – Recent Fellow**
Posterolateral hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: a rare, but clinically significant variant of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Reply to the editor-does the cervical vagus contain sympathetic fibers that act on the heart?

Predicting the development of cardiac allograft vasculopathy.

Sympathetic nerve fibers in human cervical and thoracic vagus nerves.

**Shino Magaki – Resident**
Comorbidity in dementia: update of an ongoing autopsy study.

Comparative evaluation of ProEx C and ImmunoCyt/uCyt assays in atypical urine cytology.

**Winnie Wu – Fellow**
Strong expression of chemokine receptor CCR9 in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma strongly correlates with gastrointestinal involvement.