UCLA Launches joint venture with Chinese firm to open sophisticated lab in Shanghai

UC and UCLA Department of Pathology have signed an agreement with Centre Testing International Corporation, to create a company that will operate a clinical laboratory in Shanghai. The new lab will support clinical trials and enhance medical care for Chinese patients with cancer and other diseases.

The new company, CTI-Pathology/UCLA Health, is jointly owned by CTI and the University of California. The 25,000-square-foot facility — the first of its kind in China — will offer genetic and molecular diagnostics and other sophisticated tests that exceed the scope of the average lab in China, and UCLA pathologists will train Chinese lab specialists to accurately interpret the tests. The signing ceremony (pictured at left) took place at RRUCLA in April. The lab is expected to open in September. The partnership is the first between a Chinese company and a U.S. academic medical center to create a specialized laboratory in China. [More Info]

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week—Lab Gives Back Initiative

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week was April 20-26, 2014. The UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine recognizes and commends the dedication and commitment of laboratory professionals and pathologist. [Read More]

The Stars of the Lab celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in red-carpet style with their Lab Gives Back initiative, celebrating the stars of the Mattel Children’s Hospital Chase Child Life Program. The superstars of the lab gave wholeheartedly and succeeded in raising $2500 in one week. Thanks to all at UCLA Pathology and Laboratory Medicine labs who participated, including those in Brentwood, Santa Monica, Ronald Reagan UCLA Core Lab, Ronald Reagan UCLA Laboratory Support Services, and UCLA Transfusion Medicine. Here’s to you for making Lab Week 2014 such a wonderful success for both the lab and UCLA Health!
Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Alistair Cochran co-authors study showing that celecoxib suppressed both BRAFi-accelerated skin tumors and soft-agar colonies, warranting its testing as a chemo preventive agent for non-melanoma skin lesions in patients treated with BRAFi alone or in combination with MEKi. | More Info

Dr. Romney Humphries was interviewed recently for KTLA Channel 5 discussing contamination findings on lemons used to flavor water at restaurants. | Listen

Dr. Stanley Nelson and Dr. Carrie Miceli fight a very personal battle with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and are leading the effort to find treatment and extend lives. | U Magazine

Dr. Peter Tontonoz, has received the Gerald D. Aurbach Award for Outstanding Translational Research from the Endocrine Society. | Read More

NPR interviews Dr. Anthony Butch for May 10 article, “Athletes Chased by Technology In The Sport of Anti-Doping” | Read More

Dr. Jonathan Braun discusses how gut microbes may play a role in Crohn’s Disease on NPR. Listen to the story.

Clinical Omics’ interviews Dr. Braun in Pathologists Emerge from the Lab, which describes how modern genomics has dramatically changed the role of pathologists in medicine.

Dr. Wayne Grody has been appointed to the National Research advisory Council, US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Administration Health System.

Dr. Ram Raj Singh is the recipient of the 37th Michael Einbender Distinguished Lectureship in Medical Research of Lupus from the University of Missouri.

UCSF Partners with UCLA in New Exome Sequencing Initiative. Clinical Laboratories at UCSF Medical Center have entered into a partnership with UCLA to have their laboratories perform exome sequencing for inherited disorders on UC San Francisco patients. | More Info.

Dr. Robert Schiestl was selected president-elect of the Council of the Environmental Mutagen Society.

Women’s History Month—March

March is Women’s History Month, at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA Health we are proud to celebrate all the women on our faculty and staff who, echoing the words of President Obama, help us ‘make progress in our time.’ We congratulate one of our trailblazers, Dr. Elaine Reed, who was chosen as the Office of Diversity Affairs’ Faculty Spotlight during Women’s History Month last March: More Info

2014 UCLA Chancellor’s Award Recipient

UCLA postdoctoral scholars were honored at the 2014 Postdoctoral Scholars Reception for their important contributions to the university’s interrelated missions of research, teaching, and public service. Of the approximately 1,167 registered UCLA postdoctoral scholars, 28 were nominated for the Chancellor’s Award for Postdoctoral Research. The nominees represent virtually every discipline at UCLA, from the basic and applied sciences to the professional schools, the social sciences, and the humanities. Nicole Valenzuela, PhD, post-doc researcher in Dr. Elaine Reed’s lab has been awarded a 2014 UCLA Chancellor’s Award for Postdoctoral Research, recognizing her research and its impact. | Read More
Welcome New Employees

May 2014
- Hero DeGuzman—HLT, Brentwood
- Zechariah Dimas—CPT I, SMH
- Enrique Garcia—CLS, Brentwood
- Josephine A. Medina—CLS II, Cytogenetics
- Violeta Osegueda—HLT II, Blood Bank RRH

April 2014
- Layla Chahine—CPT II, RRH
- Crystal Douglas—CLS, Blood Bank RRH
- Susan Groszek—Registry CLS, Blood Bank RRH
- Vincent Lee—HLT I, BURL
- Cathleen Nguyen—HLT I, Brentwood Annex
- Nam Nguyen—Cytogenetic Techn II

March 2014
- Raphael Domingo—CLS, SMH
- Ericka Grande—CPT I, SMH
- Angel Guillory—CPT I, SMH
- Crystal Trang Le—Sr. CLS Spec. SMH
- Thuy Nhi Nguyen—HLT, Anatomical Path RRH
- Kathy Salveson—Sr. CLS Supv. SMH
- Derliefe Tanyag—CLS, Brentwood Annex

Spring Laboratory Seminar—April 19, 2014

The annual Spring Lab Seminar was our ‘kickoff’ event as we celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2014. The seminar brought together over 160 laboratorians who gathered at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to listen to a wide range of topics. This year’s lectures delved into research, safety, and career pathways in the laboratory.

The developments in “Stem Cell Based Gene Therapy for HIV Infections” was presented by UCLA Adjunct Professor, Dr. Masakazu Kamata. Mean, Standard Deviation, and Coefficient of Variation are formulas that laboratorians use daily. Lily Carrasco discussed these formulas in her “Concepts in Quality Control Data Management” review lecture. “The Meaningful Use of A1C in Diabetes Testing” discussed by Scott Joksch was a hot topic as it is estimated that globally over 350 million people have the diabetes. Assistant Director of UCLA Health’s Safety Department, Elizabeth Genta, provided fire and earthquake safety tidbits for both the workplace and the home in her discussion of “Health & Safety in the Lab”. The newest member of the Transfusion Medicine team, Dr. Dawn Ward, brought us up to date on current thoughts regarding “Patient Blood Management: A Team Approach to Patient Care”. The day concluded with Dr. Hencelyn Chu providing insights into “Medical Laboratory Technicians: Scope of Practice and Career Pathways”.

Gifts to all attendees were provided by UCLA Health Human Resources. Two lucky attendees were winners of UCLA Health bags. The only requirement to be entered into the Spring Seminar drawing was attending the full day seminar. And Dr. Ward’s wish for a ‘selfie’ was granted at the conclusion of her lecture! Congratulations to all of our attendees for a job well done!

A special thanks to our outstanding speakers who generously offered their time and expertise to provide attendees with current issues in the field of laboratory medicine. Presentations by most of our speakers can be found on the UCLA Pathology website.

May 2014
- Dr. Hencelyn Chu
- Scott Joksch
- Elizabeth Genta
- Dr. Dawn Ward and Jowin Rioveros
- Lily Carrasco
- Dr. Masakazu Kamata
- Elsa Tsukahara

The Fall Seminar will be held on
September 20, 2014
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)

Jonathan Jacobs – GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)

Lisa Kohn – CMP Graduate (Gay Crooks lab)

Airie Kim – CMP Graduate (Tomas Ganz lab)

Airie Kim – CMP Graduate (Tomas Ganz Lab)

Post Docs:

Ronik Khachatourian - Postdoc (Samuel French lab)

Minh Thai - Postdoc (Heather Christofk lab)

Jayanth Kumar Palanichamy - Postdoc (Dinesh Rao lab)

Residents/Fellows:

Aaron James – Resident

Aaron James—Resident

Aaron James—Resident

Aaron James—Resident

Aaron James—Resident

Aaron James—Resident

Gregory Fishbein – Resident

Michael Alberti – Resident
The Influence of Serum Separator Tubes on Mycophenolic Acid Concentrations Determined by HPLC. Alberti MO, Fukuchi AM, Kelly KA. Ther Drug Monit. 2014 Apr 8. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.
Recipients and Events

Residents and Fellows

Vanda Farahmand—Resident

Atsuko Seki – Fellow

Winnie Wu – Resident

Siemens-ASCP Scholarship Recipient

Eunice Kim, a Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) intern, is one of this year’s Siemens – ASCP National Scholarship awardees. Since 2003 Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics and the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) have partnered to help address the nation’s shortage of medical laboratory professions by promoting the profession and assisting students’ educational costs. Applicants are evaluated on Knowledge, Community, Leadership, and Career Advancement. After graduating from UC San Diego, Eunice continued with her passion to combine both working in a laboratory and her desire to help others by pursuing a career in the medical laboratory profession. Eunice is currently completing her one year clinical internship at UCLA Health as part of the California State University Dominguez Hills-UCLA affiliated program.

2014 BRUIN RUN/WALK: The Chase Child Life Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA

Pathology employees participated in the 2014 Bruin Run/Walk benefitting the Mattel Children’s Hospital. Team Kadin, was led by Captain Leslie Chew. 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 supported Team Kadin with their generous donations. We hope more will join us next year!

2014 City of Angels Fun Ride

The 2014 Volkswagen City of Angels Fun Ride took place on Sunday, May 4, and began and ended at the Los Angeles Police Academy in Elysian Park. The event was a big success, with riders getting an early start to cover the advanced (62 mile) or recreational (32 mile) rides. Over the past three years, rides have raised funds that helped UCLA purchase a much needed new box truck for their off-site blood drives. The ride is sponsored by Volkswagen and organized by Peter Heumann.

Dean Eugene Washington invited eleven medical students to join him on the 32 mile ride. Congratulations to Clinical Laboratories Director of Operations Paul Colonna, and Special Donor Coordinator at the Blood and Platelet Center (“B&PC”), Matt Hoffman, who were among those who braved the advanced ride. Paul was joined by his daughter and sister who participated in the recreational ride. Drs. Linda Baum and her husband, Leland Powell, also rode the recreational ride. Thanks to all event volunteers, including event liaison and B&PC Recruitment Supervisor, Linda Goss, who worked the registration area (starting at 5:45AM!), along with Transfusion Medicine Chief, Dr. Alyssa Ziman, who also served as event organizer.
In honor of Poetry Month last April, The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine instituted the first annual “Pathology Poetry Tweet.” Dr. Braun invited faculty, staff and trainees to submit a tweet poem of 140 characters or less (rhyme not required), about what they do, or what it is like doing it. Entries were posted on the website, tweeted on our twitter account, @UCLAPathology, and shared on our Facebook page. We thank those who participated (entries below). Get ready with your 2015 Pathology Poetry Tweets!

### Appendicitis
*Transmural inflammation*
*Serosal polys*

By: Serge Alexanian, MD, Housestaff

On the autopsy service:
"To die is different from what anyone supposed, and luckier"
- Walt Whitman

Submitted by: Jonathan Said, MD

"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have the time to do it over?"
- John Wooden

Submitted by: Khanh Andrews, UCLA Core Laboratory

"Where names concerning illness come plumed with midnight sounds, and spirits stir from slumbers like angels out of clouds"

By: Poetry Man, a former frozen section pathologist

"Down in the lab of B403, We be running your specimen like old school gee's - Answering questions be our specialty, With CICARE of the upmost quality"

By: Kathy Gordy, UCLA Clinical Labs

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### Welcome New Mothers

To help new mothers balance the demands between their career and parenthood, the David Geffen School of Medicine, Deans Office, the Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) and Rehabilitation Center provide Lactation Rooms for your convenience. [More Info.]

**Location:** B Level, Room BE-144 Center for Health Sciences

For access: Push buzzer for entry Hours: 24/7 except 7:30pm-8:30pm. If you would like to use this facility, please call 310-825-5225 and ask to speak with the charge nurse.

**Location:** Rehabilitation Center-Room A376 1000 Veteran, Los Angeles, CA 90095 Hours:8:00am-5:00pm

New mothers interested in using the Lactation Room should contact Dr. Fabiola Quintero-Rivera, via email at FQuintero@mednet.ucla.edu

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### UCLA Pathology & Laboratory Medicine has joined Facebook!

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**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