2014 Pathology Farewell Celebration

The 2013-2014 Pathology Farewell Reception and Dinner took place on June 11th at the UCLA Faculty Center. Once again, graduates were honored on a beautiful Southern California evening which began with hors d’oeuvres and an art exhibit featuring faculty, graduate and staff talent. Dinner and presentations followed, hosted by Department Chair, Dr. Jonathan Braun.

More Information.

The Community-Partnered Competition

The David Geffen School of Medicine and UCLA Health System invite you to enter an online competition to find five academic community-partnered research or service-learning projects that can have a significant impact on community health outcomes. Called "Helping U Help Your Community," the contest provides early support to community-partnered academic research and service-learning projects that address the most critical health needs of Los Angeles residents in innovative and effective ways. The contest also aims to showcase UCLA faculty and community partners who devote their careers to identifying creative solutions to some of the most challenging barriers to good health in the community.

For more information: Click Here
Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations to our CLS, Robyn Shimizu who will be awarded the 2015 American Society of Microbiology, Scherago-Rubin Award!  
Read More

Pathology Resident and Fellow Alumna, Judy Melinek, MD, is author of the newly released book titled “Working Stiff Two Years, 262 Bodies and the Making of a medical Examiner”.  
Read More

Michael Fishbein, MD, is the recipient of the 2015 Society for Cardiovascular Pathology Distinguished Achievement Award for his work advancing understanding of cardiovascular disorders.  

Dr. Romney Humphries is featured in the August 2014 CAP Today, article, “Too Few Studies to Steer Test Protocols for Pediatrics”  
Read More

US News and World Report features the UCLA Clinical Genomics Center in their “Best Hospitals” 2015 Edition. The article includes interviews with Drs. Wayne Grody and Stanley Nelson, and highlights the center’s remarkable progress finding life-saving answers in patients’ genes. | Read More

Visit the UCLA Clinical Genomics Center exhibit booth at these conferences.  
www.nsgc.org/2014aec  
www.amp.org/meetings/2014/

Urban Health Scholars

In July, UCLA hosted students in the Urban Health Scholars Program, a summer program for high school students sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation and organized by the Social Justice Learning Institute (www.sjli.org). During the 5 week program, 15 high school students came to UCLA over 6 days, hosted by Dr. Linda Baum and Dr. Omai Garner. One group of students spent time with Dr. Garner in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, learning the basics of microbial pathogenesis and touring the Brentwood lab. Another group of students spent time with Dr. Dawn Ward and Dr. Alyssa Ziman in the Ackerman Donor Center, Component Processing and Blood Bank areas of Transfusion Medicine, where they met donors, followed a unit from donation through processing, and learned the steps involved in blood typing and cross-matching. All students participated in a Career Day, where representatives of various allied health fields spoke with them about the training required for various types of careers and the types of jobs available in their fields. Elsa Tsukuhara from Pathology and Laboratory Medicine presented career paths for phlebotomists, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Clinical Laboratory Scientists. Jeff Davis from Respiratory Therapy described the clinical settings in which Respiratory Therapists work and also gave the students an opportunity to perform intubation on a mannequin (see photos). Sergio Godinez and Patrick Hale from Radiology discussed the use of radiographic imaging in patient care, the types of imaging modalities and the training required to work in the field. The students also spent a day with the Emergency Medical Technicians team at the UC Police Dept., where they received training in CPR. The students were excited to learn about the different opportunities for a career in health care – as one student said “I didn’t even know these careers existed!”

Urban Health Scholars
New Chemistry Instrument Implemented in the Laboratory

The Clinical Laboratories at Ronald Reagan, Santa Monica, and BURL implemented new chemistry analyzers on July 16, 2014. These analyzers will run general chemistry, immunoassays, and therapeutic drug monitoring tests depending upon the test menu of each laboratory. Complete validation of the analyzers took almost two years. This involved laboratory staff working diligently to confirm the accuracy and precision of the analyzer results. Staff continue to maximize their proficiency with the new instrumentation and workflow.

Seismic Celebration – THANK YOU!

Many of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine’s administrative, clinical, outreach, and some school functions are housed in the Center for Health Sciences’ (CHS) South Tower A-Level. Built in 1951, the building was due for an upgrade to reinforce the building's structure, enabling it to be resistant to seismic activity. In July 2012, the CHS South Tower Seismic Renovation project began with the construction of new concrete wall panels or “shear walls”, which were designed to stiffen the original building and make it earthquake resistant. As a result, there have been a multitude of interior improvements while the building preserved its architectural integrity.

During this Seismic Renovation Project, Pathology CHS A-Level staff, faculty, and residents had to endure many challenges: corridor and stairwell closures, relocation dominoes, noise and vibration issues, ventilation and utility outages (both planned and unplanned), and even flooding. Everyone worked together daily to prevent this extreme turmoil from impacting on patient care. In recognition of everyone’s supreme patience, collegiality, and teamwork during this long and challenging Seismic Project, Pathology & Lab Medicine Leadership and Operations Management hosted a Seismic Celebration pizza party to celebrate that “the worst is over” and that the seismic work on the A Level South Tower is nearing the end. Also, the party served as the grand opening of the new Pathology A Level lounge/break room in CHS AS-316.

A huge Thank You goes out to everyone for a job well done, and a special Thank You goes out to Steve Fulton and my very dedicated Operations Management Team who worked continuously and tirelessly, on a daily basis, to help mitigate all the challenging issues.

Written by: Sharon Higgins and Flo Olin Dela Luna.

Seismic Celebration! Thank you to Pathology A-Level occupants.

Operations Management Team members (left to right): Maggie Griffin, Steve Fulton, Brad Sollenberger, Sharon Higgins, Flo Dela Luna, Eric DeLeon, Andrea Ragoza, & Andrea Moore.
Welcome New Employees

**September 2014**

Ebenezer Abdella – HLT, Brentwood
Dylan Acogny – EHS Specialist, Ops. Mgmt.
Elton Hom – Manager, Student Aff.
Lisa Reynolds – AA Reporting Office
Lisa Rimlinger – PA, Northridge Hosp

**August 2014**

Klaris Avanessian – CPT II, Support Services
Pablo Gonzalez – HLT, Brentwood
Eunice M Kim – CLS, Brentwood
Cara Kulbacki – HLT II, Cytology
Jennifer Leung – Admin Spec., Finance
Samuel Rosenthal – CLS, Brentwood
Jay Jay San Miguel – HLT, Brentwood
Steve Smith – HLT, Brentwood

**July 2014**

German Ayala – Programmer Analyst II, IT
Christie Brown – CLS Apprentice, Molecular
Kazel Campbell – CPT II, Support Services
Valentina Christian – CPT II, Support Services
Carmen Curi Rios – CPT II, Support Services
Trung H Luu – CLS Apprentice, Molecular Pathology
Jammy Mata – CPT III, Support Services
Jason Murphy – Lab Aide II, Histology
Matthew Perera – CPT II, Support Services
Crystal Rodriguez – CPT II, Support Services
Noy Senevilay – CLS, Core Lab
Leimon Torres – CPT II, Support Services
Robin Vonderhaar – HLT III, Outreach

**June 2014**

Tyler Burdick – PA Student, Surgical Pathology
Colleen Harris – Admin Analyst, Clin Lab Business Office
Scarlett Guzman – HLT III, Path. Outreach
Phylis Lebourgeois – CLS, Microbiology
Gerard Medina – CPT, Support Services
Katherine White – PA. Student Surgical Pathology

**New Staff Members within Operations Management**

- **Andrea Miller x71701**
  - Role:
  - Handle Department Facilities Service Requests (FSR’s), Telephone/Data Service Requests (TSR’s)
  - Back-up for Department keyed and non-keyed access
  - Laboratory and office moves and planning, Equipment moves, space and utility planning for new equipment
  - Special projects support for Director of Operations

- **Brad Sollenberger x50349**
  - Role:
  - Equipment Inventory Management and Recycling
  - Pathology Microscope Maintenance and Service
  - Equipment moves, space and utility planning for new equipment
  - Special projects support for Director of Operations
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).

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**PATHOLOGY RESEARCH ALUMNI COMMITTEE & PUBLICATIONS**

February—May 2014

**GSRs:**

Maomeng Tong – GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)
Repurposing of gut microbiome energy metabolism by the FUT2 Crohn’s disease risk polymorphism.
*ISME J.* 2014 Apr 29. doi: 10.1038/ismej.2014.64. [Epub ahead of print]

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.

Airie Kim – CMP Graduate (Tomas Ganz lab)
Mouse models of anemia of cancer.
Kim A, Rivera S, Shprung D, Limbrick D, Gabayan V, Nemeth E, Ganz T.

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.

**Post Docs:**

Ronik Khachatourian - Postdoc (Samuel French lab)
The N55A-binding heat shock proteins HSC70 and HSP70 play distinct roles in the hepatitis C viral life cycle.

Minh Thai - Postdoc (Heather Christofk lab)
Adenovirus E4ORF1-induced MYC activation promotes host cell anabolic glucose metabolism and virus replication.
Thai M, Graham NA, Braas D, Nehil M, Komisopoulou E, Kurdistani SK, McCormick F, Graeber TG, Christofk HR.

Jayanth Kumar Palanichamy - Postdoc (Dinesh Rao lab)
mRNA dysregulation in cancer: towards a mechanistic understanding.
Palanichamy JK, Rao DS.

**Residents/Fellows:**

Aaron James – Resident
Clavicular and meningeal alveolar soft part sarcoma: An unusual case and literature review.
James AW, Chang L, Levine B, Dry SM.

Aaron James – Resident
Coccioidens liposarcoma, carcinoid and gastrointestinal stromal tumor complicating type 1 neurofibromatosis: case report and literature review.
James AW, Chang L, Genshaft S, Dry SM. *J Orthop, Aug 2014, Accepted for publication.*

Aaron James – Resident

Aaron James – Resident
Roles of bone morphogenetic protein signaling in osteosarcoma. Int Ortho

Aaron James – Resident
High resolution X-ray: A reliable approach for quantifying osteoporosis in a rodent model
Aaron James – Resident
Chapter 1, Safety assessments in mesenchymal stem cell implantation. Frontiers in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research.

Aaron James – Resident
Human perivascular stem cell-based bone graft substitute induces rat spinal fusion. Stem Cells Translational Medicine.

Aaron James – Resident

Gregory Fishbein – Resident

Michael Alberti – Resident
The Influence of Serum Separator Tubes on Mycophenolic Acid Concentrations Determined by HPLC.

Atsuko Seki – Fellow

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

Jelena Brezo– Fellow

Jenny Ji– Fellow
Microdeletion of 1p32-p31 involving NFIA in a Patient with Hypoplastic Corpus Callosum, Ventriculomegaly, Seizures and Urinary Tract Defects

The 2014 Walford Lecture

Norman E. Sharpless, MD
Wellcome Distinguished Professor
Department of Medicine & Genetics
Director, The Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tuesday, October 14, 2014
10:00 AM
Room: NRB Auditorium

Dr. Lee Goodglick, a distinguished translational cancer biologist, known for his creation and leadership of the CTSI/MED lecture series. Read More

Dr. Anthony Verity, a much admired faculty member in neuropathology who served as Section Head from 1982-1993. | Read More

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