Members of the UCLA Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and the UCLA Medical Center, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the soon-to-open, state-of-the-art Bruin University Reference Laboratory (BURL), an outreach reference laboratory. BURL Panorama City is the main lab that will provide laboratory support for several planned primary and secondary care facilities and stat labs, part of a comprehensive system designed to provide quick turnaround services. By establishing new locations, supporting them with local laboratory facilities, and participating in local programs, UCLA is expanding its ability to provide convenient, high-quality care to people who live or work outside traditional primary-care service areas. The locations also provide a gateway to higher levels of care within the UCLA system for patients in need of such services.

A Few Words From Our Department Chair, Dr. Braun

Dear Friends,

March is upon us, and spring approaches. There are different ways to experience spring, but what they share is the anticipation of good (Waters on March) (La Primavera-Allegory of Spring). What is spring like in the Department? It is like a good rain! Stormy activity now, but a fruitful summer ahead.

On the clinical side, hundreds of you are involved in the CareConnect transition. The preparations have been arduous for many of you, and the transition will be so for most. I am awed by the ingenuity and energy of those who have gotten us to this point: the Path IT, led by Dennis Sunseri, our entire Clinical Lab team, led by Dr. Drake and Debra Cobb; and all of you, for together getting through the critical month ahead.

Our Strategic Planning is in full swing on several fronts. Here are a few: a career development system for all staff now in development; a new Business Administration website (J. Perry) about to go live, interdepartmental affinity groups formed in hemopoiesis and molecular metabolism (Drs. Crooks and Tontonoz) accompanied by an all-time high in departmental grant funding; and a Clinical Quality Initiative Committee, chaired by Dr. Romney Humphries that is now active at the institutional level. Build-out of the telepathology hub, a statewide initiative led by Dr. Scott Binder, is now underway (when completed in early 2014, it will be among the largest integrated digital pathology networks in the world). We are awaiting match results for our new residents and fellows, after an interview season featuring a particularly strong applicant pool and an innovative recruitment day organized by Drs. Peggy Sullivan and Dinesh Rao. Our clinical reach expands internationally, with a landmark arrangement in China that you can read about in this newsletter.

What else is in the works? Read on! Enjoy the newsletter, and anticipate your personal good for the spring ahead.
Gold-Headed Cane Award, 2014

Congratulations to Dr. Samuel W. French, M.D., on being honored with the prestigious 2014 American Society for Investigative Pathology Gold-Headed Cane Award. First awarded in 1919, the Gold-Headed Cane Award is given in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching, general excellence in the field and leadership in pathology. The 2014 award to Dr. French is in recognition of his outstanding, life-long contributions to the field of pathology. [More Information]

Basmajian Award, 2013

Dr. Jonathan Wisco, adjunct associate professor with the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the DGSOM, will be presented with the American Association of Anatomists' 2013 Basmajian Award on April 23, 2013. This award recognizes health sciences faculty who are in the formative stages of their career, teach human or veterinary gross anatomy, can document excellence in their contribution to the teaching of gross anatomy, and have outstanding accomplishments in biomedical research or scholarship in education. Dr. Wisco is described by his peers as a “motivated scientist with a strong commitment to teaching and research”; he has continuously increased his teaching responsibilities at UCLA, including adding a board review embryology lecture session. Dr. Wisco teaches several sections of the human anatomy course to 800 of the nearly 2000 students who take the course annually. [More Information]

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant

The UCLA Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine congratulates Dr. Sarah Dry and her two UCSF colleagues who were recently awarded a $2 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) Supplemental Grant over a three year period. This represents the first potential step to creating an integrated UC Biorepository network. The five University of California campuses included in this project are Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. This three-year project includes four main components that entail facilitating coordination among UC institutional officials and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), developing harmonized procedures among UC Biorepository researchers and leaders, undertaking a randomized control trial to determine optimal methods for obtaining informed consent from patients, and educating California’s diverse communities to provide engaged input and feedback on UC’s Biorepository studies. [More Information]

Rose Payne Award, October 2012

Dr. Elaine Reed, Professor and Director of the UCLA Immunogenetics Center, was awarded the Rose Payne Distinguished Scientist Award in October 2012. The Rose Payne Award was established in 1984 to honor a great scientist and recognize her long-standing contributions to the field of Immunogenetics. Rose Payne was a pioneer in the field of Immunogenetics, and Dr. Reed is one of only a handful of women who has ever been bestowed with this distinguished award in its 28-year history. Dr. Reed’s recent work has delineated the signaling pathways leading to cell proliferation and cell survival, providing the opportunity for the development of therapeutic strategies. The UCLA Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine congratulates Dr. Reed on outstanding achievement! [More information]
Happy 2013! Every year, it is a much loved tradition for the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine to celebrate the holidays with its annual holiday party. The venue for this year’s soiree was the elegant Royce Hall. In addition to the beautiful ambiance indoors, Southern California’s gorgeous December weather allowed guests to enjoy the night out on the patio as well. For More Pictures.

PATHOLOGY PROFILE:

GREGORY FISHBEIN, MD
2013 Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Fellowship Recipient

HOME: Los Angeles, CA; Pico-Robertson area
SPECIALTY AREA: Cardiac/pulmonary pathology
HOBBIES: Music, film, chess
LAST BOOK READ: Ideas and Opinions, Albert Einstein
LAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Book chapter coauthor, “Surgical pathology of the heart.” In Surgical Pathology of the Mediastinum, Cambridge University Press, pending publication

FAVORITE QUOTE: “One can survive everything nowadays, except death.” – Oscar Wilde

YOUR PROFILE: Proud to be not too proud. Honest, but not too honest. Invariably punctual. Likes to laugh (albeit sometimes at his own jokes).

WHY I DO WHAT I DO: It’s in the genes.

FAVORITE DRINK: Ardbeg 10-year-old single malt Scotch whisky
Researchers Discover Molecular Mechanism for Lethal form of Prostate Cancer

In 2004, a group led by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine’s Dr. Jiaoti Huang, was able to demonstrate that an aggressive form of prostate cancer was a completely different disease from conventional prostate cancer.

In a 2005 American Journal of Pathology publication, Dr. Huang’s group published their discovery: that the neuroendocrine cells in benign prostate and prostatic adenocarcinoma express an inflammatory cytokine Interleukin-8 and its receptor CXCR2 (Huang, Yao, Zhang, Bourne, Quinn, de Sant’Agnese, Reeder, June 2005). Continued studies led to the discovery that normally, Interleukin-8 activates its own receptor CXCR2 and keeps neuroendocrine cells in a non-proliferative state. A key molecule mediating this function is a tumor suppressor gene p53, which is also the most commonly mutated gene in human cancers. During hormonal therapy for prostate cancer, a p53 mutation occurs in the neuroendocrine cells, removing a major growth-inhibitory signaling pathway; this renders neuroendocrine cells highly proliferative and aggressive, resulting in the development of small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma (SCNC). This more recent study has been published in the Journal of Endocrine-Related Cancer (Chen, Sun, Wu, Magyar, Li, Cheng, Yao, Shen, Osunkoya, Liang, Huang, 2012). Visit our website for more information.

UCLA Enters Landmark Arrangements in China

UCLA Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine will be integral to landmark arrangements between UCLA and the Cancer Center Hospital/Institute, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS).

The UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, including the UCLA Hospital System and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, has entered into milestone arrangements with the Cancer Hospital/Institute, CAMS, to develop collaborations in the field of cancer-focused clinical service and scientific research. These partnerships include a broad range of potential areas of collaboration, including diagnostic consultation, biomarker research, telepathology and survivorship. Visit our website for more information.

UCLA Clinical and Anatomic Pathology Laboratories Pass the 2012 CAP Inspection with Flying Colors

On October 3, 2012, a team of 18 inspectors from the Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts, arrived to inspect, analyze and evaluate the many laboratories functioning in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Heading this team of four pathologists and fourteen clinical laboratory scientists was Dr. Richard Friedberg, Professor and Deputy Chairman, Department of Pathology, Baystate Medical Center. The team of CAP inspectors went on a two day journey inspecting every aspect of the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center Clinical Labs, the Anatomic Pathology Labs (CHS), the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopaedic Hospital Clinical Lab, and the Molecular Diagnostics, Brentwood, Cytogenetics Center, Biomarker Innovations, & Clinical & Translational Research Laboratories. The efficient team work displayed in this vast network of laboratories enabled them to witness the “beauty” of our collaborative effort in the laboratory field.

Praise was showered upon our team leaders who helped the inspectors traverse throughout the UCLA Healthcare System. The inspectors were highly impressed with our staff’s knowledge, team spirit and high quality work. They found “everyone, everywhere to be helpful, informative, gracious and friendly”. The CAP inspectors commented that our “beautiful operation showed what a great job the staff are doing”. It was also mentioned that though the Tuft laboratory was equivalent to ours in space, equipment and staff, they were amazed at our specimen volume. Upon conclusion of the summation, Dr. Friedberg said “Be Proud.” He then asked the ultimate question of his team, “Would I want to be treated here?” The response was a resounding “yes” from all!

Our performance on the 2012 CAP inspection is testimony that when laboratorians are compulsively committed to consistent quality of patient care, great results follow. We thank you for your hard work and dedication to upholding safe, superior patient care, and quality standards! Congratulations to each and every member of our fantastic team at the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine!
Clinical Immunohematology Scientist Graduation

After completing a one year Clinical Immunohematology Scientist internship in the Division of Transfusion Medicine (TM) Robert Kui received his Certificate of Completion on November 30, 2012. In attendance to offer their congratulations were: Dr. Alyssa Ziman, Dr. Qun Lu, Pam Bumerts, Rebecca Jeffery, members of the TM staff, as well Robert’s wife and two sons.

During his one year internship, Robert rotated and trained in all sections of the TM division including the blood bank, component processing laboratory, blood and platelet center, and regulatory affairs.

With the goal to train individuals interested in becoming licensed in California as Clinical Immunohematology Scientists, the division started a limited license program two years ago. Clinical Immunohematology Scientists perform high complexity clinical laboratory tests in Immunohematology (Blood Bank) including ABO/Rh testing, unexpected antibody detection, compatibility testing, as well as donor selection, and blood collection and processing.

January 2013 Department Orientation – New Employees

Lisa Rinard – RN, Blood & Platelet Center
Lisa grew up in Los Angeles, California, and worked in ER/Trauma at USC for several years. Searching for a hospital closer to her home led Lisa to UCLA. So far, she has had a very good experience at UCLA. An ideal working environment to Lisa means a dedicated team that respects one another and works well together. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the beach with her kids.

Audrey Maciasas – HLT III, Pathology
Audrey is a graduate of UC Riverside. She worked at Lab Core before moving to UCLA. Currently, she is working at the Olympia Hospital site.

Danielle Dondanville – Donor Recruiter, Blood & Platelet Center
Danielle grew up in Pasadena, California and is currently an undergraduate at UCLA. She loves UCLA and believes it is a great school with many opportunities to take advantage of. Her ideal working environment is warm and friendly, a place in which she can see familiar faces on a regular basis. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga and spending time with family and friends.

Devika Patridge – HLA, Support Services
Devika grew up in San Pedro, California and Atlanta, Georgia. In search of a new career, Devika applied to UCLA. Her experience at UCLA has been EXCELLENT! Devika is fascinated with Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) and is looking forward to continuing her education in this field. When she is not working, Devika enjoys spending time with her son, eating at different restaurants, and fashion (hair, make up, etc.).

December 2012 Department Orientation – New Employees

Front Row (L) to (R):
Carly Callender - CLS in Immunogenetics

Markus Avery - Director of Payroll and Personnel Services

Back Row (L) to (R):
Carl Sinocruz - HLT Cytology

Tracy Penaflorida - CLS in the Blood Bank Laurie

Huff - CLS in the Blood Bank

David Chu - CLS at Santa Monica Hospital
November 2012 Department Orientation - New Employees

Antonina Morofuji – CLS per diem / Flow Cytometry
Antonina Morofuji grew up in the Philippines. UCLA’s reputation as a prestigious institution with high standards made her want to be a part of the UCLA team. Co-workers and supervisors from her past who now work at UCLA reiterated this reputation and encouraged her to work here. Her experience so far at UCLA has been “awesome” and her co-workers are “very nice”. For Antonina, an ideal working environment is one where there is always open communication between supervisors & employees, and one where learning new assays & tests is always an option. She believes that continuous learning is beneficial to both the employee and the patient. In her spare time, Antonina loves selling homes as a realtor because she enjoys the interaction with her clients and closing a deal is always very rewarding.

October 2012 Department Orientation - New Employees

Richard Leuchter – SRA I / Immunogenetics
Richard Leuchter grew up in Santa Monica, California. After graduating from college, he spent time conducting research in the Surgical Oncology Department at UCLA, as well as at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Richard wants to continue research in a collaborative environment while applying to medical school. He describes his experience at UCLA as “EXCELLENT”, and filled with very welcoming people. Richard has learned a lot in his short time here. His ideal working environment would consist of a well-funded one, that is laid back and fosters independent thinking. In his spare time, Richard enjoys interests as diverse as going to the beach and coaching high school wrestling.

Lissette Renteria – CLS / Core Lab
Lissette was born in Gardena, California, and grew up in the South Bay area of Los Angeles. After completing her clinical rotation at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, she searched for a place that would support and nurture a fledgling CLS. Upon several recommendations, she applied to UCLA. So far her experience at UCLA has been WONDERFUL! Lissette describes UCLA as a friendly place, full of helpful and kind people. Her iideal working environment is a place that allows growth, promotes education, and has a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. In her spare time, Lissette enjoys hanging out with family, hiking, and the beach.

Matt Sesco – HLA II / Brentwood
Matt grew up in Harbor City, California and believes that it was luck that led him to UCLA; he is very thankful to have found this position. He describes his experience working at the Brentwood Annex as “super” and “awesome”; he finds everyone there very nice and understanding. Since Matt works well under pressure and with limited time, he describes his ideal working environment as “chaotic”. Matt is a very quick problem solver when his time is limited. In his spare time, Matt and his pit bull volunteer as a therapy “team” at local hospitals and rehab centers.

Imelda Oribello – Sr. CLS Supervisor / Support Services
Imelda was raised in the Philippines. She applied to UCLA because of its superior employee benefits. So far, Imelda’s experience at UCLA has been very good. Her ideal working environment consists of the “UCLA Ambiance,” which she describes as being very friendly and supportive. When Imelda is not at work, she enjoys cooking, gardening, reading, and movies.

Sarah Figueroa – HLT II / Component Processing
Raised in Cypress, California, Sarah has lived most of her life in Orange County. Since UCLA is ultimately where she wants to be for professional school, she has chosen to start her post graduate life in Los Angeles. So far, her experience at UCLA has been amazing. Sarah absolutely loves the lifestyle and work environment; she feels blessed to have awesome co-workers. Sarah describes her ideal working environment to be like the one she has at UCLA, i.e. a place where there is room for progress and growth with much diversity, kindness, and continuous learning. In her spare time she works out and loves to practice yoga. Sarah also enjoys spending quality time with family and her loved ones. She has traveled to Mexico for medical missions and other trips which assist the underserved.
Histology Excels in the CAP HistoQIP-Biopsy Services Program

Since 2006, the Histology Lab at the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine has participated bi-annually in the HistoQIP-Biopsy Services, a laboratory improvement program from the College of American Pathologists (CAP). This program contributes to quality in laboratory services and patient care. It is designed as an educational program to improve the preparation of histologic slides. For each set of slides submitted, participants receive an evaluation specific to their laboratory, an educational critique, and a participant summary report that includes peer comparison data, performance benchmarking data, and information regarding best-performing procedures and techniques.

Twice each year, the Histology Lab submits slides of stained, re-cut surgical tissues, that are evaluated for histologic technique by an expert panel of histotechnologists, histotechnicians, and pathologists. On the 2012 CAP HistoQIP, our Histology staff performed superbly with “no defect” and “excellent” in Fixation/Processing, Microtomy, and Staining. Comments received from CAP included:

"H&E - Counterstain is excellent, with collagen, smooth muscle, and erythrocytes exhibiting three distinct shades of pink";

"Nuclear stain is excellent, with crisp blue nuclei showing a well-defined nuclear membrane and variety of chromatin patterns, with some open patterns noted";

"PAS- Periodic Acid Schiff: Basement membrane is well demonstrated and contrasts exceptionally well with the surrounding tissue. No staining artifacts are present".

Congratulations to the Histology team for achieving perfect results in all evaluated areas in the 2012 CAP HistoQIP as well as in prior years!
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Fall 2012 Semi-annual Education Seminar

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine held its semi-annual Educational Seminar Series on October 13, 2012 in the Tamkin Auditorium at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. About 118 attendees heard lectures on a variety of topics including DNA Repair and Familial Breast Cancer, ABO Incompatible Heart Transplants, Granulocyte Transfusions, Microbiology Updates, West Nile Virus, and Giving & Receiving Feedback. All speakers were members of our own UCLA family. They included Dr. Mary Sehl (Assistant Clinical Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology), Dr. Juan Alejos (Medical Director, Pediatric Heart Transplant Program), Dr. Donny Dumani (Transfusion Medicine Fellow), Dr. April Bobenchik (Microbiology Postdoctoral Scholar), Dr. Carmen Giltner (Microbiology Postdoctoral Scholar), Dr. Ryan Harrigan (Postdoctoral Scholar, the Center for Tropical Research Institute of the Environment and Sustainability), and Shola Richards (Training Manager for the BRITE Employee Training Program).

The Fall Seminar was part of a semi-annual seminar series offered free to UCLA employees and the surrounding community. It was an opportunity to learn about the latest developments in cancer research, laboratory testing, evolving diseases, as well as techniques to help improve our wellbeing. The seminars utilized the vast diversity of the UCLA community to present both cutting edge topics as well as a wide variety of subjects to interest a large audience base. These free full day seminars also provide Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) to our licensed laboratorians.

-Elsa Tsukahara

The next Lab Week Seminar is scheduled for April 27, 2013.
Mark Your Calendars!
Go-Live March 1st!

CareConnect’s long awaited go-live is finally here. Beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 1, our entire health system will be using CareConnect – a single, integrated electronic health record system which will enable us to provide consistently exceptional care experiences to every one of our patients.

By now, you’ve attended training, practiced in the playground environment, and seen firsthand the many benefits that CareConnect will provide – streamlined processes, and increased efficiency through such functionality as one person-one chart, one scheduling system, around-the-clock availability of patient records to providers, and a single database as a source to a data repository for quality improvement and research. These benefits will result in major improvements in communication between providers, as well as the standardization of lab-order entry and the improved availability of lab results, contributing to an overall safer patient-care experience.

CareConnect is replacing more than 65 existing systems and will be used by an estimated 17,000 faculty and staff members in our hospitals, business offices, and more than 200 outpatient practices. In fact, some of our employees are already using the system – CareConnect’s scheduling function moved quietly into use earlier this month, and employees have been scheduling outpatient visits, radiology appointments, and surgical cases in CareConnect. Employees have also converted more than 100,000 future appointments into the system earlier this month.

Over the past two years, the CareConnect team has worked closely with our faculty and staff members to modify the system to ensure it meets the needs of our health system. The entire Pathology & Laboratory Medicine staff of the Westwood and Santa Monica Clinical Laboratories, Microbiology, Immunogenetics, Support Services, Blood Bank and the Laboratory IT team deserve thanks for their hard work and dedication in the development of lab processes in CareConnect. This new system will enable the UCLA Health System to provide exceptional patient care experience to each and every one of our patients. CareConnect will transform the way we deliver health care!

If you have questions about CareConnect or encounter issues while using the system, look for a red-vested super user. If you are unable to find a super user, contact the super user hub at (310) 267-1600. For information, visit the CareConnect website at www.CareConnect.uclahealth.org.

“Inspiring the UCLA community to foster active, healthy lifestyles and life-long learning.”

Be on the look out for more UCLA Recreation events, as well as Wellness Initiative tips on staying healthy.
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) or Christina Kim (ckkim@mednet.ucla.edu).

Joshua Deignan, PhD, FACMG
Assistant Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Chair, Pathology Research Alumni Committee

Publications

David Dawson, Samuel French
HOXB7 promotes invasion and predicts survival in pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
Nguyen Kovochich A, Arensman M, Lay AR, Rao NP, Donahue T, Li X, French SW, Dawson DW.
Michael Arensman - current CMP Student (David Dawson lab)

Elaine F. Reed
HLA CLASS I MEDIATED STRESS FIBER FORMATION REQUIRES ERK1/2 ACTIVATION IN THE ABSENCE OF AN INCREASE IN INTRACELLULAR CA2+ IN HUMAN AORTIC ENDOTHELIAL CELLS.
Ziegler ME, Jin YP, Young SH, Rozengurt E, Reed EF.
Mary Ziegler - recent CMP grad (Elaine Reed lab)

Path & Lab’s Got Talent!

Display cases are available to highlight your talents, hobbies, interests, accomplishments and family in print, photo, painting; the sky is (almost) the limit.

Showcase your story in your own CHS Corridor 3 Display Case

For more information
Contact Karyn Greenstone at kgreenstone@mednet.ucla.edu or Ext. 71134
Donate Blood or Platelets and receive special Donor Gifts!

Shahnazarian migrated to the United States in 1974. Soon after arriving, he started working for the UCLA Orthopedic Services and then with the IV team, which later became a part of the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center. Mr. Shahnazarian has shown great passion and commitment to the UCLA family. The UCLA Blood & Platelet Center would like to thank Khatcho Shahnazarian, RN for over 38 years of service.

Happy Retirement Khatcho!

Heroes come in all types.

Donate Blood today.

Congratulations to Mr. Khatcho Shahnazarian who recently retired from UCLA.

- Khatcho Shahnazarian

UCLA Health System

UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Congratulations to Polly Grimm on her retirement from UCLA on January 4, 2013, after 38 years of service. Polly’s enthusiasm, attention to detail, and inimitable style of writing are evident in the numerous articles she contributed to our publication. The newsletter team and the Regulatory Office were fortunate to have had the privilege of sharing Polly’s commitment, expertise, work ethic as well as her friendship. Indeed, she helped put in place the very foundations that made these ventures such a success. We wish her the very best; may the years that lie ahead be filled with laughter, happiness and even more dreams achieved. Happy Retirement Polly!

- Polly Grimm

We are on the Web!

Send us your suggestions of topics for future newsletters at:
Email dcastro@mednet.ucla.edu

Newsletter Committee:
- Arnie Scheer
- Bushra Yasin
- Daisy Castro
- Karyn Greenstone
- Khanh Andrews