Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

NIH Director’s Early Independence Award

Congratulations to Dr. Valerie Arboleda, recipient of NIH Director’s Early Independence Award, on her project titled: *Unraveling Correlations Between Mendelian and Common Disease Using Functional Genomics*. This award provides an opportunity for junior scientists to skip traditional postdoctoral training and move immediately into independent research positions. [More Information](#). 

College of American Pathologists (CAP) Meeting

Dr. Wayne Grody was the Scientific Plenary Speaker at the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Meeting and the moderator of the opening session. Several UCLA Pathology Residents attended the CAP Meeting, as well as participated in the CAP17 Abstract Program that is designed to promote a broad range of research in pathology. [More information](#). 

Future Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS)

- Chrissie Dawson

Congratulations to Selene Jovel, a current Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) student! Her poster titled, *UCLA’s Approach at Reducing the Risk of Infectious Diseases in Platelet Units* placed 1st at the Student Forum Day of the 2017 California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology’s (CAMLT) annual meeting held in Santa Clara, CA. The CAMLT holds a Student Day at their annual meeting 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. Selene Jovel received a one-year CAMLT membership for her winning poster.

UCLA attends—American Association of Blood Banks

Multiple presentations were made by UCLA Transfusion Medicine staff and physicians at the annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). The conference was held Oct 7-10 in San Diego.

Presentations included:
- Hospital Adoption of Transfusion-Ready Pathogen Reduced Blood Products, by Dr. Dawn Ward
- A Hospital-Based Donor Center: Strengthening the Community-Hospital Partnership, by Dr. Alyssa Ziman
- Implementation of a Unit Practice Council in a Blood Donor Center, by David Anthony

Two posters were also presented:
- Institutional Implementation and Tracking of Blood Refusal Alerts for Jehovah’s Witness Patients, a poster by Dr. Yao Ma and Dr. Alyssa Ziman
- AP14 ABO Leaders: A Community of Practice for Transfusion Medicine Education, a poster by Dr. Andrea McGonigle & colleagues

Fall Issue— Newsletter 2017

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UCLA Health’s Chief Information Officer is put to work in the laboratory for a day. As a part of the 2016 Heart & Sole challenge for the Heartwalk, the department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine raised enough money to rank one of the top 5 departments amongst FPG, SMH, & RRH. As an incentive, leading departments got to have a chief executive officer work in their area. On Monday, August 07, 2017, Dr. Michael Pfeffer, UCLA Health Chief Information Officer, came to work in the laboratory. After a brief introduction to the laboratory, he donned a pair of gloves and was put to work on our large chemistry analyzers. Here’s a list of tasks he performed. It seems like he thoroughly enjoyed himself working with the staff & getting direct feedback on our interactions with Beaker. We are crossing our fingers in hopes that improvements are on the horizon.

Pre-Analytical Tasks
- Made aliquots
- Loaded samples onto the Pre-analytical analyzer
- Evaluated whether specimens were suitable for analysis

Analytical Tasks
- Made calls to floors with critical values

Post-Analytical Tasks
- Stored samples
- Pack-listed samples to Brentwood

Lab Day Experience

- Bethany Porter

On August 4th, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine hosted the students of the Turner-UCLA summer program for a special Lab Day experience. Fourteen high school students spent a week shadowing and visiting various UCLA hospital departments, and stayed in the UCLA dorms all week. Each student was from a different underserved high school, from all across Los Angeles. On the last day of the program, students spent 4 hours learning about the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. They enjoyed a talk from Blood Bank supervisor Bethany Porter about the types of employees and the variety of work performed in the whole department. Blood Bank CLS, Joseph Nolasco then spoke about the Clinical Laboratory Science specifically, and explained the basics of Transfusion Medicine. Dr. Alex Nobori, a 3rd year Pathology Resident, spoke to the students about the Pathologist career and Anatomic Pathology. Between lectures, the students got to tour the Clinical Laboratory area (Blood Bank and Core Lab), including a demonstration of the CellaVision hematology cell sorting software. They also toured the AP processing area in CHS, viewing a uterus that was being sectioned and labeled. The students were surprised to learn how big our department is, and how much behind-the-scenes patient care goes on in pathology and the laboratory. All of the speakers emphasized the quality of pathology/laboratory careers and encouraged the students to talk to their peers about looking into healthcare careers. We hope to see next year’s students for another exciting Lab Day! Read More.
2017 Heart Walk

On Saturday September 23, fellow laboratorians walked for fathers, grandparents, and husbands whom we have lost too soon at the Pasadena Rose Bowl. The fight against heart disease and stroke is both very personal and important. Strokes can either kill or leave debilitating effects wreaking havoc and a significantly diminished quality of life.

Over $6600 raised and a total of 52 team members.

Taste of Soul Festival

In eleven (11) years, Taste of Soul has become the most attended and most popular Family Festival in all of Southern California. Last year, more than 350,000 people attended the Taste of Soul Family Festival that takes place on Crenshaw Boulevard between Stocker Boulevard and Rodeo Road in Los Angeles. UCLA Health was a sponsor and the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine provided Glucometers to the booth where health professionals tested glucose for attendees.

Care Harbor—Los Angeles

November 17-19, 2017

- Khanh Andrews

Care Harbor provides free medical, dental and vision care to the uninsured, underinsured and underserved in our communities. For those who live without access to the care they need, our clinic events are a destination for help and hope. Care Harbor converts arenas and other large venues into working clinics treating thousands of people in the space of a few days. Our events may have 100 dental chairs, 20 vision lanes, 40 primary care and subspecialty exam rooms, a women’s health section, dispensary, and many other resources. We offer everything from dental fillings, extractions and cleanings to eye exams and prescription glasses, from medical evaluations and procedures to immunizations and screenings. The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine continued to provide support and analyze specimens for attendees.

David Geffen School of Medicine Class of 2021 visits the lab

- Khanh Andrews

From August 22 to 24, 2017, 180 first year DGSOM Medical Students toured the RRUCLA Core Laboratory. Lead by Drs. Linda Baum, Lu Song, Sami Alberoti, and Andrea McGonigle, the students viewed Core Lab staff analyze patient samples. The group visited Transfusion Medicine, Hematology, and Chemistry. Core Lab staff were excited to have visitors see how hard they work towards optimal patient care. Students were kept on their toes regarding rationale and purpose of several common tests like CBC, CMP, and Type & Screens.
Welcome New Employees

September 2017

Adam Fishburn – HLT II, Pathology Outreach
Samira Kiani Badjani – Clinical Cytogeneticist Scientist Apprentice, Cytogenetics
Alex Martin – Director, Anatomical Pathology Operations
Keith Shaffer – HLT I, Brentwood R&D
Guo Jian “Kevin” Wen – CLS, SMH
Teresita L. Yang – Histo Tech, RRH Histology

August 2017

Vanessa Aguilar – CLS Apprentice, Microbiology
Nico Aldana – Adm Analyst, Pathology Finance
Irving Casamalhuapa – HLT III, Pathology Outreach
Alisha Doshi – HLT II, Virology
Sam Hadgu – HLT, Pathology Report Office
Christopher Huerta – Summer Intern, Pathology Outreach
Tannia Montoya R. – HLT II, SM Pathology Report Office
Sarah Scott – Float Pool, Pathology Outreach
Djoko Setiyawan – Sr. Fund Manager, Pathology Finance

Newsletter Committee: Khanh Andrews, Daisy Villa, and Bushra Yasin

Send us your suggestions for future newsletters to:
cdvilla@mednet.ucla.edu

Visit UCLA Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Website: www.Pathology.ucla.edu