2015 Pathology Farewell Celebration

The 2014-2015 Pathology Farewell Reception and Dinner took place on June 3rd at the UCLA Faculty Center. 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

Congratulations—Anatomic Pathology Staff

Congratulations to Pathology AP staff members for winning the CICARE Team award! This award is given to teams of employees who are recognized by patients and peers for their extra effort to fulfill our vision of healing humankind, one patient at a time, by improving health, alleviating suffering, and delivering acts of kindness. Only 6 team awards have been given in the last 4 years, so this is a true accomplishment for our staff and our Department.

Thanks also to Dr. Sarah Dry for nominating our staff for this award. A few months ago, Dr. Dry received a thank you note from a patient’s family and a letter from Dr. Eddie Garon, one of our Oncology colleagues, expressing thanks to Pathology staff for all their hard work. The notes formed the basis for the nomination.

On behalf of the Department, I want to express my utmost thanks to all the AP Pathology Staff members, for your professionalism, hard work and dedication. We are proud to have you in our Department, and your recognition is well-deserved.

From Dr. Edward Garon: “My staff and I would like to thank the Pathology Staff for their hard work, professionalism and great clinical care that they provide to our Oncology patients. I realize that the Pathology staff is less visible to patients than the physicians, nurses and clinical trial coordinators with whom they interact personally. For this reason, I am sending this note, and hope that you can convey my thanks to these members of the Pathology staff.”

From Patient: “My son has been to other institutions, and it is rare for the Pathology team to be so accommodating and demonstrates compassion. The pathology team at UCLA provided the original diagnosis for my son’s rare tumor, and you and your team have been very supportive to our family behind the scenes. With new methods for tumor testing we are searching for a treatment to stop his tumor progression, and your team has been critical to our hope. Thank you.”

Now up on the Department Website:

The 2015 UCLA Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Annual Report | Click Here
Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations Ann on your 35 years of Service at UCLA! This year's National Hospital Week was celebrated during the week of May 10 – 16, 2015.

Congratulations to Dr. Omai Garner who was interviewed in CAP Today. Dr. Garner's interview starts on page 63 of the May 2015 Edition. | Read More

Congratulations to our CLS, Janet Hindler who received an award from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute for her work on developing the M45 document for antibiotic resistance testing of fastidious bacteria. | Read More

Congratulations to our Clinical Microbiology Fellow, Lieutenant Colonel Max Wu, who will be continuing his duty as Chief, Infectious Disease Labs at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany.

Congratulations to Dr. Elaine Reed and her team, for being featured as the cover article in Trends in Molecular Medicine. | Read More

Congratulations Paula Mendoza on completing the Medical Interpreter Program Qualification Course! This is an important first step toward her experience as a Qualified Interpreter.

Team Spirit Award

Congratulations to the Santa Monica Lab on receiving a Team Spirit Award! This award recognizes employees who work seamlessly and enthusiastically together to inspire and provide exceptional service in their area of specialty in the hospital.

UCLA Excellence in Education Award

Congratulations to Dr. Elena Stark, recipient of the 2015 David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Excellence in Education Award. This peer-reviewed award recognizes outstanding dedication, innovation, and sustained excellence in clinical and classroom teaching. The recipients have distinguished themselves as exceptional educators. The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA is particularly pleased and grateful for their contributions. Photos of Event

NGS Workshops

Congratulations to Dr. Xinmin Li and Clinical Microarray Core (CMC) in finishing the 10th NGS workshop and special thanks to our outstanding panel of lecturers/instructors lead by Drs. Wayne Grody, Josh Deignan, Samuel Strom, Samuel, Ling Dong, Janice Yoshizawa, Vanina Tomasian, Xiangming Ding, Fake (Frank) Li, and Jamie Zhou! The workshop has triggered an extensive interest in both UCLA and non-UCLA research/clinical communities and received a large number of applicants. Due to space constrain, only 24 early registrants were accommodated, representing 11 different Universities/Hospitals/Companies. The NGS workshop is consist of a combination of lectures, wetlabs, and data analysis/interpretation. Due to the high demand, CMC has started hosting genomics workshop at least once a year since 2008 and it has been a huge success every year. 100% of the participants in our post-workshop survey ranked our workshop as Outstanding/Excellent!

International Partnerships

The UCLA Health Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine continues to make strides in its international collaborative lab in China. With assistance from members of the Chemistry and Outreach laboratory services divisions, including Dr. Lu Song and Ofelia “Pia” Berina, staff in the Shanghai-based laboratory were meticulously trained on instrument and assay validation. Recently, the first set of live chemistry services for patient care was launched. To date, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has spearheaded multiple successful onsite initiatives/visits through the Shanghai lab including process improvement audits by Arnold Scheer and Chris Khacherian, quality management system training by Ann Shadler and local and regional partnerships leveraging service agreements with UCLA by Drs. Scott Binder, Serge Alexanian, Haodong Xu, and Jianyu Rao. This includes hospital systems in Yancheng and Zhengzhou. Earlier in the year, staff members from Shanghai underwent extensive training in section-specific quality management and technical operations on-site at UCLA. Read More
Department News

**The Chase Child Life Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital, UCLA**

Pathology employees participated in the 2015 Bruin Run/Walk benefitting the Mattel Children’s Hospital. Team Riley, was led by Captains Leslie Chew and Tami Langevin (pictured on the Left). 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 lent their support with generous donations. Baskets of gifts as well as monetary donations for the hospitalized children were also presented by the Pathology Department staff (pictured on the Right).

We hope more will join us next year!

**Lab Week Festivities**

Like all superheroes, our physicians and clinical medical professionals, owe much of their effectiveness to experts behind the scenes, who help them render the best diagnoses for their patients. We want to thank all of our lab professionals, seen and unseen, during lab week and beyond, who take pride in their major role in the healing of our patients, and the comfort of their families and friends. [More Pictures]

**Continued...**

Thank you to all Blood Bank bakers and the Blood Bank and Core Lab tasters/judges for making the 2015 Lab Week Blood Bank Bakeoff Contest a smashing success! We had 9 delectable entries, ranging from homemade chocolate chip cookies to cheese rolls to cake pops, red velvet cookies to peach upside down cake, and all the way to baked tilapia!

**Here are the winners:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place—Adolf M.</th>
<th>Baked Tilapia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Winner of a $25 California Pizza Kitchen card)</td>
<td>(Entry #9)</td>
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<th>2nd Place—Janet B.</th>
<th>Banana Pudding</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Winner of a $15 Safeway/Vons gift card)</td>
<td>(Entry #3)</td>
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<th>3rd Place—Crystal D.</th>
<th>Banana Cream Cupcakes</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Winner of a $10 Barnes and noble card)</td>
<td>(Entry #5)</td>
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Welcome New Employees and Students

**July 2015**

**BACK ROW**
Elizabeth Ejindu: Registry CLS, Blood Bank
Chulkyu Kim: Adm Spec, Brentwood Annex
Jose Solis: CLS Apprentice, Molecular Pathology
Wael Boktor: CPT II, Support Services
Namesha Cavitt: CPT II, Santa Monica
Victoria Anikst: CLS Apprentice, Microbio
Mikkel Cheng: CLS Apprentice, Microbio
Mike Esters: CPT II, Support Services

**MIDDLE ROW**
Laura Drzich: CLS Apprentice, Molecular Pathology
Nicole Roberts: HLT, AP Santa Monica
Jewell Yap: CLS, Microbiology
Enedina Maliksi: CLS, Microbiology

**FRONT ROW**
Ollie Winn: SAO II, Clinical PhD Fellowship Coordinator

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**June 2015**

**Left to Right**
Minhui Wang – Cytotechnologist, Cytology
Katherine Favela – CPT, Support Services
Imelda Giron – CPT, Support Services
Karina Gasparian – CPT, Support Services
Morgana Langston – Pathology Assistant Student
Amanda Elliott – Pathology Assistant Student

**Back Row**
Alton Martin – CPT, SMH
Sabrina Jones – CLS, Brentwood Annex
Eric Dee – CPT, RRH
Roshni Morar – HLT II, Cytology
Sabrina Smulders – Adm. Nurse II, Blood & Platelet Center
Jesse Lester De Guzman – CPT, SMH

**Middle Row**
Sidney Wormsley – CPT, SMH
Kum Lam Chan – CLS, Molecular Diagnostics

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**May 2015**

**Back Row**
Alton Martin – CPT, SMH
Sabrina Jones – CLS, Brentwood Annex
Eric Dee – CPT, RRH
Roshni Morar – HLT II, Cytology
Sabrina Smulders – Adm. Nurse II, Blood & Platelet Center
Jesse Lester De Guzman – CPT, SMH

**Middle Row**
Laura Drzich: CLS Apprentice, Molecular Pathology
Nicole Roberts: HLT, AP Santa Monica
Jewell Yap: CLS, Microbiology
Enedina Maliksi: CLS, Microbiology

**Front Row**
Ollie Winn: SAO II, Clinical PhD Fellowship Coordinator

**UCLA Class of 2015-2016: New Clinical Laboratory Scientist Students**

**Back Row (L to R):** Tan Nguyen, Mario Hakim, Andrew Cottrell

**Front Row (L to R):** Tiffany Pham, Nichole Drew, Brian Song, Grace Shin, Jason Gonzalez

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*Watch their video:*
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, FACCMB, Assistant Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Chair, Pathology Research Alumni Committee

January—July 2015

Tara Teslaa – GSR (Michael Teitell lab)
Pluripotent stem cell energy metabolism: an update.
Teslaa T, Teitell MA.

Xin Rong – CMP Graduate (Peter Tontonoz lab)
Lpcat3-dependent production of arachidonoyl phospholipids is a key determinant of triglyceride secretion.

Lynnea Waters – GSR (Michael Teitell lab)
LKB1 regulates germlinal center formation and termination.
Waters LR, Walsh NC, Teitell MA.

Jennifer King – CMP Student (Dinesh Rao lab)
Langerhans Cells Maintain Local Tissue Tolerance in a Model of Systemic Autoimmune Disease.
King JK, Philips RL, Eriksson AU, Kim PJ, Halder RC, Lee DJ, Singh RR.

Jorge Contreras – CMP Student (Dinesh Rao lab)
MicroRNA-146a modulates B-cell oncogenesis by regulating Egr1.
Contreras JR, Palanichamy JK, Tran TM, Fernando TR, Rodriguez-Malave NI, Goswami N, Arboleda VA, Casero D, Rao DS.

Nicole Walsh – CMP Graduate (Michael Teitell lab)
LKB1 inhibition of NF-κB in B cells prevents T follicular helper cell differentiation and germlinal center formation.
Walsh NC, Waters LR, Fowler JA, Lin M, Cunningham CR, Brooks DG, Rehg JE, Morse HC 3rd, Teitell MA.

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


Sandra Theimann – Postdoc (Linda Baum lab)
Assessing the roles of galectins in regulating dendritic cell migration through extracellular matrix and across lymphatic endothelial cells.
Thiemann S, Man JH, Baum LG.

Beata Berent Maoz – Recent Postdoc (Kenneth Dorshkind lab)
The expansion of thymopoiesis in neonatal mice is dependent on expression of high mobility group 2 protein (Hmg2a).

Thilini Fernando – Postdoc (Dinesh Rao lab)
LincRNA Expression Discriminates Karyotype and Predicts Survival in B-Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Kimberly Thomas – Postdoc (Elaine Reed lab)
The perfect storm: HLA antibodies, complement, FcγRs, and endothelium in transplant rejection.
Thomas KA, Valenzuela NM, Reed EF.

Dhong Hyun Lee – 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, Koehler HP.

Zhen Li – Postdoc (Jiaoti Huang lab)
p53 Mutation Directs AURKA Overexpression via miR-25 and FBXW7 in Prostatic Small Cell Neuroendocrine Carcinoma.
Li Z, Sun Y, Chen X, Squires J, Nowroozizadeh B, Liang C, Huang J.
Ting-Hsiang Wu – Recent Postdoc (Michael Teitell lab)
Direct Nuclear Delivery of DNA by Photothermal Nanoblade.
Wu TH, Wu YC, Sagullo E, Teitell MA, Chiou PY.

Yanjing Li – Postdoc (Jiaoti Huang lab)
Serum lipid profiles and aggressive prostate cancer.
Li Y, Liang C, Huang J.

Residents/Fellows:
Aaron James – Resident
Abnormal karyotypes in osteochondroma: Case series and literature review.
James AW, Tirado CA, Levine B, Dry SM.

An unusual complex karyotype in myopericytoma.
James AW, Chang L, Shrestha S, Tirado CA, Dry SM.

Diagnosticallly challenging epitheloid soft tissue tumors. James AW, Dry SM.

Pericytes in sarcomas of bone Chang L, Nguyen V, Nguyen A, Scott MA, James AW.
Med Oncol. Jun 2015; Accepted for publication. Corresponding author.

hPSCs and NELL-1 synergistically enhance spinal fusion in osteoporotic rats.


Review of microRNA in osteosarcoma and chondrosarcoma.
Chang L, Shrestha S, LaChaud G, Scott MA, James AW.
Med Oncol. 2015 May; 32(6): 613. Corresponding author.


Shino Magaki – Resident
Activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome by vault nanoparticles expressing a chlamydial epitope.

Valerie Arboleda – Resident
De novo nonsense mutations in KAT6A, a lysine acetyl-transferase gene, cause a syndrome including microcephaly and global developmental delay.

Jianling Ji – Recent Fellow
DYRK1A haploinsufficiency causes a new recognizable syndrome with microcephaly, intellectual disability, speech impairment, and distinct facies.
Eur J Hum Genet. 2015 May 6; doi: 10.1038/ejhg.2015.71. [Epub ahead of print]

Durga Cherukuri – Recent Fellow
Instability of a dinucleotide repeat in the 3’-untranslated region (UTR) of the microsomal prostaglandin E synthase-1 (mPGES-1) gene in microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) colorectal carcinoma.
Cherukuri DP, Deignan JL, Das K, Grody WW, Herschman H.
Mol Oncol. 2015 Mar 5; pii: S1574-7891(15)00029-0. doi: 10.1016/j.molonc.2015.01.009. [Epub ahead of print]