2014 Pathology Holiday Party

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine celebrated the holidays at Carnesale Commons this year. Below are highlights of the celebration. Photographs courtesy of Reed Hutchinson PhotoGraphics. More Pictures.

Lab Gives Back Initiative—Lab Week 2015

“Celebrate our little Superheroes”

As we celebrate the Superheroes of the laboratory, we would also like to celebrate the little superheroes of Mattel Children’s Hospital who make us into BIG Superheroes. We can show our support through the Chase Child Life Program.

Chase Child Life Program was established to ease the transition for pediatric patients of being admitted, having a procedure and being separated from their loved ones. They do not charge for their services. Your monetary gift is always appreciated and will be used to directly support our little superheroes and their families. For all monetary gifts, please make checks payable to “UC Regents” with a notation to Chase Child Life Program.

Please donate to Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA Chase Child Life Program by giving your donation to Gabriela, Elizabeth, Allison, or Chanida on or before April 24, 2015.

If you have any questions, please email the Lab Support Services PRC at LSSPRC@mednet.ucla.edu

Not All Heroes Wear Capes, Some Wear Lab Coats

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Awards and Recognitions

**Transfusion Medicine**—We are proud to announce our 2015 recipient of the prestigious Loni Calhoun CLS Educational Scholarship and Conference Stipend Award—Maria-Elena R. Toledo, also known as Yang by her colleagues. This award is presented to individuals who demonstrate a passion for transfusion service, along with a thirst for knowledge. Its purpose is to encourage our staff to take initiative and be active in the Transfusion Medicine community through education and leadership.

Yang started her career as a generalist at the UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica shortly after passing her board exam. During this time, her growing interest in Immunohematology led her toward choosing to pursue a career in the specialized area of Transfusion Medicine. In 2009, Yang joined the blood bank at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center working the night shift as a CLS. Despite the limited resources of the night shift, Yang hit the ground running and quickly learned to make critical decisions, consult with pathologists and deal with various situations. As a recipient of this award, she will be introduced by Ms. Loni Calhoun to the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS) committee; she will participate in the various meeting activities and bring current information to the laboratory staff. Yang is looking forward to the year with great excitement.

**Transfusion Medicine**—Voicu Suciu completed his one-year Clinical Immunohematologist Scientist (CIHS) training program in Transfusion Medicine! Voicu began his career as a Hospital Lab Technician at the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center. As he learned more about Transfusion Medicine, his desire to work in the blood bank as a CLS took wings. Voicu was so enthused that he was building up his knowledge of the field even before he had applied for the CIHS position! Lacking hands-on experience, Voicu worked using his training period to focus on perfecting his technique. Voicu’s year of diligence, hard work and study paid off when in December, 2014, he passed the ASCP board exam as Technologist in Blood Banking. His determination and dedication are an inspiration to our entire staff.

**Transfusion Medicine**—After a year participating in CBBS activities, Alisa Wood, 2014 recipient of the Loni Calhoun CLS Educational Scholarship and Conference Stipend Award stated, “Becoming a member of CBBS was a great experience in 2014! The topics at the annual conference were relevant to the work that is done daily in transfusion services at UCLA. I also became a member of the Clinical Lab Scientist and the Publications committee for CBBS. These committees gave me the opportunity to discuss the topics to be presented at the fall meeting and also review scientific articles written by MDs and CLSs that are published on the CBBS website. I gained so much from being part of CBBS. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have had a year membership and scholarship for the three day conference.”

**2014 David L. Rimoin Award for Research Excellence in Medical Genetics**

Cytogenetics Fellow, Dr. Jianling (Jenny) Ji (Mentor: Dr. Fabiola Quintero) received the 2014 David L. Rimoin Award for Research Excellence in Medical Genetics based on her “DYRK1Q Research Project”. The findings of her project have also been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Human Genetics 2015.


**American Society of Hematology — Abstract Achievement Award**

Rena Xian, our Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow, received an abstract achievement award at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology for her work studying diffuse large B-cell lymphoma entitled “Late-relapse diffuse large B-cell lymphoma frequently represents recurrence of the original disease, and demonstrates evidence of superimposed clonal heterogeneity and clonal evolution.”
Awards and Recognitions Continued...

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Binder who describes his journey, both personal and professional, towards UCLA’s most recent landmark partnership with China. | Read More

Dr. Joshua Deignan, Associate Director of the Molecular Diagnostic Lab, attended and presented at the Molecular Med TriCon 2015. He was quoted in an article in Genomeweb. | Read More

“Making it Happen: The BURL Success Story”

Read about the BURL laboratory and its remarkable achievements in just one and a half years of operation. Article featured in Employee News.

Staff at BURL in Panorama City

Welcome New Employees

April 2015

Back Row
Dan Margolis: Admin Analyst, Operations Management
Timothy Lopez: HLT II, Cytology
Ginny Javier: CLS, Serology
Paul Ndawula: CPT II, SMH
Abraham Kurian: HLT I, BURL

Seated
Elizabeth Gomez: CPT II, Support Services
Blessie Anne Baldonado: CPT II, Support Services
Kristel M. Lanting: CPT II, Support Services
Wah L. Davis: Cytotechnologist, Cytology

February 2015

Patty Bonilla – HLT, Outreach
Leticia Calzada – Adm. Specialist, Office of the Chair
Rosa E. Contreras Cruz – HLT, Outreach
Charmanie Jayasekara – CLS, Brentwood
Katherine La Rosa – CPT II, Support Services
Ofelia Markarian – CPT II, Support Services
Ronalo C. San Miguel – Sr. CLS Supervisor,
Support Services
Monick Thomas – CPT II, Support Services
Felicity Wong – Sr. CLS Specialist, Cytogenetics

January 2015

LEFT TO RIGHT
Lynne Yang - CLS Sr. Supervisor, Cytogenetics
Staci Holmes - Gray: CPT II, SMH
Diana Arango - Saenz: CLS, Immunogenetics
Rafael Silvestre - CLS, Brentwood
David Doyle - Adm Specialist, Clinical Finance
Maomeng Tong—Recent GSR (Jonathan Braun lab)

Michael Arensman—CMP Student (David Dawson lab)

Parissa Solaimani—recent GSR (Oliver Hankinson lab)

Xin Rong—CMP Student (Peter Tontonoz lab)

Airie Kim—CMP Graduate (Tomas Ganz lab)

Jeanette Grant—CMP Graduate (Steven Dubinett lab)

Thomas Zangle—Recent Postdoc (Michael Teitell lab)

Yoko Kidani—Steven Bensinger lab

Nicole Valenzuela—(Elaine Reed Lab)


Aaron W. James—Resident
An unusual complex karyotype in myopericytoma. James AW, Chang L, Shrestha S, Tirado CA, Dry SM. J Orthop. Jan 2015; Accepted for publication.


Albert Su—Current Resident

Annie Wu—Current Resident

Jennifer Woo
**Bruin Run Walk—Race through outer space**

All pathology staff and faculty, and their families are invited to participate in the 16th annual Bruin Run/Walk 5K benefiting the Child Life Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital. This year we will walk, jog and run in honor of eleven-year-old patient Riley, who was diagnosed last summer with stage 4 alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma. You can read his story, register for the 5K or donate at [http://www.bruinrunwalk.com/#/team-riley/gijb](http://www.bruinrunwalk.com/#/team-riley/gijb).

Please contact Leslie Chew or Tami Langevin for more information.

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**UCLA Blood and Platelet Center**

Every year, the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center holds a recognition luncheon for their most loyal blood donors. For the past five events, a patient has been introduced to his/her donors. This past year, Brandon Levine had the opportunity to meet and thank 40 of the 196 donors who saved his life. This event has succeed in catching the attention of the media which helps us raise awareness of the need for blood donations. See Brandon’s story—[More information](http://www.bruinrunwalk.com/#/team-riley/gijb).

Heroes come in all types. [Donate Blood today](http://www.bruinrunwalk.com/#/team-riley/gijb).

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**18th Annual City of Angels Fun Ride**

Presented by Volkswagen

Sunday, April 26th 2015

UCLA Campus - West Los Angeles

[For more information](http://www.bruinrunwalk.com/#/team-riley/gijb)