Dear Colleagues:

The 21th Annual Pathology Research Day and Retreat took place on Friday June 11, from 3:00 until 8:30 PM with approximately 120 people in attendance. This year 92 abstracts were submitted; 42 from graduate students, 17 basic research trainees, 24 clinical research trainees and 9 from faculty. Faculty and trainee talks took place from 3:00 until 6:00 PM in room S100A of the South BST. From 6:00-8:30, a poster session with refreshments was held at the University Club. Winners were:

Graduate students:  
1st Kun-Wei Liu (Shiyuan Cheng)  
2nd Mike Thompson (Paul Monga)  
3rd Sam Cherra (Charleen Chu)

Basic Research:  
1st Cecelia Yates (Alan Wells)  
2nd Ed Plowey (Charleen Chu)  
3rd Qian Wu (Alan Wells)

Clinical Research:  
1st Eumenia Castro (Csaba Galambos)  
2nd James Edinger (Steven Swerdlow)  
3rd Kotaro Sasaki (Eizaburo Sasatomi)

As always, we thank the retreat committee, our 27 judges, and especially Shari Tipton who worked tirelessly to get this organized!

Wendy Mars, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Pathology

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Pathology

HOLIDAY REMINDERS

The University of Pittsburgh and UPMC will be closed Monday July 5 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.
Marie DeFrances, M.D., Ph.D. has been appointed as Assistant Director for the Division of Molecular Diagnostics effective July 1, 2010.

Jeffrey A. Kant MD PhD, Director, Division of Molecular Diagnostics, has begun terms this year as Vice-Chair of the College of American Pathologist's Council on Scientific Affairs and as a member of the Veteran's Administration Genetic Program Advisory Committee. Dr. Kant has recently been asked to serve on the External Advisory Board for Vanderbilt University's Ingram Cancer Center Personalized Cancer Medicine Initiative and has contributed to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel's Molecular Pathology Coding Workgroup which is completely restructuring coding for genetics and oncology-based molecular assays.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D. was selected for the Wisconsin Distinguished resident Alumni Award for 2011. He was also invited to join the College of CSR Review of NIH for a two year period.

Yuri Nikiforov, M.D., Ph.D., has been asked to serve on the American Thyroid Association Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Guidelines Task Force.

Erin Rubin, M.D. was the course director of the Surgical Pathology of Organ Transplantation Conference held May 7-8. Dr. Michalopoulos gave the keynote lecture, “Liver Regeneration and Liver Failure.” One hundred participants registered for this CME accredited course held at the University Club in Oakland.

Dr. Sarangarajan Ranganathan has been appointed Director of Anatomic Pathology at Children’s Hospital.

Steven Swerdlow, M.D. elected trustee of the American Board of Pathology effective January 1, 2011.

As of June 1, 2010, Dr. Theresa L. Whiteside has stepped down as the Director of the Immunologic Monitoring and Cellular Products Laboratory (IMCPL) at UPCI. She will devote her time to full time research in the field of cancer immunology/immunotherapy.

Ms. Theresa Humpe, the lead technologist in the ATL, was awarded the 2010 Inaugural UPMC Sustainable Innovation Initiative award (in the process category) on April 28th. Her idea was to place Solar panels in all new construction within the UPMC system. She received a beautiful trophy and Mr. Jeffrey Romoff presented her with a warm letter of congratulations (the story can be found at this link; http://extra.upmc.com/ExtraExpress/extraexpress_043010.html

A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he knows something.

Wilson Mizner
(1876-1933)
Ibrahim Batal, M.D., a fellow in Transplant Pathology, will spend the next two years doing a research and clinical fellowship in renal pathology under the directorship of Dr. Helmut Reinke at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard University, Boston, MA.

Salvatore J. Cherra, CMP graduate student, received an individual training grant (NS064728) beginning in the summer 2009, and was awarded Third Place in the Graduate Student Category at the 21st Annual Department of Pathology Research Day, 2010.

Ruben Dagda, PhD was awarded a FASEB-MARC Travel Award to attend Experimental Biology 2010 in Anaheim, CA, and his abstract selected for oral presentation.

Aaron Gusdon, medical student, received the Dean’s Summer Research Program Scholarship and was awarded a Merit Award at the Summer Research Symposium. He received a Seahorse Travel Award to present this data at the Charleston Conference on Mitochondrial Physiology and Pathobiology in November 2009. He was selected to be the 2010-2011 Pathology Post-Sophomore Fellow, and was admitted to the Physician-Scientist Training Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Vivek Patel, CNUP graduate student, was awarded support on T32NS007433-12 for his second year, based upon his excellent progress in the laboratory.

Irene Pien, Pitt undergraduate, was accepted into the Summer Undergraduate Research Program for 2010.

Ed Plowey, MD, PhD was awarded Second Place in the Basic Science Category at the 21st Annual Department of Pathology Research Day, 2010.

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pathology and Lab medicine was inspected by the College of American Pathologists on May 7, 2010, and has passed the inspection with flying colors.

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System was assessed and has been found to meet the requirements of applicable standards and has been granted fully re-accreditation by the AABB thru June 2012.
Shiyuan Cheng, Ph.D. gave the following presentations:


- May 19, 2010, The 18th International Conference on Brain Tumor Research and Therapy, Trave-munde, Germany, “PDGFR alpha Promotes Glioblastoma Invasion through Src-dependent phosphorylation of Dock180Y1811 and Activating CrkII-p130Cas-Rac1 Signaling.”

Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D. gave the following:


- Staying in the PINK1: Mitochondrial Quality Control and Neurodegeneration. Case Western Reserve University, Department of Pathology, February 2010.


George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D. presented “Signaling Interactions in Initiation and Termination of Liver Regeneration” at the ASIP meeting April 25, 2010.

Marina Nikiforova, M.D.

- MicroRNA in Thyroid Cancer” 80th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association.

- ”Solid Tumors: Challenging Cases and Diagnostic Dilemmas”. Association for Molecular Pathology 2009 Annual Meeting.

- “Molecular Diagnostics of Solid Tumors for the Practicing Pathologist: What You Need to Know” ASCP, December, 2009

- “Molecular Diagnostics of Solid Tumors” at the AMP & AACC annual course “Molecular Pathology Essentials: Principle and Practice”, May 18, 2010.
Yuri Nikiforov, M.D., Ph.D.

- Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Pathology Grand Round, “Classic Pathology and Molecular Diagnostics in Thyroid Cancer: Friends or Foes?”; Invited Lecturer, December, 2009.
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology 99th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC; Long Course “Endocrine Pathology: Thyroid & Other Endocrine Tumors”; Course Co-Director and Course Speaker, March, 2010.
- Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Department of Pathology 2010 Resident Award Lecture, April, 2010.
- American Society for Clinical Pathology; Teleconference “Molecular Diagnostics of Thyroid Cancer”, April, 2010.
- American Thyroid Association Spring 2010 Meeting; Symposium “Genetic Markers and Personalized Diagnosis of FNA Samples”; Symposium Chair and Symposium Speaker, May, 2010.
- Thomas Jefferson Medical College, 2010 Pathology Resident Award Lecture

Miguel Reyes-Mugica, M.D.


Theresa Whiteside, Ph.D. was a plenary speaker at the 4th MASIR 2010 symposium on the Island of Myconos in Greece June 9-14, 2010. Her presentation was entitled: “Monitoring for Regulatory T Cell (Treg) Subsets in Cancer and the Prognostic Value of Treg Measurements.

PROMOTIONS

SHELDON BASTACKY, M.D. PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR
ROHIT BHARGAVA, M.D., PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
CHARLEEN CHU, M.D., PH.D. PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR
RAJIV DHIR, M.D. PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR
CSABA GALAMBOS, M.D., PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
MARINA NIKIFOROVA, M.D. PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
TIM OURY, M.D., PH.D. PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR
CMP recently underwent an independent external review. Martha Furie (SUNY-Stonybrook), William Coleman (UNC), and Robert Mitchell (Harvard), along with internal reviewer Gerry Apodaca (Medicine), spent 1.5 days interviewing our students and faculty and getting to know what we are all about. While the official report isn’t in, feedback from the committee was generally positive and we look forward to getting the official report. Thanks to all who were able to participate.

I was recently awarded a training grant entitled the “Angiopathy Training Program” (ATP). The grant will fund graduate students only (3/year; funding for 2 years) and can support students from graduate programs across the University. The ATP will cross-train students in Pathology, angiogenesis, and imaging techniques. Those who are interested in applying should contact Dr. Mars at wmars@pitt.edu for more information.

The incoming class for our parent Interdisciplinary Program (IBGP) interviewed 92 students (82 domestic, 17 international) from an applicant pool of 487 completed submissions (231 domestic, 256 international). 74 of these students (60 domestic, 14 international) were offered positions and 15 (12 domestic, 3 international) will be matriculating over the summer and looking for laboratories to do rotations in the upcoming year. Our parent Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) had 362 applicants and interviewed 68 students. Of the students offered positions, 15 applicants matriculated on June 1, 2010 and are already hard at work in their various labs.

Currently we have 36 students in the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Program (CMP), 30 from the IBGP and 6 from the MSTP. 4 students have defended their theses since last September. While it is too early to know exactly how many students will “officially” join CMP this fall, there are minimally 3 students joining from the IBGP (2) and the MSTP (1). In addition to the CMP students (who are mentored by faculty throughout the SOM), there are at least 4 more graduate students from the SOM being mentored by Pathology faculty; 2 are in the IMB program and 2 are in CNUP. As of now, the graduate student stipend remains at $24,650.00.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) began on May 25 and will run until July 30. This year, due to size limitations imposed by the School of Medicine, the official SURP students were limited to a total of 9, including 3 who are generously funded by the DOD through a joint program with Tuskegee (headed by Alan Wells at Pitt and Clayton Yates at Tuskegee). We also have a student through a summer program offered by the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), 4 returning students from Alan’s program, and a few others who are volunteering in various labs. Please plan to come and hear the students present their work on the mornings of July 29/July 30. More information regarding where and when will follow via e-mail.

Once again, be reminded that if you are interested in having issues brought before the CMP committee, please share them with our CMP administrator, Shari Tipton (tiptonsl@upmc.edu), or me (wmars@pitt.edu). Also, I would love to know if you are aware of any outstanding faculty members who are not currently members of CMP but who would be eligible and have a possible interest in joining. This year alone we added 5 new faculty members to our program, and there are two more applications in progress.

Thanks so much!

**Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.**
Director, Pathology SURP and CMP Graduate Program
Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D. received the following grants:

- Two year supplement to R01AG026389-03S1 to identify suppressors of injury-induced autophagy.

- Mitochondrial proteins in Parkinson’s disease P01 NS059806 (2009-2013), Neuropathology Core to study expression of mitochondrial regulatory proteins in human post-mortem brain samples.

- Lysosomal basis of age-dependence in neurodegeneration AFAR/Ellison Medical Foundation Julie Martin Mid-Career Award in Aging (2009-2013) to produce adult-onset autophagy deficient mice.

- Divergent pathways of cell death after brain injury R01 NS038620 (2009-2011), subaccount for consultation on GFP-LC3 transgenic mouse studies

- PINK1 regulation of mitochondrial homeostasis R56 NS065789 (2010-2011), High Priority Short-Term Project award for identifying PINK1 targets by phosphoproteomics.

Wendy Mars, Ph.D. received a NIH Angiopathy Training Grant effective July 1, 2010-June, 30, 2015 for the amount of $134,767 the first year and $269,534 the four subsequent years.

Adriano Aguzzi, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Neuropathology and Chairman, Department of Pathology
University Hospital of Zurich
Dr. Clayton Wiley, Professor and Director of Neuropathology
Dr. Aguzzi gave the annual Maud L. Menten Lecture
May 12, 2010
We wish Dr. Yin good luck with his new position.

Xiao-Ming Yin, M.D., Ph.D.
Louis Y. Mazzini Professor of Pathology and
Vice Chair for Laboratory Medicine
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine and
Director of Laboratories
Clarion Health System

Menaka Raju, M.D. from the University of Washington, will join
the staff at Passavant Hospital August 1, 2010.

Did you know that the Department provides Photography and Media Services?
See info at the left.
Stop by any time for advise and/or help for your photo and/or media needs.
Dear Colleagues:

Research activities in the Division of Experimental Pathology continue to grow, as do interactions between the various members of the faculty. The Experimental Pathology seminars continue to be successful as platforms of sharing ongoing research in the laboratories of various members of the division. It is hoped that new collaborations, multi-PI grant proposals or other collaborative ventures will stem from these seminars. While the Experimental Pathology seminar series will conclude later in fall of 2010, some formal meetings will continue to maintain the biweekly interactions between members of the division.

The Division of Experimental Pathology acquired several key pieces of equipment for research. Some of these are expected or are currently in high demand. For a more efficient operation of the machines including the Luminex (4th floor S-BST) Luminex (7 Scaife), two real-time PCR machines (4th floor S-BST) and a live cell imaging system (4th floor S-BST), an online scheduler is being developed whose access will be available through the Experimental Pathology website. An email with pertinent website information and login for the e-scheduler will be sent shortly to all faculty.

In line with the mission of the division and the department to promote career development of junior faculty, a new program was introduced within the division. This program gives an opportunity, to the junior faculty in the Division of Experimental Pathology, for a career development and steering committee with the eventual goal of obtaining successful NIH funding. The committees will be comprised of established investigators with significant experience and success in obtaining NIH funding and will meet 2-3 times to discuss the research project, recommend and monitor timeline for grant submission, provide internal grant review with critique and recommendations and provide additional advise as needed. While I am hopeful that these committees will be of benefit to the career development of the junior faculty and will further augment our NIH ranking as a department, I also realize the amount of time and effort of senior faculty that will go into this operation. I thank all of the department members in advance and hope to rely on your support for this new endeavor, which will eventually benefit our department. Please email any additional suggestions that you may have.

Thanks,

Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, M.D.
Director: Division of Experimental Pathology

“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”
Thomas Jefferson
(1743-1826)
Residency and Fellowship Program

On July 1st we welcomed our new PGY-1 class of residents and new fellows – they were listed in the last newsletter. As part of the new resident orientation this year there will be a weekly lecture series through mid-August conducted by the new PGY-2 class of residents.

On Wednesday July 14th at noon in Scaife Hall Room 1104 there will be a department luncheon to welcome our new fellows and residents.

Resident Recruitment Interview Dates for 2010 / 2011

The Friday interview dates for the next recruitment cycle are:

- October 22nd, October 29th,
- November 5th, November 12th (Thursday November 11th PIRRT day), November 19th
- December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th
- January 7th, January 14th and January 21st

Medical Student Education

Advanced Clinical Skills Course

A very successful pathology afternoon elective was held in April as part of the MS-3 Advanced Clinical Skills Course. There was an Introduction to Pathology lecture and then faculty led in-laboratory sessions on Neuropathology, Microbiology, Hematopathology, GI pathology, Autopsy pathology and Transfusion Medicine. Feedback was excellent and about 20% of the 28 students indicated the course caused them to consider a pathology elective.

Integration with Clinical Clerkships

A pilot is underway at the VA to have weekly in-laboratory sessions as part of the medical clerkship rotation.

Trevor Macpherson, M.D.
Vice Chairman
Department of Pathology Education


Rao, UN, Lee, SJ, Luo, W., Mihm, MC Jr., Kirkwood, JM. Presence of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and a dominant nodule within primary melanoma are prognostic factors for relapse-free survival of patients with thick (t4) primary melanoma: pathologic analysis of the e1690 and e1694 intergroup trials. Am J Clin Pathol 2010 April; 133(4):646-53.


Dacic S, Shuai Y, Yousem S, Ohori P, Nikiforova M. Clinicopathological predictors of EGFR/KRAS mutational status in primary lung adenocarcinomas. Mod Pathol. 2010 Feb;23(2):159-68


Volante M, Rapa I, Gandhi M, Bussolati G, Giachino D, Papotti M, Nikiforov YE. RAS mutations are the predominant molecular alteration in poorly differentiated thyroid carcinomas and bear prognostic impact. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2009 94:4735-41.


Coyne C, Nikiforov YE. RAS Mutation-Positive Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Arising in a Struma Ovarii. Endocr Pathol. 2010, 21:144-7.


Reviews/book chapters (2009-2010)


**CME Credit Update**
The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education for the Health Sciences transcripts can be obtained via the Internet at [ccehs.upmc.edu](http://ccehs.upmc.edu). Click on the link “Credit Transcripts” enter the required information (last name, last five digits of social security number). To receive a complete transcript do not enter dates and choose “submit.” The transcript reflects the American Medical Association Category 1 credits or the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) which have been entered into the Center’s database. To print the credit transcripts, please click on the drop down menu next to the Select Option and select Print Credit Transcripts. Credits from other institutions can be entered using the option “add/modify” credit information. The Center for Continuing Education will not validate this section of the credit transcript. For questions about the Continuing Medical Education Credits, please contact 412.647.8232.

**Annual Report Update**
The School of Medicine has requested that an annual report be submitted by October 1. An email has been sent to the faculty requesting individual information and hopefully everyone will respond by August 20. The data needed includes a research summary paragraph, Study Sections, Advisory Committees, honors, recognition and awards and a bibliography for the last three years (2008, 2009, 2010). Collecting information from all members in the Department is time consuming therefore we are asking you to please respond by August 20. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu. Thank you.

**Educational Credit Unit Update**
Just a reminder that the Educational Credit Units (ECUs) will be collected from every faculty member. ECU spreadsheets will distributed to the Departments from the Office of Medical Education with the information they have captured for teaching from the Medical School and the Graduate Program. We will post the information on our webpage and ask Faculty to review the information. The turn-around-time for responding will be four weeks, therefore this message is sent to alert you that the ECU information to come at end of July. If you have any questions please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu. Thank you.

**Publication Notification Form Update**
The Dean has requested a Notification of Publication form for each manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The forms ensure compliance with human and animal research policies, technology transfer/patent guidelines and the requirements for citation of grant support. Please submit two copies of the manuscript along with the notification form directly to Dr. Michalopoulos’ office and it will be forwarded to the Dean’s office. The forms can be accessed via the website at: [http://www.health.pitt.edu/cbmi/notification.htm](http://www.health.pitt.edu/cbmi/notification.htm). Thank you.
Dr. Alka Palekar
Honored for 35 years of service
She was recognized on June 21 for her service to Shadyside Hospital.
Congratulations!

Octavia Peck Palmer, PhD gave birth to
Phillip Denorris Palmer, II
Saturday, May 29, 2010
7lbs, 4 oz and 21 inches.
Mom, Dad and baby are doing great!
Congratulations!

Joyce Marcoz, a Medical Secretary in the Division of Transplant Pathology, will retire August 24, 2010. She is currently working as a part-time employee to train her replacement, Rita Brozewicz. Joyce received the ACES award for outstanding performance in 2007. She has worked at UPMC for 20 years.

Congratulations to Cecelia Yates (postdoc in Dr. Wells’ lab) as she was recently engaged to Robert Binder.

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Congratulations!

Cecelia Yates, a postdoc in Dr. Wells’ lab, was recently engaged to Robert Binder. Congratulations!

Dr. David Melhorn’s experience with the Café Milano and the PSO as “First Person: Out on the Town. A night with Russian students and a giant calzone.” Read article here: