Dear colleagues and friends:

I am taking this opportunity to send everybody a message of thanks and appreciation for the effort put forward and the patience displayed, as the department is successfully proceeding through what has been a challenging year. Anticipating changes in healthcare reform, our institution is taking all the proper measures to ensure the safety and success of the academic and clinical enterprise. The department is doing its part in the midst of this institutional endeavor. We have made every effort to spare discomfort and continue to provide whatever the faculty needs for a successful mission. As we move forward towards the end of this academic and fiscal year, we have a lot of successes to be thankful for, in teaching, research and clinical services.

We are living in a time when both the clinical service and the research underpinning of pathology have dramatically increased in complexity. Reflecting the diagnostic and research challenges of our times, I recently announced a restructuring of the organization of the department to reflect increased responsibilities, expanded scope and unique control over department functions that cover many other intellectual and clinical domains. In that regard, Drs. Yousem and Wells were named Executive Vice Chairs for Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. Dr. Nikiforov became the Vice Chair for molecular genomic pathology, a new entity composed of the previous divisions of molecular diagnostics and molecular anatomic pathology. Dr. Paul Monga, having very successfully run the Division of Experimental Pathology, has been named the Vice Chair of Experimental Pathology for issues related to research and development in the department.

NIH funding will be effected by the challenges from healthcare reform and the application of the budget sequestration in Washington. This is likely to affect many of our faculty. The Department, as well as the School of Medicine, will stand by to provide assistance as much as possible.

Again, thank you all for your diligence, patience and perseverance and best wishes for a happy spring.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

Edward Teller
(January 15, 1908 – September 9, 2003)
DAFFODILS WERE PLENTIFUL IN THE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ON DAFFODIL DAY!

This year’s annual American Cancer Society Daffodil Day will be in full bloom on March 20. The Pathology Department collected over $500 in orders. Contributors purchased beautiful bunches of daffodils that were seen throughout the department, as well as mini-potted daffodils, and patients in hospitals, treatment centers, and other facilities in our local community were surprised when they received anonymous donations of The Gifts of Hope bunches. Ray O. Hope Bears were anonymously delivered to young patients at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Thank you to all who made this year’s Daffodil Day a success!

Shannon Hozinec

Save the Date

The Pathology Research Seminar and Retreat will be held this year on Wednesday, May 22 from 12:00 until 4:15 p.m.; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Key note address by Dr. William A. Muller, from Northwestern University, will be at noon in S-100 BST.

ECU credits will be offered for the oral presentation portion of the meeting.

The poster session will be held at the University Club from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m.

A break is scheduled to allow for attendance of Dean Levine’s “State of the Union” talk from 4:30—5:30. Please watch for announcements about online registration.

Spring Forward:
The clocks are set ahead one hour during Spring Forward. In 2013, this occurs on Sunday, March 10.

Fall Back:
The clocks are set back one hour during Fall Back. In 2013, this occurs on Sunday, November 3
TAX LAW CHANGES – January 1, 2012, Pennsylvania Act 32 requires employers to withhold applicable local Earned Income Tax (EIT) on behalf of their employees and remit it to a designated Tax Collection district. Therefore the University will begin withholding EIT for all Faculty, Staff, and Students who are subject to these taxes. The University mailed a letter to your permanent residence explaining the change. On the outside of the envelope were listed the municipality you live in along with your school district. If either of these were not correct, please see me to complete a new Residency Certification Form. Carolyn Nolte

PRISM TRACKS

As of January 4, 2010 the University has implemented an on-line time-keeping system (PRISM TRKS) to be used by regular full-time and part-time staff. This new system helps ensure compliance with federal, state, and local wage and hours laws, as well as consistently applying the University’s policies and procedures related to time and attendance. This system allows for more efficient processing of overtime and compensatory time while providing current time worked and time off data to staff and supervisors. Employees are required to submit electronic timecards to their supervisors on a weekly basis.

SUPERVISORS OF WORK STUDY/STUDENT WORKERS

All timesheets for your students are due on the 10th of each month. Students should project the hours they will work up to the 15th of each month. Adjustments will be made the following pay period.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT WORK STUDY STUDENTS HOURS ARE TURNED IN ON TIME! If a student does not turn in their hours on time, they will not be paid until the following month! Payroll submission have been delayed due to time involved with tracking down time sheets. Carolyn Nolte
Reasons to visit the Payroll Office

**Foreign Faculty/Staff/Students** -
- You have received your Permanent Resident “green” card
- You have recently received your authorization to work cards
- Your current visa has been extended. Please bring copies of the approval notice or new DS-2019.

**RESIGNATIONS** - Faculty should submit a *resignation* letter to Dr. Michalopoulos and Division Director. Staff should give a copy to your supervisor which should include your final date of employment. **This should be done within 24 hours after you have informed your Supervisor in order to process your paperwork.** Be sure to include your forwarding address in order for your W-2 form to be forwarded to the correct address.

**TO HIRE NEW EMPLOYEES** - Faculty wishing to hire staff should initiate this process through the Payroll Office. This includes foreign recruits also.

**MEDICAL LEAVES** - If you are going on leave or have just returned from a leave (personal or FMLA) you must let me know in order to get your paperwork in order.

**ONLINE PAYSTUB ACCESS**
As of April 2011, the University Payroll Department has discontinued paper copies of pay stubs. These can now be viewed on-line. Directions are listed below:

1. Navigate to the University portal: my.pitt.edu
2. Enter your University Computing Account username and password
3. Click on the “Log In” button
4. Click on the “PRISM Login” link
5. Select “PHR Employee Self-Service” responsibility
6. Select “Pay Statement”

Please call 412.648.1038 to schedule an appointment before “stopping by”. This will ensure adequate time to discuss your issues/concerns.

Carolyn Nolte
Payroll Coordinator
VISAS - Kim Basile (412.383.3556; basilekm@upmc.edu) is the department contact for all contracts and MTA submissions to the Office of Research and all visa submissions to the Office of International Services. Please make Kim your first contact for contracts, MTAs and visa processing for any international visitors, post-docs and scholars. Kim continues to process grant submissions for faculty with last names beginning A-M. All faculty with last names beginning N-Z should see Vida George for processing of grant proposals. If you have any questions, please contact me.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – The following are extremely important compliance reminders for all PIs, CO-Is and anyone participating in the design of sponsored research projects. These compliance modules and forms are necessary in order for the Office of Research to process proposals of not only Pathology faculty but any proposals involving your participation.

All investigators planning to participate in or who is currently participating in a PHS-funded research project (i.e. NIH) must complete:

- COI Superform for PHS Funded Researchers
- CITI Conflict of Interest Module (Basic Course)

Also, effective March 31, 2013, PIs and CO-Is conducting research projects involving human subjects must also complete the following:

- CITI Responsible Conduct of Research
- CITI Human Subjects Training

The above CITI module requirements for human subject research are in addition to the current requirements to complete the CITI COI and the COI Superforms. If the training requirements are not completed, access to OSI-RIS (IRB on-line application) will also be blocked. Go to www.citi.pitt.edu for detailed information. Do not go directly to the CITI website as you are required to use the special Pitt Access login portal: www.citi.pitt.edu in order to link your completion with Pitt.

THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH WILL NOT SUBMIT ANY PROPOSAL THAT INVOLVES FACULTY WHO ARE NON-COMPLIANT. CONTINUING PROJECTS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL THE REQUIRED COMPLIANCE MODULES AND FORMS ARE COMPLETE AND WILL HOLD UP THE GRANT FROM RECEIVING AN ACCOUNT NUMBER.

NEW POST-AWARD STAFF – Please welcome Alicia Procacina and Dan McDonald as our new research accountants. Alicia will work with all faculty whose last name falls within A-M; Dan will work with faculty whose last name falls with N-Z. Both come to the department with prior University experience and are welcome additions to the research area.

Mary Lou Benedetti, M.B.A.
Assistant Administrator
Our faculty has been growing! In 2012 we added the following new CMP graduate faculty members: Grant Bullock, Steve Dobrowolski, Andy Duncan, Robert Ferrante, John Kirkwood, Michael Oertel, Steffi Oesterreich, Rocky Tuan and Nam Vo. Our current faculty number stands at 73 and we still continue to get new applicants who are interested in the CMP graduate program.

Recently, we have had a number of students graduate from the program. Amin Afrazi (Dave Hackam), Prince Awuah (Paul Monga), Ashwini Balakrishnan (Richard Chaillet), Sarah Beckman (Johnny Huard), Marc Hansel (Steve Strom) and Emily Wickline (Paul Monga). Amin has gone back to finished his MD in the MSTP program and all others have found good post-docs positions. The good news is that we continue to attract new students into CMP. This fall we anticipate there will be 7 new students joining from the MSTP and IBGP parent programs.

The Pathology Research Seminar and Retreat will be held this year on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from 12-6:30 PM. Our keynote speaker will be William A. Muller from Northwestern University who will speak on “Sequential molecular interactions that regulate leukocyte transendothelial migration: Studies in vitro and in vivo”. ECU credits will be offered for the oral presentation portion of the meeting. The poster session will be held at the University Club. Please watch for announcements about online registration. The CMP arm of the SURP program will run from May 28 until August 2 this year. We anticipate a total of 8 students participating from across the country.

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, please continue to make me 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 our program. Thanks so much!

Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.

PathConsult CME site is now live... See link https://pathconsult.upmc.com/

The UPMC Digital Pathology CME Courses are available as of February 2013 on the UPMC Digital Pathology Consultation Services website thanks to the team efforts of Pathology Informatics (William Cable, Thomas Harper and Fang He), the Division of Anatomic Pathology (Samuel Yousem, Anil Parwani, Alka Palekar and Karen Schoedel) and four residents participating as CME coordinators (Jason Chiang, Stacey Barron, Ari Karunamurthy and Kate Serdy). Educational activities such as Grand Rounds lectures and the Case of the Month series now have CME questions associated with them. The questions and the CME certificates are accessed by a link to the University of Pittsburgh’s Internet-Based Studies in Education and Research (ISER) site and are free to the public. Offering free CME is one more way to draw attention to the Digital Pathology Consultation site and to provide high quality continuing medical education. If you have an opportunity, take a look! https://pathconsult.upmc.com/
Clinical Instructors

Michelle Afkhami, M.D., Clinical Fellow, will join the Division of Molecular Anatomic Pathology July 1, 2013.  She is presently finishing a Hematopathology fellowship at the University of Southern California.

Christopher H. Cogbill, M.D., Clinical Instructor, will join the department July 1, 2013.  He will complete his fellowship in Hematopathology at UPMC and continue on as a Clinical Instructor.

Michael S. Landau, M.D., Clinical Instructor, will join the Department of Pathology in the Gastrointestinal Pathology Center of Excellence July 1, 2013.  He is presently finishing his residency training at Cleveland Clinic.

Rebecca Ocque, M.D., Clinical Instructor, she will complete her residency at UPMC and continue on as in the Centers of Excellence at UPMC at PUH, Shadyside and Magee Hospital.

Bevan Tandon, M.D., Clinical Instructor, will join the department July 1, 2013.  He will complete a fellowship at in Hematopathology at UPMC in June and continue on as a Clinical Instructor.

New PGY-1 Class

In July we look forward to welcoming the seven members of our new PGY-1 class.

Cecilia Lezcano Lopez, MD – Universidad Nacional de Asuncion, Paraguay
Brennan Mosch, MD – The Commonwealth Medical College
Dane Olevian, MD – University of Pittsburgh SOM
Stell Patadji, MD – University of Vermont COM
Martina Pejchal, MD, PhD – Northwestern University SOM
Jeffrey Robin, MD – SUNY Upstate Medical University
Diana Thomas, MD, PhD – University of Illinois College COM
NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS

Monday, March 25th, the new chiefs residents will be:

Ryan Collins, MD (PGY3) – University of Pittsburgh
Jessica Dwyer, MD (PGY3) – University of Texas Medical Center at San Antonio
Arivarasan Karunamurthy, MD (PGY4) – Madras Medical College
Rashi Singhal, MD, MPH (PGY4) – University of Alabama

NEW FELLOWS

Nidhi Aggarwal, MD (MGP) – UPMC – AP/CP residency
Leonidas Arvanitis, MD (Neuropath) – Rush University, IL – AP/CP residency
Nicole Bures, MD (Cyto) – University of Calgary, Canada – AP/CP residency
Ioan Cucoranu, MD (MGP) – University of South Alabama, AL – AP/CP residency
George Garib, MD (BST) – University of Alabama, AL – AP/CP residency
Zhanna Georgievskaya, MD, MBA (Peds) – University Hospitals Case Medical Center, OH – AP/CP residency
Philip Grieshaber, MD (Thor) – Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, PA – AP/CP residency
Chris Griffith, MD, PhD (H&N) – UPMC – AP residency
Shani Gunning-Carter, MD (Coag) – State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, NY – Internal Medicine residency
Charlene Hellman, MD (Heme) – UO New Mexico, NM – AP/CP residency
Susan Hsiao, MD, PhD (MGP) – Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital, NY – AP residency
Megan Keane-Tarchichi, MD (BB) – University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, NJ – AP/CP residency
Zaibo Li, MD (Gyn/Breast) – UPMC – AP/CP residency
Lananh Nguyen, MD (Neuropath) – UPMC – AP residency
Gabriela Quiroga-Garza, MD (Cyto) – The Methodist Hospital, TX – AP/CP residency
Aditi Ranade, MD (Gyn/Breast) – St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons – AP/CP residency
Taher Reza Kermanshahi, MD (GI) – University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville, FL – AP/CP residency
Somak Roy, MD (GU) – UPMC – AP residency
Daman Samrao, MD (Gyn/Breast) – LAC+USC, CA – AP/CP residency
Matt Smith, MD (Cyto) – UPMC – AP/CP residency
Heather Stevenson-Lerner, MD, PhD (Transplant) – University of Texas Medical Branch, TX – AP/CP residency
Muhammad Syed, MD (Info) – Danbury Hospital, CT – AP/CP residency
Anna Woodard, MD (Cyto) – UPMC – AP/CP residency
Emily Wickline defended her thesis on January 11, 2013. “The Story of Redundant Catenines and their Roles in Cell-cell Adhesion in the Liver.” She will move on to a post doctoral position in the lab of Adam Kwiatkowski in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Pittsburgh and work on understanding how actin networks are assembled and organized to regulate cell morphology and cell-cell adhesions. Congratulations Emily…

PrinceAwuah defended his thesis on January 18, 2013. “Platelet Derived Growth Factor Receptor Alpha Signaling in Liver Biology: Promises and Perils.” He will move to Washington DC accepting a position with the National Cancer Institute at NIH with Dr. Ira Pastan. Congratulations Prince…

Liang-I Kang, MSTP Student, will receive the ASIP Marcos Rojkind Award, a trainee travel award to attend the 2013 ASIP Meeting in Boston, MA held on April 20-24, 2013 in the amount of $750. The award was given to finance attendance of the meeting to present an abstract entitled "Regulation of hepatic stellate cell activation through LRP1: a novel signaling role for t-PA in liver", for which Dr. Mars is the mentor and the senior author.

Humberto Trejo Bittar, MD (PGY-1) Resident, UPMC Department of Pathology. PKA Iα Regulates Na,K-ATPase Endocytosis in Alveolar Epithelial Cells Exposed to High CO2 Levels. Lecuona E, Sun H, Chen J, Trejo HE, Baker MA, Sznajder JI. Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol. 2013 Jan 24


Arivarasan Karunamurthy, M.D., (PGY-3) Received the Pathology Informatics 2012 Travel Award to attend the "Pathology Informatics 2012 " held at Chicago in October 2012. The award was selected by The Association for Pathology Informatics (API) Travel Award Committee and funded by University of Pittsburgh Department of Biomedical Informatics.


“Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.”
— Dr. Seuss
(March 2, 1904—September 24, 1991)
Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D.
Title: Immune response to polyomavirus infection.
Agency: NIH 2R56 AI063360-06A1
Role: Principal investigator Percent of Effort: 25%
Funding period: 08/15/12- 08/14/13
Direct Costs: $259,964
Total Costs: $378,749

Title: Breadth and genotype specificity of anti-polyomavirus BK neutralizing antibodies in commercial preparations of human immunoglobulins.
Agency: CSL-Behring, Inc.
Role: Principal investigator Percent of Effort: 2%
Funding period: 03/01/13- 02/29/14
Direct Costs: $63,000
Total Costs: $77,500

Peter Lucas, M.D., Ph.D.
R01 HL082914-07 (February 2013 - January 2018)
"GPCR Signaling through a Novel NF-kB Pathway"
NIH (NHLBI)
Role: PI
Annual Direct Costs: $250,000

Promotions
Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D., A. Julio Martinez Chair in Neuropathology
Fiona Craig, M.D., Promoted to Professor
Raymond Felgar, M.D., Promoted to Professor
Walid Khalbuss, M.D., Promoted to Professor
Ivona Vasile Pandrea, M.D. Promoted to Professor
Sara Monaco, M.D., Promoted to Associate Professor
Christine Roth, M.D., Promoted to Associate Professor
Chengquan Zhao, M.D. Promoted to Professor
Pil Gyu Hwang, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, will join the department July 1, 2013 at Passavant Hospital.

Nahed Ismail, M.D., Ph.D.
Elected as a “Chair of the Division V” (Division of Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology), American Society of Microbiology 2013-2014.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Digestive Diseases, “Signaling Pathways in Initiation and Termination of Liver Regeneration,” February 26, 2013.

Yale University, Department of Pathology, Grand Rounds, “Liver Regeneration and Liver Cancer,” February 28, 2013.

Paul Ohori, M.D.


Liron Pantanowitz, M.D.
President of the Association for Pathology Informatics (API) 2013.

Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D.
“Pancreas Allograft Pathology,” International Academy of Pathology Meeting, Capetown, South Africa, October 2, 2012.

“Polyomavirus BK in the Transplanted Kidney: The Ongoing Saga,” Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, January 2013.


Michael Shurin, M.D., Ph.D.
“The Tumor Microenvironment: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Regulation”, invited lecturer, Georgia Health Sciences University, Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine, Augusta, GA, January, 2013.


Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can’t practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage. 

Maya Angelou
(April 4, 1928- )


Books in 2013:

“Redirecting Diseased Tissue Remodeling in Mechanically Active Soft Tissues by Biomaterial-Based Interventions”
William R. Wagner, Ph.D.
Professor of Surgery, Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering
McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine
University of Pittsburgh
Wednesday, May 8, 2013
12:00 noon
1104 Scaife Hall

“Renal FNA in the Age of Nephron Sparing Tumor Treatment”
Gladwyn Leiman, MBCh. FIAC FRCPath
Professor of Pathology
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT
Wednesday, May 15, 2013
12:00 noon
1104 Scaife Hall

Department Retreat
“Sequential Molecular Interactions that Regulate Leukocyte Transendothelial Migration: Studies in vitro and in vivo”
William A. Muller, M.D., Ph.D.
Magerstadt Professor and Chairman
Department of Pathology
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, IL
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
12:00 Noon
S-100 Biomedical Science Tower

Annual Fettermann Lecture
Title: TBA
Patrick G. Gallagher, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Genetics and Pathology
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Thursday, May 30, 2013
8:00 a.m.
Children’s Hospital
Rangos Research Building


Partho Chattoraj, Qin Yang, Ankita Khandai, and Nahed Ismail. 2013:TLR2 and Nod2 mediate resistance or susceptibility to fatal intracellular Ehrlichia infection in murine models of ehrlichiosis. PLOS ONE, In press. 2013

UPMC health care workers now have a new service to turn to when addressing the after-death care of their patients. The Decedent Affairs Service, a multi-disciplinary venture housed in the Department of Pathology, has been created to complement and enhance existing after-death care procedures at the UPMC Presbyterian-Montefiore campus.

Decedent Affairs now provides 24-hour phone consultation to answer questions and provide direction in completing paperwork and filling out death certificates; facilitating contact between clinical services and other agencies; addressing inquiries about body donation, tissue donation and autopsy requests; and discussion about various topics including health risks and infectious disease precautions, body transportation difficulties, and forms required for medical records. Decedent Affairs is also available for presentation at educational conferences, distribution of after-death care informational materials, and general educational endeavors as the needs arise.

The Decedent Affairs Service can be contacted through either the Pathology Department Autopsy Service at 412-647-3734 (during weekday working hours) or the MedTrak on call directory 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

Jeffrey Nine, M.D.