Dear Colleagues:

Our Department of Pathology is successfully adjusting its methods and parameters within the spirit of changes occurring in UPMC and the School of Medicine. UPMC is transforming itself gradually but steadily towards an IDFS (Integrated Delivery and Finance System). This is a system that attempts to encompass both the clinical delivery service and a financial insurance arm. The objective is to create motivations for synergy, which aim to contain the cost of diagnostic and therapeutic care. As with other clinical services, our department is now supervising in an integrated administrative manner the diagnostic clinical services of all UPMC sites under the rubric of a Pathology Service Line (PSL). The mission of PSL is to streamline and integrate laboratory and histopathology activities. Both our anatomic and lab medicine faculty and staff had already accomplished most of the PSL goals, making this task easier. Through its strong central components of anatomic, genomic and clinical pathology and the highly capable similar services in the peripheral hospitals, our department is justified to feel proud for the clinical services it provides to the UPMC system.

In the School of Medicine, our special lectures, electives and the first year pathobiology course continue to be very popular. The special autopsy elective is breaking records of popularity with the medical students. A few new grants were added to our portfolio of funded research and the department is committed to provide support by whatever means possible to all our faculty and trainees.

I am taking this opportunity to express my thanks to our administrative and technical staff who so ably manage to carry us through the complex navigation channels that we traverse, as we try to meet due diligence, high performance and steady aim throughout the academic year.

Best regards,

George Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Maud Menten Professor and Chair

Holiday Reminders

The University of Pittsburgh will be Thursday November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving Recess. UPMC will be closed Thursday, November 27.

The University of Pittsburgh will be closed Wednesday, December 24 through Monday, January 3, 2016. The Administrative Offices will be minimally staff and open during this time. University and Hospital offices will reopen Monday, January 3.

Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life.

Robert Louis Stevenson
1850-1894
Dr. Ronald Hamilton from our Neuropathology Division is being portrayed by Stephen Moyer (from True Blood, an HBO series) in CONCUSSION a major motion picture starring Will Smith. The movie, which is set to be released nationwide on Christmas Day, focuses on the amazing story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, a Nigerian immigrant, who discovered a progressive neurodegenerative disease he called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) in a former NFL football player (Mike Webster). Bennet, a forensic pathologist working with Dr. Cyril Wecht at the Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s Office, had just finished his Neuropathology Fellowship at UPMC, where he had been taught about neurodegenerative diseases by Ron. He brought the case to Ron for confirmation and what happened to Bennet next was described in a 2007 article in GQ called “Game Brain” (Jeanne Marie Laskas), which was the inspiration for the movie. Ron’s role in the discovery of CTE was detailed in the book “League of Denial” (October, 2013); but how he will be portrayed in the movie is not known.

During the filming in Pittsburgh, Ron served as an informal advisor meeting with writer-director Peter Landesman several times and he also supplied numerous props for the movie. During one of these visits, Ron showed Peter the elaborate process required to simply get a slide ready to view under the microscope. Peter was especially impressed with Jonette Werley, who has been with the Neuropathology Division for 30 years. Because of her expertise in Neurohistology, Bennet had brought the case to her for processing. A crew spent a day filming Jonette for a short sequence that will be in the film. She’s a star!! Probably the first histologist to make it to the big screen.
Ron was able to get to the set twice and visit with Will Smith.

On set, he was interviewed by a film crew who were apparently gathering behind-the-scenes footage for a bonus feature on the CONCUSSION DVD.

August 31, 2015: Just before the beginning of the NFL season, Sony pictures released a trailer for CONCUSSION. Stephen Moyer (as Ron) can be seen in one scene in the trailer (0:55 sec) with his back turned and his beard partly visible. This can be found on YouTube.

It was recently announced that CONCUSSION will be the Centerpiece of the American Film Institute (AFI) festival November 11, 2015. The AFI is also awarding Will Smith the Hollywood Actor Award for his role as Bennet Omalu.
Faculty Highlights


**John Ozolek, M.D.**
Elected Chair of the Practice Committee of the Society for Pediatric Pathology (2016-2018).

**Liron Pantanowitz, M.D.**
Two pathology images won the competition held by UPCI called “Images of Fighting Cancer”. They will be on display at this year’s Science 2015-Unleashed! Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 7–9 October, at Alumni Hall. After the exhibit the Images will be hung in the Hillman Cancer Center for all to see.

**Chengquan Zhao, M.D.** was honored as guest professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University, the largest OB/Gyn hospital in China on September 17, 2015.

Ralph Nauman, Retired after 41 years of service at the Clinical Laboratories.

Dr. Donald Kelley, retired after 13 years at the Institute of Transfusion Medicine.

**Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement**
Faculty Highlights

Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D.

- Served on the Distinguished Faculty Poster Review Panel, American Society of Transplantation, Cutting Edge in Organ Transplantation Meeting, Chandler, Arizona, February 5-7, 2015.


- Participated in World Health Organization (WHO) and National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) Collaborative Study to Validate an International Standard for BK virus nucleic acid technology based assays, January 2015.

Award winning abstracts presented by Transplant Pathology Trainees at National Meetings

Gang Zeng, a post-doctoral fellow working with Dr. Randhawa, was the recipient of Best Trainee Abstract Travel Award from The American Transplant Society of Transplantation Infectious Disease Community of Practice. The title of the poster was “Prospects of differentiating T-cell mediated rejection from BKV nephropathy using next generation sequencing of the T-cell receptor”. This poster was presented at the American Transplant Congress, Philadelphia, PA, on May 2, 2015. Related work was presented at the Annual Fellows Conference on Advances in Organ Transplantation, Cambridge, MA, on April 16, 2015, where it was conferred with the Most Innovative Abstract Award in the Basic Science Category.

Gang Huang, a Visiting Research Scholar from Guangzhou, China, visiting Dr. Randhawa’s laboratory, was recipient of a Poster of Distinction Award from the American Transplant Congress. The title of the poster was “Evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract as a potential route of primary polyomavirus infection”. It was presented at the American Transplant Congress, Philadelphia, PA, May 2, 2015 (Recipient of Poster of Distinction Award).

Sarah Voss, Clinical Fellow in Transplantation Pathology was the recipient of Recipient of The CEOT Young Innovator Award. This work was presented at the American Society of Transplantation Cutting Edge of Organ Transplantation (CEOT) Meeting, Chandler, Arizona, February 5-7, 2015. The title of the abstract was “Glomerulitis in non-antibody mediated glomerular injury”.
Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

**VISAS**

The number of visa applications in the Department of Pathology has grown considerably over the past several years; in addition, Federal and University requirements concerning the applications have become more involved. The once paper process is now an electronic submission to the Office of International Services. Time is still of the essence and if you plan to bring on a foreign national Visiting Scholar or Post Doc, please allow at least three (3) months for the internal approval process, exchange of visitor information, submission and flow of paperwork through OIS.

If you have specific questions concerning visas, the application process or policies for the department, please contact Mary Lou Benedetti (benedettim@upmc.edu) or April Lehman (lehmanad@upmc.edu).

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

REMINDER: The Office of Research will not submit any proposal that involves faculty who are non-compliant. Continuing projects will not be processed as well, until the required compliance modules and forms are complete.

**KARI NEJAK-BOWEN, Ph.D.** received her first R01 (funding started July 1, 2015); project title is "Role and regulation of beta-catenin in cholestatic liver disease" (Project Period: 07/01/2015 – 04/30/2020). $1,125,000 Directs; $607,500 Indirects; $1,732,500 Total award

**CARY WU, PH.D. GRANTS RECEIVED**

Cary Wu, Ph.D. NIH RO1; Grant title: Signaling Mechanisms of Focal Adhesion Protein Kindlin-2 in Chondrogenesis; Source: NIH/NIAMS; Term 6/1/2015-5/31/2020; Amount: $2,159,850

Cary Wu, Ph.D. NIH R21; Grant title: A novel kindlin-2 regulatory pathway in bone remodeling; Source: NIH/NIAMS; Term 4/1/2015-3/31/2017; Amount: $383,350

**Nahed Ismail, M.D., Ph.D.,** USDA funding for a project focused on “comparative genomics of multi-drug resistant Acinetobacter baumanii in different geographic regions”, 200K/two years; period 9/1/2015-8/30/2017
I am happy to report that our program continues to do quite well. During the course of the past academic school year, seven students graduated; however, we also matriculated eight new students (five from IBGP and three from MSTP), presently putting us at 28 students so that we continue to remain one of the largest of the six Interdisciplinary Program affiliates. Despite losing some faculty members through career changes, overall our faculty numbers have been growing. This past academic year we added six new faculty members to CMP: Kari Nejak-Bowen, Stephen Chan, Elena Gonchorova, and Cynthia St. Hilaire (primary), as well as Sarah Berman and Bryan Brown, (secondary) making our current total 71, up three from last year at this time. Please remember to tell interested faculty about joining CMP. We are always willing to add qualified SOM faculty to our graduate program if their interests match with ours.

**SAVE THE DATES**

**On May 25, 2016** we will hold our annual Pathology Retreat, combining our basic and clinical researchers for an afternoon of stimulating talks, once again followed by a poster session at the University Club. This year our keynote speaker will be Charles A Parkos, MD/PhD, the Chairman of Pathology at the University of Michigan.

The **Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)** will begin early next year, on **May 23, 2016**. For SURP, we are once again actively seeking interested faculty willing to host college undergraduates in their laboratories for a 10-week scientific research experience. SURP is a highly competitive outreach program, specifically designed to recruit high quality students into applying for graduate degrees through the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPSOM) programs such as the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program and the Medical School.

The specifics of SURP are as follows:

The cost to the individual investigator is $3500.00. In some cases, there may be supplemental funding from UPSOM. Please contact me at 412-648-9690 or wmars@pitt.edu if you are interested in learning more about these funding opportunities.

The program will run from May 23-July 29. Students are expected to have a specific project that they work on full time. They are also expected to attend supplemental programming 1-2 hours a week. At the end of the experience they must write an abstract and do a 10-minute power point presentation of their work. Student housing and travel will generously be provided by UPSOM.

The success of this program relies on quality mentors well as quality students. Part of our past success has been due to participation of interested faculty such as you. In addition, we have implemented several techniques designed to attract the highest quality students to our program such as a shared online application process. I would venture that many of you who have participated as SURP mentors in the past can attest to the quality of the students that we are attracting. You need not be graduate faculty to take on a student.

If you have any questions or are willing to be a mentor this year, please contact me at 412-648-9690, or via e-mail at wmars@pitt.edu. The application process has already begun. Also, remember that if you are interested in having issues brought before the CMP steering committee, please share them with either our CMP administrator, Tara Rohall (rohallta@upmc.edu), or with me (wmars@pitt.edu). Thanks so much!

**Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.**

**Director, Pathology SURP and CMP graduate program**
Residency Program
Appointment of Associate Director

Marie DeFrances has been appointed Associate Director of the Residency Program effective September 1, 2015. She will report to the Program Director Dr Macpherson and continues her role in being responsible for the pathology medical school curriculum and activities.

Recruitment for Class starting July 1, 2016

On October 16th the first of 11 interview days was held. Six candidates are invited for each Friday interview day through January 15, 2016. Candidates are given the opportunity to request meeting with faculty of their interest. Such meetings will be scheduled as per faculty interest and availability Thursday afternoon or late Friday afternoon. Thank you to those who have already agreed to meet with candidates.

Program Updates

Russ Silowash and Humberto Trejo Bittar have developed an Access based tool called ‘Report Formatting Reference Library’. It enables residents to review de-identified anatomic pathology reports searchable by organ system, case type or attending. This is significantly enhancing the preview process for residents prior to sign out with the attending.

Dr. Pantanowitz has launched a ‘Sandbox Server’ for use by residents to develop informatics software tools as part of their research and education enhancements. An early user will be Tom Pearce who is developing a robust on line tool to support and enhance the anatomic pathology unknown slide conference.
Graduation date is **Saturday May 14, 2016**. Graduating residents, fellows and clinical instructors will be recognized.

**Fellowship Program**

**Dr. Somak Roy** has been appointed Associate Director of the MGP Fellowship

**Dr. Humberto Trejo Bittar** is our Chief Fellow.

Recruitment for fellows for start date July 1, 2017 has commenced.

All ACGME accredited fellowships are required effective July 1, 2016 to implement their Clinical Competency Committee and Program Evaluation Committee

Congratulations to **Sara Wheeler** and **Dan Rhoads** whose young investigator presentations were two of the three presentations selected as ‘Young Investigator Award with Distinction at ACLPS meeting.

- **Heather Metz** - CMP Graduate Student
  Neutrophil Elastase Promotes Myofibroblast Differentiation in Lung Fibrosis.
  Alyssa Gregory, Corrine Kliment, **Heather Metz**, Kyoung-Hee Kim, Julia Kargl, Brittani Agostini, Lauren Crum, Elizabeth Oczypok, Tim Oury, A. McGarry Houghton.

  Presentation:
  Heather E. Metz, Stephanie E. Busch, Mark L. Hanke, Julia Kargl, Kyoung-Hee Kim, A. McGarry Houghton
  Insulin Receptor Substrate-1 Regulates Immune Cell Content in Lung Adenocarcinoma. American Association for Cancer Research International Conference 2015, Pittsburgh, PA.
Jackie Birkness, a fourth year medical student and an officer of the Pathology Medical Student Interest Group, and Alex Kikuchi, an MSTP student performing his dissertation studies in the lab of Dr. Paul Monga, were recently notified that they were chosen to receive the "Academic Excellence and Achievement in Pathology Award" from the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP). The ASCP states that many highly qualified candidates made the selection process difficult. Congratulations, Jackie and Alex!

In other news, three Klionsky Summer Research Fellows (Tani Pollock, Erica Johnson, and Peter Wu) participated in a new pathology initiative called STEPS (Summer Training Experiences in Pathology for Medical Students). STEPS was designed to provide second year medical students with opportunities to observe the clinical practice of Pathology one morning a week while carrying out summer research in our department. Eight activities were planned in different subspecialities of pathology such as autopsy, clinical chemistry, blood banking, and genomic pathology. Thanks to all who helped make STEPS a success!

The School of Medicine held a “Scholarly Research Project Speed Dating” event on October 19 from 5-7 pm to match medical students with research mentors. Faculty who would like to mentor a medical student Scholarly Research Project should send a brief statement about their research interest to Suzann Beardsley (suzann@medschool.pitt.edu).

Please send newsworthy items as they happen to: szalkuskict@upmc.edu.
Thank you.
RESIDENT PUBLICATIONS


**Pradhan D**, Amin RM, Jones MW, Surti U, Parwani AV. Giant-Cell Arteritis of the Female Genital Tract with Occult Temporal Arteritis and Marginal Zone Lymphoma Harboring Unusual 20q Deletion – A Case Report and Literature Review. International Journal of Surgical Pathology. 2015 Sep. PMID: 26353853


PRESENTATIONS

**Platform:**


**Posters:**


Li Z, Ranade A, Zhao C. Pathologic findings of follow-up surgical excision for radial scar on breast core biopsy. Human Pathol accepted May 2015


Liang H, Griffith CC, Ma L, Ling B, Feng D, Li Z, Zhao C. The sensitivity of Pap cytology and HPV testing to detect cervical cancer: prior testing results in 178 patients with invasive cervical cancer at a large general hospital in China. JASC online May 2015


Woodard A, Austin MR, Li Z, Beere J, Zhao C (corresponding). Prevalence of HPV16/18 genotypes and histopathologic follow-up outcomes in women with negative cytology and positive high risk HPV test results. JASC 2015;4:261-2661.


Book Chapter

Happy Thanksgiving!
Thursday, November 26, 2015
Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D.
- Dendritic mitochondrial homeostasis: A-kinase story, July 1, 2015, Gordon Conference on Parkinson’s Disease, New London, NH.
- Parkinson’s disease genes in dendrite maintenance, August 11, 2015, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Mitophagy in Parkinson’s disease: Brakes & Accelerators, August 24, 2015, 25th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry, Cairns, Australia
- SOS: Mitochondrial Distress in Parkinson’s Disease, October 1, 2015, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania.

Nahed Ismail, M.D., Ph.D.
Plenary Presentation: Type I interferon: Master regulator of inflammasome activation in ehrlichiosis. 27th annual meeting of the American Society for Rickettsiology (ASR), June 2015


Jennifer Picarsic, M.D.

Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D.
- Next generation sequencing of the T-cell receptor of differentiation of T-cell mediated rejection from BKV induced inflammation in the kidney. US and Canadian Academy of Pathology Meeting, Boston, MA.
- A Whirlwind Tour of Kidney Transplant Pathology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, April 17, 2015.

Sarangarajan Ranganathan, M.D.
Chengquan Zhao, M.D.

- Frozen of ovarian epithelial tumor: diagnostic challenge and pitfall. National Advanced Pathology Meeting by Beijing 301 Hospital, September 10-13, 2015, Beijing, China

- A Practical Approach to Intraoperative Consultation in Breast Lesions. National Advanced Pathology Meeting by Beijing 301 Hospital, September 10-13, 2015, Beijing, China


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**FOR ACCESS TO WEB PAGE FOR ECU LOG-ON**

*ECU data for the academic year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 for collection now. Please be sure your info is entered via our Department’s web page link.*

For faculty with a UPMC network ID, please use this link. Accessing this link off of the UPMC network will bring up a login prompt: [https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUAdmin/auth/index.cfm](https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUAdmin/auth/index.cfm)

For faculty without a UPMC ID, please use this link: [https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUTrack/index.cfm](https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUTrack/index.cfm)

These links are also available on the Department of Pathology webpage under links at: [http://path.upmc.edu/links.htm](http://path.upmc.edu/links.htm).

From the home page select which ECU activity is to be logged, and whether the activity is for medical or graduate students. Then fill in all fields on the form with an option for a free-text note at the end. Confirmation will be given and the activity will be entered into the database for submission at the end of the academic term.

*Erroneous and duplicate entries may now be deleted by faculty. From the View Entries page, select entries to remove via the checkbox, then click the **Delete Selected Entries** button at the bottom. Those entries will not appear in reports.*

For questions or feedback, please contact Thomas Harper at ISD ([harperth@upmc.edu](mailto:harperth@upmc.edu)).

Thank you.
Wednesday, November 4, 2015 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
1105AB Scaife Hall

"Small Blue Round Cell Tumors Applying the Advances Of Molecular Diagnosis in Routine Practice"

Cristina Antonescu, M.D.
Director, Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

ANNUAL TOTTEN LECTURE
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"Evolving Classifications of Soft Tissue Tumors"

Christopher Fletcher, M.D.
Vice Chair, Anatomic Pathology
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Professor, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"Analyzing the Role of Wnt Signaling in Skeletal Development and Homeostasis"

Bart O. Williams, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
Center for Cancer and Cell Biology
Van Andel Research Institute
Grand Rapids, MI

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"Transcriptional Control of Bladder Tumor Progression"

David J. DeGraff, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pathology
Division of Experimental Pathology
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

ANNUAL MARTINEZ MEMORIAL LECTURE
Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"The Clinicopathologic Spectrum of Neurodegenerative Tauopathies"

Dennis W. Dickson, M.D.
Robert E. Jacoby Professor of Alzheimer's Research
Mayo Clinic
Jacksonville, FL

ANNUAL MENTEN LECTURE
Wednesday, January 6, 2016—12:00—1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"Liver Regeneration"

George K Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Menten Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology
University of Pittsburgh

Wednesday, January 13, 2016—12:00-1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"The Role of Focal Adhesion Kinase in Hepatocarcinogenesis"

Wei Qiu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Loyola University
Chicago, IL

Wednesday, January 20, 2016—12:00—1:00 p.m.
1104 Scaife Hall

"How Hepatocytes Polarize and What Happens When They Don't"

Irwin Arias, M.D.
Professor of Physiology Emeritus
Senior Scientist Emeritus, NIH
Bethesda, MD
CME Credit Update

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education for the Health Sciences CME transcripts can be obtained via the Internet at ccehs.upmc.edu. Click on link “Credit Transcripts” enter the required information (last name, last five digits of social security number). 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. Credits from other institutions can be entered using the option “add/modify” credit information. For questions about the Continuing Medical Education Credits, please contact 412.647.8232.

Educational Credit Unit Update

Just a reminder that the Educational Credit Units (ECUs) are being collected from every faculty member who has been involved with teaching activities of the medical or graduate school programs from **July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**. We have initiated a web-page (see directions for access to page on Page 17) to collect teaching as it happens. Please be sure to update your teaching data. The School of Medicine will be asking for the information in July. If you have any questions please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu.

Publication Notification Process Update

This is a reminder the Dean has requested a Notification of Publication form for each manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The notification ensures compliance with human and animal research policies, technology transfer/patent guidelines and the requirements for citation of grant support. It also allows for newsworthy publications to be passed onto the University media. Please submit preprint information via the website at: [https://pnf.hs.pitt.edu](https://pnf.hs.pitt.edu). If you have any questions, please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu.

Veteran's Day National Remembrance Day Roll Call

**November 11, 2015—1:00pm**

The University of Pittsburgh Office of Veterans Services (OVS) celebrates those who have served and are serving, and remember with gratitude those who gave all, both within Pitt's student body and throughout the region.

All Pennsylvania service members who have died while serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be honored. Visit the [Heinz Chapel Website](https://pitt.edu) to learn more.