
The ***PATHOLOGY*** *Newsletter*



10-1

FALL ISSUE

A message from the Chairman

Dear Faculty, Technical Personnel and Administrative Colleagues:

The upcoming academic year 03 finds the Department in excellent standing. All aspects of the Department's mission, including service, research and teaching are being delivered at high quality. The Department now supports clinical service in more than 18 hospitals of the UPMC network and its affiliates. Faculty serving in all of these institutions are responsible for providing accurate and precise diagnoses in hospital laboratories, anatomic pathology sites and molecular pathology labs. Wonderful working relations in the clinical groups ensure accurate communication of diagnostic information to them so that they can provide the best care to the patients in the hospitals affiliated with our department.

The research enterprise of the department is also growing in dollars and active projects. More than 25 new grant applications were initiated and sent out by our Department faculty to different agencies before the last grant deadline. Existing funded areas of research include areas of tissue biology and molecular mechanisms of disease, in several research sites and institutions. NIH ranked our Department as number 9 in total NIHI-allocated research dollars. We were also ranked as number 6 in the country in terms of dollars allocated via the RO1 grant pathway.

Our Department is increasingly enhancing its profile in teaching of both medical and graduate students. For the first time we have a course with the name Pathology put into the Medical School curriculum, to cover general pathology. This course, taught and developed by Dr. Naus, was considered as the best example of modern teaching methodology. It combines classroom and computer-based techniques. The number of courses for graduate students has increased and the numbers of hours in the Foundations course taught by our faculty have also gone up. A record number of 19 students have registered in the CMP program this year. Dr. Bowser recently submitted the first collaborative training grant between our Department and the McGowan Institute.

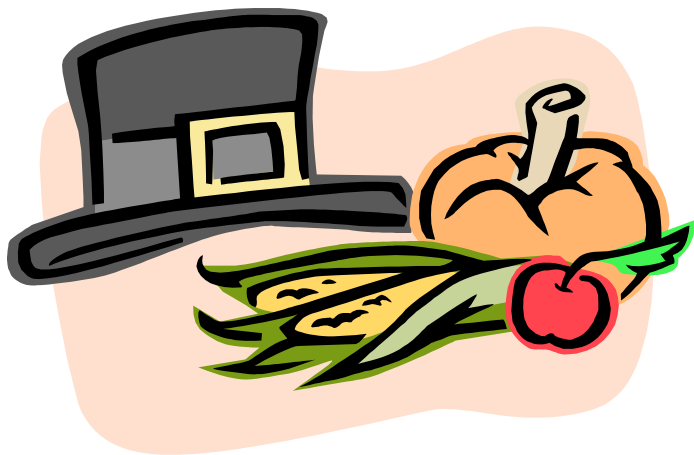
The academic excellence and clinical performance by the Department is backed by financial strengths. The financial health of the Department is excellent. The Department is a positive contributor to all of its obligations within the UPMC system, UPP and the School of Medicine. The committed and dedicated work by all of the faculty and the associated administrative and technical personnel are responsible for the success of the department in all its endeavors.



I am sending this message as a greeting and as an invitation to continue to work together to meet the challenges of our changing environment. The years that we have spent together have given me trust in the department's strengths. I sincerely believe that the progress we have made so far will continue in the years to come.

Best regards,

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



Research Administration Update

Shari Bottoms is our new Purchasing Coordinator. Shari comes to us after 2 ½ productive years in the Pathology Billing Office. Please say 'hello' to Shari next time you visit us in S-417 BST.

Lori Martin joins **Vida George** as second Grants Administrator preparing your funding proposals. Lori did pre- and post- award grant administration at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) for 3 years prior to starting work with us this summer. Vida George and Lori Martin are working full-time on your grant submissions and have processed 65 proposals over the past three months. Keep them coming!

Linda Kraly has been promoted to Research Accountant, replacing LaTonya Thompson who left us last May to pursue her Master's degree in Information Science. Linda's experience in Purchasing, Accounting, and Billing will serve her well in her new position. Congratulations, Linda!

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Department of Pathology will observe the Thanksgiving holiday and will be **closed Thursday November 28. UPP staff members will be available between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 29.**

Monday, December 2, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. Pathology faculty meeting in room 1103 UPMC Conference Center.

The University Winter Recess, as designated by the University academic calendar, will start **December 24-January 1, 2003.** The Administrative Office with UPP will be open December 24, 26, 27, 28, and 31st-from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Glassware and Photograph labs will be closed.

Annual Holiday gathering will be held Saturday, December 7, 2002 from 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. at the Phipps Conservatory.

Monday, January 20, 2003 Martin Luther King Observance, University of Pittsburgh, UPMC, UPP closed.

A Note from Payroll Administration

Due to the Holiday in December, please note the payroll deadline date for this month as follows:

November 12th, noon

For December payroll, all paperwork is due in my office by the above date. Anyone starting after this date will not be processed to receive a paycheck until January 31, 2003.

or December paychecks, all hourly employees and work study timesheets are **due in S-417 BST no later than November 20, 2001**

Students will project hours, and if necessary, adjustments will be made in the following pay period.

November pay stubs will be available for pickup after 1:00 p.m. in S-417 BST on **November 30**.

December pay stubs will be available for pickup after 1:00 p.m. in S-417 BST on **December 13**.

Faculty and Staff checks and direct deposit statements will be **DATED for December 31st**. UPP faculty checks and direct deposit statements will be available on December 31st.

SUPERVISORS OF WORK STUDY/STUDENT

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

Supervisors are responsible for turning in the hours by the payroll deadline date. The consequences of missing the deadline result in no paycheck for the student until the following month. This is difficult for students, especially during the holiday break, so please be sure to meet the payroll deadline. I am sure your students will appreciate it very much.

VISA ISSUES

Robin Zajdel will handle all visa issues for the Department. Her telephone number is 648-9466 and email is: zajdelr@msx.upmc.edu. Please contact her directly if you have any questions or need to have your current visa extended.

A few reasons to visit the Payroll Office:

To get your pay stub – Even though you may have direct deposit, your stub provides proof of income and provides a list of your deductions. **The stub is available on the last working day each month in Room S-417 BSTWR between the hours of 1-4:30 p.m.**

Change in name or address – If you change your name due to marriage or divorce, you must change it with Social Security first. Bring your updated card to the Payroll Office. Forms are available if you should change your address.

Foreign Faculty/Staff/Students - You should come by my office if:

- 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 IAP-66

Resignation - 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.

Tracking of Vacation/PH/Sick Time - For staff, turning in your time sheet each month is mandatory for accurate vacation and sick time records.

To Change your W-4 - This will make tax time go more smoothly, and is often necessary if your status changes (e.g. marriage, divorce, children). You may also need to change your deductions or have additional funds withheld.

Direct Deposit - Direct deposit is a convenience, however, difficulties arise caused by the following:

- You have closed your account without canceling your direct deposit with the University. If this happens, the bank may refuse the deposit and it could take 1-2 weeks before the University can issue your check.
- You have terminated your employment without cancellation of your direct deposit

Please keep in mind that the payroll deadlines are very early in the month and the sooner you tell me about new hires and changes, the better.

I can be reached at 648-1038 if you have any questions/concerns. **Please call my office first to schedule an appointment before “stopping by.” This will ensure that I’ll be available to discuss your issues/concerns.**

**Carolyn Nolte
Payroll Coordinator**

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE TRAINING

Web based **Compliance and OSHA** training is available for UPP physicians and staff. An email was sent explaining the web-based compliance on September 19 and if you have not received it, please let me know. As stated in the email, the important issues follow:

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Simply because you have been assigned web-based lessons does not mean that you must use web-based training to meet your training obligation. The Compliance Office and HR will still offer other alternatives to complete your annual compliance training and/or OSHA training.
2. Web-based compliance modules are not a substitute for **New Employee Compliance Orientation**. This course is mandated for all new employees. The web-based lessons can only be used for credit towards the 2 hours of ongoing annual compliance training.

3. All employees have been assigned 3 compliance lessons, however you need only complete 2 to meet your **annual compliance training requirement**.

4. Completion of the web-based **OSHA** lesson(s) does not count towards your annual **compliance training requirement**.

5. Completion of web-based training using CompliStar **does not** count towards any required **HIPAA training**. Please see your department administrator to discuss how you can most efficiently use the available training resources to complete all of your training obligations.

6. If your position requires that you have an annual TB test you will need to arrange for that separately if you complete your OSHA training online.

A “live” Compliance Session for the Department of Pathology has been scheduled on **November 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in room S100A BST**. An email regarding preregistration will be sent.
Chris Szalkuski

Email List

Please find attached to this issue of our newsletter a complete listing of all email addresses for faculty that have been submitted to us to date. If you have a change in the attached listing, please email Chris at szalkuskict@msx.upmc.edu.

Bulletin Boards

Please contact Chris (648-1040) directly if you wish to hang a poster presentation on one of the bulletin boards in the hallway of the 4th floor of the BST.

United Way Campaign

Once again this year's coordinators are Dr. Strom for faculty and Chris Szalkuski for staff. You will receive your pledge sheet in October. It is hoped that our Department will actively participate in this year's campaign. Appreciation for the work the United Way does can be shown through our participation in this University sanctioned and supported initiative. Chris Szalkuski (648-1040) or Dr. Steve Strom (624-7715).

Database Update Reminder

In order to keep our database up- dated, please remember to submit changes i.e. change in home address, campus address, phone etc. as soon as possible to Ada Akosa, Akosaa@msx.upmc.edu or to Carolyn Nolte, notlecr@msx.upmc.edu.

Thank you.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

New residents: Last year's recruitment season was very successful and yielded ten excellent residents who began in July: **Suzanne Bakdash MD MPH, Lei Chen MD PhD, Kudakwashe (Casey) Chikwava MB ChB, Melina Flanagan MD MPH, Sarah Navina MBBS, Sourav Ray MD, Franklin Sedarat MD MS, Kenichi (Ken) Tamama MD PhD, Ming Yin MD PhD, and Jing Yu MD PhD.** They were selected from a mix of over 400 American and International applicants. Plans at entry have one pursuing straight laboratory medicine with the rest considering anatomic pathology + lab medicine or anatomic pathology + neuropathology. The Residency Program currently has 30 residents; we are accredited to train 33. We also have a Pitt MS-II student, **Mary Fudge**, who is doing the post-sophomore year fellowship program with us in 2002-2003.

Curriculum Changes: This year's entering class is the first to be governed by new four-year training guidelines from the American Board of Pathology. The 5th (or credentialing) year is no longer required.

Residents pursuing anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine training in our program began this year to do one year core experiences in each of these areas in two 6-month blocks, so training in each area is obtained in both the 1st and 2nd years. The change was adopted partially in response to feedback from program applicants, permits continuing anatomic pathology exposure, and allows those who wish to begin by sampling both disciplines to change to straight AP or straight LM tracks if desired in a manner that optimizes training time.

The Centers of Excellence (COE) concept adopted this year for anatomic pathology clinical services in the Department has been incorporated into core AP

Residency Training through implementation of 3-week focused rotations in various COEs. Residents return as seniors for additional training in COEs and specialized areas of interest. Core rotations through COEs permit an orientation to several areas which previously waited for 3rd year experiences (e.g. cytopathology, dermatopathology, neuropathology); early exposure facilitates resident selection of areas of potential interest to concentrate on early in the 3rd year to prepare for fellowship application.

The Program is in the midst of re-engineering evaluation systems and forms to incorporate the core competencies mandated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). There are new conferences and a journal club in anatomic pathology, and molecular anatomic pathology and microarray exposure has been incorporated into the core molecular diagnostics rotation.

Recruitment Season for 2003: Likely interview dates for applicants this recruitment season are 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 (maybe), 1/3 (maybe), 1/10, and 1/17. These are all Fridays, and we will have a reception with refreshments on each day from 4:30 – 5:30 PM in 1104 UPMC Conference Center. Please stop by to chat with applicants and indicate your interest and availability to interview to Jo or Bea Ann in the Program Office (412-648-9699 or kirleyj@msx.upmc.edu or kudlaba@msx.upmc.edu).

Recognition: **J. Thomas Molina**, a 4th year AP+CP resident was selected by the CAP Scholars Foundation as one of two Young Leader Award recipients in a national competition. As a result Tom will attend CAP meetings the next two years where he will receive leadership training and meet current leaders within CAP. **Su Zheng**, a 4th year AP+CP resident, was honored at the Departmental retreat in July by winning a 3rd place research award in the Resident/Clinical Fellow category. Dr. Kant gave a plenary talk at this summer's Pathology Chairs-Residency Program Directors Meeting on recruitment issues in pathology relating to international medical graduates. Dr. Kant is currently Secretary-Treasurer on the Pathology

Program Directors Council. The Residency Program Committee has been reconstituted to more fully represent training sites and disciplines. Members for 2002-2003 include: **Sheldon Bastacky, Fiona Craig, Ron Hamilton, Jim Harrison, Mirka Jones, Drazen Jukic, Ileana Lopez-Plaza, Mona Melhem, Maria Parizhskaya, Christine Schoedel, Jorge Sepulveda, Karen Weck.**

Jeffrey Kant, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Residency Program

GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Please welcome the new graduate students that have entered our training program. The students and their mentors are:

Student	Mentor
Sourabh Kharait	Alan Wells
Jing Lei	Timothy Billiar
Roderick Tan	Timothy Oury
Kelly Watson	Dorothea Becker
Clayton Yates	Alan Wells

Please also congratulate our recent graduates:

Peter Peditakis, Ph.D.
Lei Zheng, M.S.
Jeff Chou, Ph.D.

In addition, the incoming class of interdisciplinary graduate students have arrived and are looking for research rotation projects. Please inform me of any rotation student that you have in your laboratory, as we try to keep track of all students that have performed research in Pathology laboratories.

This summer, Pathology faculty were also the host and mentor for 18 undergraduate students within our Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). I wish to thank **Wendy Mars** for her assistance as co-Director of this program, and all the faculty and students that participated in the program. The presentations at the end of the summer were superb. Lets hope that many of these students return for graduate or medical school.

Training Grant Application Submitted

Dr. Robert Bowser is the Co-Program Director for a newly submitted NIH Training Grant submitted by Dr. Alan Russell of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine September 10th, 2002. Nine other Department of Pathology faculty agreed to donate their expertise to this project if it is funded, they are: **Cristian Achim, Harry Blair, Wendy Mars, George Michalopoulos, Satdarshan (Pal) Monga, Stephen Strom, Alan Wells, Chuanyue Wu.**

The title of this proposed training grant for pre-doctoral students is "Cellular Approaches to Tissue Engineering and Regeneration." If funded, the program will begin 7/1/03. The goal of the project is to provide students in Pathology and Bioengineering with a solid foundation upon which to build a productive independent career in tissue based therapy for human disease and injury. This goal will be accomplished via a highly coordinated and mentored interdisciplinary training program with a combination of required and elective courses, research activities, and specialized training opportunities. The proposed Training Program incorporates faculty from the Bioengineering department, the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and the Department of Pathology to provide a unique educational and research experience at the leading edge of science with respect to cellular/tissue regeneration and engineering. This combination of training faculty research interests and coursework provides a rich educational experience and more numerous training opportunities for the students that could be obtained within individual university departments.

Robert Bowser, Ph.D.
Graduate Program Director

Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic Opens at Shadyside Hospital

The new Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) Clinic, which will be located on the first floor of the Hillman Cancer Center. The service began on Monday, September 9, 2002.

The FNA service will be directed by **Dr. Helen Shin** and the clinic will be open Monday through Friday, 9AM to 3PM for the aspirations of any palpable masses. Dr. Shin has 10 years of experience in the FNA performance and interpretation. **Dr. Steve Raab**, who has just joined the Department at Shadyside Hospital, also has an extensive experience in this field. **Dr. Dilip Gupta** also has a few years of experience, will join the service.

Should any questions arise, please contact Dr Shin at 412-623-1326; pager: 412-263-7943.

Helen Shin, MD
Director of Cytopathology and Fine Needle Aspiration Services
UPMC Shadyside Hospital



SEMINAR SERIES

(In room 1104 UPMC Conference center
Wednesdays at 12 noon unless otherwise stated)

October 2, 2002

“Focal Adhesion Kinase: Regulation of Cell Motility in Normal and Cancer Cells”

J. Thomas Parsons, M.D.
University of Virginia Health System
Charlottesville, VA

October 9, 2002

“VEGF Enhances Physiologic Vasculogenesis During Neonatal Growth in Mice”

Pampee P. Young, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University
St. Louis, MO

October 16, 2002

“Making Gene Therapy Works: Uses of SV40-Derived Gene Delivery Vectors”

David S. Strayer, M.D., Ph.D.
Jefferson Medical College
Philadelphia, PA

October 23, 2002

“Building Liver Tissue in Culture: Lessons from In Vitro Embryology Models”

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Pathology
University of Pittsburgh

October 25, 2002

Aron E. Szulman Annual Lecture at Magee Womens Hospital in Conference Center Auditorium Zero Level at 8:00 a.m.

“Evolution of Imprinted Tumor Susceptibility Genes”

Randy L. Jirtle, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Radiation and Molecular Oncology Research
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

October 25, 2002

2002 Mortimer and Harold Cohen Lecture at Magee Womens Hospital in Conference Center Auditorium, Zero Level at 9:00 a.m.

“Current Concepts in the Pathology of Uterine Sarcomas and Implications for Patient Management”

Charles Zaloudek, M.D.
University of California
San Francisco, CA

October 30, 2002

“Interplay Between DNA Repair Factors and P53 in Genomic Stability, Tumorigenesis and Development,”

David Ferguson, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Womens Hospital
Boston, MA

November 13, 2002

ANNUAL TOTTEN LECTURE Scaife Hall
Lecture Room 5 at 4:00 p.m.
“Tissue Microarray of Digital Pathology”
David L. Rimm, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology
Department of Pathology
Yale University

November 20, 2002

“Genomic and Proteomic Profiling of Lung
Adenocarcinomas”
David G. Beer, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

December 4, 2002

Title: TBA
Dmitzy I. Gabrilovich, M.D., Ph.D.
University of S. Florida
Tampa, FL

December 11, 2002

“Liver Injury in Alpha-1-Antitrypsin Deficiency:
An Aggregated Mutant Protein in the ER”
David Perlmutter, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Pediatrics
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

GRANTS UPDATE

Rebecca Crowley, MD, MS

Competitive Medical Research Fund (Office of
Research, Health Sciences)
\$25,000, July 1, 2002-June 30,2003 and

Innovations in Education Awards (Office of the
Provost, University of Pittsburgh)
\$15,000, April 1, 2002-May, 31,2003

Jeanne Jordan, Ph.D. received funding from the NIH
for “Genetic Basis of Severe Malarial Anemia,” as a
subcontract to do B19 PCR and serology testing.
April, 2004 to March, 2005.

Mengfeng Li, Ph.D. and Jennifer R. Grandis, M.D.
received funding from the Pittsburgh Foundation in
the amount of \$148,330 effective July 1, 2002.

Mengfeng Li, Ph.D. received \$50,000 from
Pfizer Foundation effective July 1. 2002.

Wendy Mars, Ph.D., received funding from the
NIMH for “Function and Structure Adaptations in
Forebrain Development,” consortium agreement with
Pat Levitt at Vanderbilt.

Darrell J. Triulzi, M.D., received funding from the
NHLBI for \$1,492,000 effective September 2002 to
September, 2007.

Attached to this newsletter is current grant support for
our Department.

The deadline date for the next
Pathology Quarterly is February 14,
2003. Please email newsworthy items
to szalkuskict@msx.upmc.edu.
Thanks!

New Faculty Members:

Yuan Chang, M.D. joined UPCI in July as a
Professor of Pathology. Dr. Chang is a molecular
virologist and along with her husband Dr. Patrick
Moore, has been recruited to UPMC.

Sanja Dacic, M.D., Ph.D. joined the Department at
PUH in July as an Assistant Professor. Her area of
expertise is in anatomic and clinical pathology. She
has just finished her residency at UPMC.

Dana Gryzbicki, M.D., Ph.D. joined the
Department from Allegheny General September 1
as a Research Assistant Professor. She will be a
Health Research Investigator and Lead Pathologist
Investigator for the Oncology Outcomes Center of
Excellence at Shadyside.

Malathy Kapali, M.D., will join the Department in October at Magee Womens Hospital as an Assistant Professor. Her area of expertise is in cytology and pediatric pathology. She has just finished a cytology fellowship with Dr. Ohori.

Donald Kelley, M.D. joined the Division of Transfusion Medicine. He is a former Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine fellow and served on the faculty of Ohio State University for the last five years.

Bong Kim, M.D. joined the Department at PUH in August as Assistant Professor. She just finished a fellowship in Hematopathology at UPMC. Her area of expertise is in Dermatopathology.

Shih-Fan Kuan, M.D., Ph.D. will join the Department and serve PUH, Shadyside and Magee as an Assistant Professor October 1. Dr. Kuan's area of expertise is in general anatomic pathology, cytopathology with a special focus on gastrointestinal disease.

Alyssa Krasinskas, M.D. joined the Department at PUH in August as an Assistant Professor. She has just finished a fellowship in Surgical Pathology and Gastrointestinal/Liver Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her area of expertise is gastrointestinal pathology.

David Krisky, M.D., Ph.D., joined the Department in June as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Krisky has just finished a residency in Pathology at UPMC. He has also completed his Ph.D. under the direction of Dr. Glorioso. He will continue his research on herpes simplex in MGB and also do general pathology services.

James Lyons-Weiler, Ph.D. joined the Department in September and will do research in bioinformatics at the Benedum Oncology Informatics Center. Dr. Lyons-Weiler comes to us from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Elizabeth Powell, Ph.D. joined the Department in July as a Research Assistant Professor of Pathology in the Division of Cellular and Molecular

Pathology. She will continue her work that was in progress on Dr. Pat Levitt's lab on the role of hepatocyte growth factor in brain development.

Steven Raab, M.D., joined the Department at Shadyside in September from Allegheny General as Director of Cytology Services at Shadyside and Professor of Pathology, as well as Director of Center of Excellence and Oncology Outcomes. Dr. Raab has just been awarded an RO1 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), entitled "Improving Patient Safety by Examining Pathology Errors." He is the Principal Investigator for this study. It is a 5-year, multi-institutional study, with Univ. of Pitt as the coordinating site and the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA as consortium sites.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Cristian Achim, M.D., Ph.D.

was recently appointed to the SOM admission committee.

Dr. Achim was invited to give a platform presentation at the International Meeting of the Society for Neurovirology, Dusseldorf, Germany, June 2002. Other meetings attended where results from the work in the lab were presented, include: Days of Molecular Medicine, San Diego, CA, April 2002; Parkinson Symposium, London, UK, July 2002; European Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Paris, France, July 2002; NYAS Parkinson Meeting, Princeton, NJ, Oct. 2002

Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D.

SM Kulich, P Sonalker, A Sartori, MN Patel, CT Chu* (2002) Role of reactive oxygen species in neurotoxic patterns of ERK phosphorylation (June 1-5). This poster won First Prize at the *The Third International Conference on Oxygen/Nitrogen Radicals: Cell Injury and Disease* in Morgantown, WV.

CT Chu*, SM Kulich, TD Oury & JH Zhu (2002) Altered subcellular localization of ERK/MAP kinase signaling proteins in Lewy body diseases. (Platform presentation, *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists*, Denver, CO, June 19-23).

SM Kulich*, P Sonalker & CT Chu (2002) Characterization of catalase sensitive 6-hydroxydopamine-mediated sustained extracellular signal-regulated kinase activation in B65 cells. (Poster, *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists*, Denver, CO, June 19-23).

CT Chu*, J Callio, SM Kulich, P Sonalker, MN Patel & TD Oury (2002) Compartmentalization of superoxide injury in the 6-hydroxydopamine model (poster). *15th Annual AFAR Grantee Conference and AFAR 21st Birthday Gala*, New York, NY.

David Dabbs, M.D.

has accepted a position on the ASCP Surgical Pathology (Resource) Council.

Mirka Jones, M.D.

Presented XXIV International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology, October 5-11, 2002 Amsterdam, The Netherlands "Comparative study of primary and recurrent ovarian carcinomas: CGH analysis with a potential application for prognosis."

Jeanne Jordan, Ph.D.

Recent Published Abstracts:

Wegner CC, Patrick T, Durso MB, and JA Jordan. Human parvovirus B19 binds trophoblast cells via globoside receptor. Parvovirus workshop, Bologna, Italy, August 28-31, 2002.

Recent Invited Talks:

American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah. "Utilizing open platforms for developing in-house real time PCR assays." May, 2002.

Nichols Institute, San Juan Capistrano, CA. "Diagnosing congenital parvovirus B19 infection." October 1, 2002.

Wendy Mars, Ph.D.

presented at the FASEB Summer Conference on Mechanisms of Liver Growth, Snowmass, CO, July 29, 2002 on "TWEAK directly induces death of primary cultured rat hepatocytes."

Paul Monga, M.D.

Presented at the American Gastroenterology Association, 2002 (AGA, 2002)-AGA Distinguished Abstract Plenary Session: Gastrointestinal Oncology Advances in GI Cancer Research, May 19-22, 2002 San Francisco, CA on "Identification and regulation of a novel Met- β -catenin association in primary hepatocyte cultures." Presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of American Association of Cancer Research (AACR): Minisymposium, April 6-10, 2002 San Francisco, CA, on "HGF induce Wnt-independent nuclear translocation of β -catenin following Met- β -catenin dissociation in normal rat hepatocytes."

Presented at the Experimental Biology 2002, FASEB and American Society of Investigative Pathology (ASIP): Minisymposium, April 20-24, 2002, New Orleans, Louisiana On " β -Catenin antisense studies in embryonic liver cultures – role in proliferation, apoptosis and lineage specification."

The fall semester of 2002, Dr. Monga initiated a two credit course on "Stem Cells" for the graduate school. It is being offered by the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Program at the University of Pittsburgh. The course has been a tremendous success with 14 graduate students enrolled in this semester. Several distinguished members of the faculty are giving lectures on specific topics including a lecture on the bioethical and medico-legal issues on the use of stem cells. For schedule of lectures and other information on this course please contact Ada Akosa (x89950).

Dr. Monga, Member, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) in the section of Gastrointestinal Oncology.

Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D.

Presented "Quantitation of BK virus DNA in renal allograft biopsies with viral nephritis, acute cellular rejection, and chronic allograft nephropathy."
American Transplant Congress, Washington DC, April 29, 2002.

Charles Rinaldo, Jr., Ph.D.

presented at the "Dendritic cells at the host-pathogen interface" NIAID conference at the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, VA, on May 7, 2002, entitled "Activation of anti-HIV-1 CD4+ and CD8+ T cells by dendritic cells loaded with HIV-1 infected apoptotic cells"; was invited to be an Associate Editor of the Journal of Immunology.

Antonia Sepulveda, M.D., Ph.D.

Invited speaker, The 10th Meeting of the GEFH (French Helicobacter Study Group), Paris, February 2002. Title: Mutation Accumulation During Gastric Carcinogenesis Associated with *H. pylori* Infection-Role of Helicobacter Pylori in Gastric Cancer.

Invited Speaker, Japanese Helicobacter Society Annual Meeting, Utsunomya, Japan, June 2002. Title: Helicobacter pylori -Induced Genetic and Epigenetic Events in the Development of Gastric Cancer.

Invited Speaker, Symposium on Helicobacter and Gastric Cancer, sponsored by the European Helicobacter Study Group, Athens, Greece, September 2002. Title: Mutations in gastric cancer.

Veterans Health Administration, Merit review Subcommittee for Gastroenterology (2002-2005)

Michael R. Shurin, Ph.D.

presented at the Tumor Microenvironment in Baden Austria June 25-29, 2002 entitled "Molecular Mechanisms of the Regulation of Dendropoiesis in Cancer."

Kirsten St. George, M.A.S

presented at the 18th Annual Clinical Virology Symposium at Clearwater Beach, Florida in May, 2002 entitled "Chemiluminescence's increases the sensitivity of ELVIRA assays"; was invited to join

the editorial board of Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology

Steven Swerdlow, M.D.

presented at the Hematopathology Lectures for the USCAP Diagnostic Pathology Course on July 16, 2002 in Bar Harbor Maine and spoke on "Hematopathology."

Alan Wells, M.D., DMS

assumed the presidency of ACLPS (Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists; www.aclps.org) at the 31st annual meeting in New York this past June; he had been elected President-Elect at the previous meeting in Seattle. ACLPS is the main society representing academic laboratory medicine comprising some 500 members in the US and Canada; all members must have a medical school affiliation. The main objectives of ACLPS are: 1) To encourage and advance the highest standards of education in laboratory medicine in medical school and related curricula; 2) To encourage and promote the highest standards of resident training and post-graduate education of physicians and scientists in clinical pathology at universities and medical schools; and 3) To encourage and promote the highest standards of service, education and research in academic laboratory medicine.

The two focal points during my years of presidency and past-presidency will be to retain the certification in Laboratory Medicine (Clinical Pathology) as a possible single track, and to move towards Part B billing authority for qualified PhD laboratorians within their specific area of certification. In addition, the Section of Laboratory Medicine will be preparing to host the 34th annual meeting of ACLPS in 2005 here in Pittsburgh.

Chuanyue (Cary) Wu

Presented at Basement Membranes Gordon Research Conference, at Plymouth, NH June 9-24, 2002 "Integrin-linked kinase and associated proteins" (invited speaker).



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GRADUATE STUDENT AND FELLOW HIGHLIGHTS

Mihaela Avramut, PhD student, has presented her work at two international meetings during the summer:

M. Avramut, C.L. Achim. Immunophilins as markers of disease in HIV encephalitis. *Journal of Neurovirology* (2002) 8, Suppl. 1, 4th International Symposium on Neurovirology, 10th Conference on Neuroscience of HIV infection, Duesseldorf, June 19- 23, 2002.

Avramut, M., Hammond, R.R. & Achim, C.L.
Altered expression of the immunophilin FKBP12 in the brain of patients with neurodegenerative diseases. 3rd Forum of European Neuroscience, July 13- 17, 2002, Paris, France

Barbara M. Fenner, PhD student, has presented her work at the Gordon Conference: Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology, Hong Kong, China, 2002: The differential distribution of the full-length and truncated trkB receptors in Parkinson's Disease. Fenner, B.M., Hammond, R.R., and Achim, C.L.

Barbara has also given a lecture for the Molecular Mechanisms of Tissue Growth and Differentiation Course MSCMP2730: Neurotrophins in the CNS.

Douglas A. Green, MSTP student, has mentored during the summer two undergraduate students; Christina Acosta (MD/PhD summer undergraduate program) and Corina Petre (CNUP summer undergraduate program). Doug has presented the results of his work at several meetings:

Days of Mol Med., San Diego CA "Role of the brain insulin receptor in the development of obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus"

Pathology Retreat, Seven Springs PA. Poster: "The effects of ECM on neuronal differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells"

MD/PhD retreat, Oglebay WV. Poster: "Substrate induced neuronal differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells"

NYAS meeting: The Dopaminergic Neuron, Princeton, NJ, Oct 18-20, 2002. Poster presentation

Rafael Medina-Flores, MD, has joined this summer Dr. Achim's lab as a postdoctoral fellow who will study the role played by integrins in chronic brain degeneration. Dr. Medina Flores is a graduate of the La Salle Medical School followed by a pathology residency at Emory and clinical neuropathology fellowship at Pitt. Rafael has recently passed the AP/CP Boards; congratulations !

Recent publications and data presentations include:
Case report accepted for publication :Medina-Flores R, Germanwala A, Molina JT, Meltzer C, Wiley CA Brain Pathology Case of the Month: A 59-year-old woman with sudden onset of diplopia. Brain Pathology.

Abstract presented at the 91st Annual USCAP Meeting in Chicago IL, February 23 - March 1, 2002 (Genetic Alterations in Granular Cell Astrocytomas. A Castellano-Sanchez, HH Ohgaki, Yokoo, SD Finkelstein, R Medina-Flores, RL Hamilton, BW Scheithauer, PC Burger, DJ Brat.)

Abstract presented at the 84th Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society in San Francisco June 19-22, 2002 (Bhatt BA, Medina-Flores R, Ozoude K, Pless M, Kassam A, Korytkowski M. Progesterone receptor positive meningioma)

Abstract presented at the Annual AANP meeting Denver Colorado, June 20-23 2002 (Esplen JE, Medina-Flores R, Achim CL, Burguera B, Couce ME. Ghrelin has a trophic effect on developing human neurons in vitro.)

Case presented at the 43 Annual Diagnostic Slide Session, Annual AANP meeting, Denver Colorado June 20-23 2002



"There is enough in the world for everyone to have plenty to live on happily and to be at peace with his neighbors." Harry Truman, 1884-1972