Dear Colleagues:

I am happy to announce the creation of a new division within Anatomic Pathology, that of Molecular Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Yuri Nikiforov, recently arrived in our department is the director of the Molecular Anatomic Pathology (MAP) lab. The division will be composed of members with primary affiliation (Sanja Dacic, Marina Nikiforova) and members who are affiliated primarily with other divisions but have a secondary affiliation with MAP due to their research or service interests. The latter includes Drs. Bhargawa, Ranganathan, Dhir, Monzon, Rao, Luo, Hamilton, Wu, and Ohori.

All of the faculty included expressed interest in their participation to the new division. MAP is expected to oversee existing and new molecular diagnostic tests based on tissue sections and their histology. It will work in close collaboration with the division of Molecular Diagnostics (MDx), to share techniques, know-how and planning for the near future.

Members with secondary affiliation in the MAP division will act as liaisons for histology-based molecular testing between MAP and the divisions in which they have primary affiliation.

It has been a very long time since we created a new division in our Department and it gives me a great pleasure welcome Dr. Nikiforov in his new role.

Sincerely,

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Pathology
Galina Schurin, Ph.D. has received the Patricia Wexler Research Grant Award from the Skin Cancer Foundation. Will be awarded during a special ceremony at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in Washington, DC in February, 2007.

Annette Duensing, Ph.D. received $5,000 from the The Liddy Shriver Sarcoma Initiative, Team Sarcoma 2006 Bike Tour (Team GIST).

Cary Wu, Ph.D. was appointed as Associate Editor, Cell Adhesion and Migration (Landers Biosciences, Austin, TX, USA).

The Division of Hematopathology is excited that Raymond E. Felgar, M.D., Ph.D. has recently joined us as Associate Professor of Pathology and Associate Director of our Fellowship Program. He comes from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry where he was the Director of Hematopathology and the Director of their Clinical Flow Cytometry and Bone Marrow Laboratory. Dr. Felgar received his M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and subsequently trained at the University of Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is the author of more than 30 publications and 5 book chapters. Please make him feel welcome in our department.

Christopher R. Shepard (graduate student, Alan Wells' lab) addressed the General Session at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium with over 8,000 attendees from over 60 countries. SABCS features the latest development in breast cancer research and prevention with presentations by researchers, clinicians, and physicians. Christopher won the American Society of Investigative Pathology's 2007 Merit Award for the same work.

**“You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.”**

Irish Proverb

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**NIH RANKING**

Department of Pathology ranked 4 in NIH total grants awarded in 2005.
PRESENTATIONS

Cary Wu, Ph.D., invited speaker, American Society of Nephrology 2006 Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

Youhua Liu, Ph.D Invited Speaker for the following:
- Department of Medicine, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY. March 6, 2006.
- The 13th Workshop on Vitamin D. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. April 7-12, 2006.
- ICOS Corporation, Bothell, WA. April 19, 2006.

Sarangarajan Ranganathan, M.D.
- Children’s Oncology Group Young Investigator: Spent 10 days at Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston working with Dr. M. Finegold on Hepatoblastomas, October 2006.
- Invited Faculty: XII International CME in Surgical Pathology, Cytology and Hematopathology, Pune, India, January 18-20th, 2007. Slide seminar on Unusual Pediatric Tumors.
- Invited Lecture: Pediatric Renal Disease – Medical and Surgical – A slide seminar. Seth G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, India. January 22nd 2007

Wendy Mars, Ph.D. is an invited speaker for The Kimmel Scholar’s Symposium in Boca Raton on March 9. The topic will be: "The HGF/u-PA System as a Regulator of Immune Function."


Spardy N, Liu Y, Duensing A, Duensing S. Fanconi Anemia (FA) and HPVs: The FA signaling pathway is critical to prevent HPV-16 E7-induced chromosomal instability. 23rd International Papillomavirus Conference, Prague, September 1-7, 2006. Oral Presentation.
PRESENTATIONS


A. Duensing, “Histone H2AX and the therapeutic response to imatinib in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs)”, Veterinary Biosciences Seminar Series, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 09/25/2006, Invited Lecturer.

Dr. Csaba Galambos was invited to give a presentation on "Early Pulmonary Vessel Development" at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia as part of the the Young Turks of Pathology seminar series. January 24, 2007.

MAGEE WOMENS HOSPITAL NEWS

Abstracts to be presented by the Department of Pathology Magee Faculty at the United States and Canadian Meeting in San Diego, CA March 24-26, 2007:

Immunohistochemical profile of steroid cell tumors of the ovary. A useful tool in differential diagnosis with other neoplasms with clear cell or eosinophilic features. Clinicopathologic and immunohistochemical study of 11 cases. Mirka W. Jones, M.D.(corresponding author) G. Carter, D.J. Dabbs, R. Hari.


Significance of atypical columnar cell change in core needle biopsies of breast. S. Bandyopadhyay, M.D., (corresponding author), S. Bandyopadhyay, M. Chivukula, D.J. Dabbs.


WT1 is a useful immunohistochemical marker for the diagnosis of ovarian pure sertoli cell tumor and facilitates distinction from other non-sex cord-stromal tumors in the differential diagnosis. Chengquan Zhao, M.D., (corresponding author). C.Zhao, GL Bratthauer, R. Barner, R Vang.
Fine-needle aspiration cytology of the thyroid follicular lesion: Correlation with histologic findings. Chengquan Zhao, M.D., (corresponding author), J. Pan, C. Zhao, C. Cobb, T.S. Greave.

Clinical significance of atypical glandular cells in conventional smears: A histologic follow-up study from a large county hospital. Chengquan Zhao, M.D., (corresponding author), C.Zhao, J. Pan, N. Barr, S.E. Martin, A. Raza, C. Cobb.


Topoisomerase II-Alpha and HER2 gene co-amplification as a predictor of response to therapy and survival in HER2 positive metastatic breast carcinoma, Rohit Bhargava, M.D., (corresponding author). A. Kapoor, A. Brufsky, S. Chow, M. Rosenzweig, U. Surti, R. Bhargava.


Cytohistologic Correlation of ASC-H Diagnosis and HPV in Adolescents and Young Adults. E Elishaev, A Kanbour-Shakir, A Kanbour.

University of Pittsburgh
Spring Break

University is closed Friday, March 9, 2007 in observation of Spring Break.
**Compliance Training Update**

The deadline for completion of this year's (FY 07) mandatory PSD (UPP and CMI) compliance education program for all billing providers (physicians/faculty and physician extenders) is **April 30, 2007**.

**Options for Compliance**

1. There is only one compliance workshop left. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. (originates from Scaife Hall Auditorium 6 and is broadcast to a number of remote sites.

2. Complete two hours of PSK Compliance Office—specified (and department—specified for those departments where mandatory elective completion is required) self-learning modules on the Internet-accessible UPMC Physician Portal—Medtrak. For non-physician practitioners using the Portal, only 1.5 hours of education is needed as the requirement to complete the Teaching Physician module has been discontinued. The provider must use his/her UPMC computer network account and password to access the Portal. Completion of all specified self-learning modules on the Portal negates the need to attend a compliance lecture.

For further questions, please contact Judy Nestico at 412.648-9466.

**Conflict of Interest**

It is that time of year again for faculty and research related staff to file the annual Conflict of Interest (COI) form. To access the COI disclosure form, login to the Superform Web site at https://coi.hs.pitt.edu. The site may be used to satisfy the COI disclosure requirements for the University, UPMC and UPP.

**Returning website visitors**

Upon login to the Superform Web site, you will be presented with the data from your most recent submission. You may submit the same data if still current or you may edit the form.

**First time website visitors**

Those who are using the forms for the first time should register when entering the website by providing an email address and a password. The password is self-selected and therefore can be synchronized with passwords associated with other online resources.

No hard copy COI forms are required, however, when you are done with your submission, you must print the **summary disclosure form** and send/fax it to Dr. Michalopoulos for review and signature.

**For Part II disclosures**

For those reporting a conflict, complete Part II of the Faculty/Researcher form by clicking “File my Disclosure” (a 3 step process). A Step-by-Step Guide is available on the COI Office Web site www.rcco.pitt.edu/coi (click on forms) and on the Superform Web site home page https://coi.hs.pitt.edu. If you have reported a conflict, the Internet-based Studies in Education and Research (ISER) Conflict of Interest training module must be completed and is accessible at: http://cme.hs.pitt.edu.

**Due date**

Please have hard copy summary disclosure forms to Dr. Michalopoulos’ office no later than **Monday, April 9**.

**For help**

Please feel free to contact me with questions about the process. Call the iTarget Team at 412.648.2222 for technical assistance (e.g. forgotten user names/email addresses, passwords, etc.) or click “Help” on the home page of the Superform Web site. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in completing this University requirement. Chris Szalkuski (648-1040)
CMP held its first meeting of the year on February 19, 2007. I am happy to report that it was well attended and that there was a lot of lively discussion regarding both the MD/PhD and PhD curricula for CMP students. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the biostatistics requirement for MD/PhD students is no longer necessary as they now receive similar training during their first two years of medical school. Further study is required regarding how best to handle redundancy issues that have been noted by MD/PhD students enrolled in the Tissue Growth and Differentiation course, since some of the same material is covered in the first two years of medical school. Finally, the faculty decided that PhD students will be required to have some kind of formal training in grant writing before they graduate. Options will include the formal course that is offered by Immunology during the summer, one of the Saturday workshops the University offers throughout the year, or a workshop offered through another venue such as a national meeting.

Other news of note:

- We welcome Richard Chaillot, Paula Clemens, Michael Zigmond, Susan Reynolds, and H. Henry Dong to the CMP faculty! Currently there are 51 faculty members affiliated with CMP as well as 28 students.
- ECU credits for CMP courses will now be centralized through the School of Medicine, which should make tracking your teaching in CMP courses much easier. Faculty evaluations for CMP courses will also be kept with the CMP administrator so that it is easy to obtain this information when you need it for issues such as promotion packages.
- The graduate council is considering a proposed increase in the student stipend in order to be competitive with other institutes. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting. Also, the council is considering a policy that will require department chairs to sign a form or letter acknowledging they are aware that a first year student has decided to join their department as a means of improving communication.
- John Horn and Wishwa Kapoor have formed a general committee to study curriculum issues related to clinical and translational science training for graduate students. This is under the umbrella of the Clinical Translation in Science Institute that was formed resultant to the Clinical Translation in Science Award recently awarded to Steven Reis.
- The Pathology retreat will be held this year on June 1, 2007.

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 our program.

Thanks so much!

Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.
Director, Pathology SURP
and CMP Graduate Program
The Pathology SURP program is currently in the process of making offers to qualified undergraduates. To date, we have received almost 120 applicants from a total pool of 220, that listed CMP as one of their top three choices! For those of you who are not familiar with the Pathology SURP program, it is part of a small consortium within the School of Medicine Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program. The other SURP participants are Cell Biology and Molecular Physiology, Immunology, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Molecular Virology and Microbiology, and Pharmacology. Students are matched with graduate faculty mentors who agree to assist them with a specific research project. Whereas some activities are done as a whole (~33 students will be asked to participate this year), others, such as the Pathology retreat, are specific targeted for the Pathology SURP students.

**The specifics of the program are as follows:**

The cost to the individual investigator is $3,500 with housing and a portion of travel costs generously provided by Dr. Levine in the SOM. Limited scholarship monies to offset your costs may be available. If you are interested in mentoring a student, please contact me at 412-648-9690 or wmars@pitt.edu to learn more.

The SURP program will run from May 29-August 3.

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.
“Expression and Proteomic Analysis of Glioma Cell Response to Novel Chemotherapeutics”

Oliver Bogler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery
Brain Tumor Center and Department of Neurosurgery
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX
Wednesday, April 4, 2007—noon
1104 UPMC Conference Center

“Mechanisms of Dementia in the Elderly”

Thomas J. Montine, M.D., Ph.D.
Alvord Endowed Chair in Neuropathology
Director, Division of Neuropathology
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Wednesday, April 18, 2007—noon
1105 BC Conference Center

Title: TBA

Mark A. Kay, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Dennis Farrey Family Professor
Departments of Pediatrics and Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Wednesday, May 2, 2007—noon
1104 UPMC Conference Center

“Prostaglandin Signaling in Growth, Inflammation and Cancer”

Raymond N. DuBois, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and Genetics
Department of Medicine, Cell-Developmental Biology and Cancer Biology
The Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Wednesday, May 9, 2007—noon
1104 UPMC Conference Center

PUBLICATIONS

Xu, J., A.K. Chakrabarti, J.A. Tan, L. Ge, A. Gambotto, and N.L. Vujanovic


PUBLICATIONS


Kudakwashe Chikwava, Jennifer Hunt, Geeta Mantha, Justin Murphy and Ronald Jaffe) publication titled "A Molecular Analysis of Localized, Multifocal and Multisystem Forms of Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis" was published in *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology.*

GRANT OFFICE UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that Cassie Russell, currently an Administrator I, has been promoted to an Administrator II position in the Pre-Award grants area. Cassie was hired on September 1, 2006 as a Grant’s Assistant and has steadily worked to incorporate additional grant duties and responsibilities into her position. She is and continues to be a welcome addition to the grants area.

MINI GRANT WORKSHOP

A Mini Grant Workshop will be held for all faculty on March 7 at 4 PM in room S120 BST. The Pre-Award Grant staff will present items related to grant compliance and some basic elements of submissions including key components of the process and grants.gov. All are welcome - please make every effort to attend.

The Department of Pathology now has a Grant & Submissions link on the Pathology home page. Over the course of the next few months we will provide important information links and general information pertaining to the grant process. Currently, you will find the NIH grant submission cycle at this site. We have posted information on submission dates, date deadlines for notifying the Pre-Award area and dates when grants are due at the University’s Office of Research. If you have any content suggestions for this new website, please let me know. My email address is benedettim@upmc.edu.

Mary Lou Benedetti
Assistant Administrator
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. To help guide you through the process, the following is a brief summary of the types of visas available and guidelines concerning the application process. If you have specific questions concerning visas, the application process or policies for the department, please contact Nicole Paterline at 412-648-1230.

Two different types of visas available for the positions in the department are J-1 and H-1B:

- Staff
- Postdoctoral Associate (PDA) [Post Doc Guidelines](http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/postdocguidelines.pdf)
- Postdoctoral Scholar (PDS)
- Research Associates [Research Associate Guidelines](http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/raguidelines.pdf)
- Visiting Scholars

### J-1 Academic Training Visa

Academic Training is work, training or experience related to a J-1 student's field of study. Academic Training may involve sequential or simultaneous activities, either paid or unpaid, with several employers, US or foreign, provided the application and approval procedures are followed for each employer and activity, and the time limits are not exceeded.

### H-1B Temporary Employment Visa

The H-1B category is an expedient and lawful method to bring foreign-born professionals temporarily to the United States, and therefore one of the most widely sought after visa classifications for employment in the United States. To obtain an H-1B visa, there must be a job offer and an employer who is willing to sponsor a person by filing a petition with the Immigration & Naturalization Service. INS will review the petition and send an approval notice if it is satisfied that all conditions for an H-1B worker are met.

The minimum appointment for all visa types and positions is 6 months

The sponsor must show available funding for entire term of appointment period

Must meet minimum salary requirement for University of Pittsburgh PDA and PDS salary range ($23,700 - $45,000)

Submission Deadlines for visas:
- J-1: 4 months prior to desired appointment date
- H-1B: 6 months prior to desired appointment date

All PDA and PDS appointments must be pre-approved by the School of Medicine Office of Academic Career Development. (This approval must be obtained prior to the issuance of an offer letter)

Offer Letter Guidelines:
- PDA/PDS guidelines have been implemented by the School of Medicine and the guidelines require a contractual offer letter issued to each PDA/PDS candidate.
- The offer letter must contain the following signatures: Sponsor, Department Chair, Candidate

Timelines and guidelines for visas (also listed below) available on Department’s webpage at: [http://path.upmc.edu/](http://path.upmc.edu/) and click on “Intranet*” Visa Guidelines


New H-1B Visa Timeline

H-1B Visa Timeline - Extension

New J-1 Visa Timeline

J-1 Visa Timeline - Extension
Yes, we are expecting— only one we hope!

Happy Chinese New Year
The year of the Boar

Good luck to Kari & Bill

Baby due March 4…. 