Dear Colleagues:

For the academic and fiscal year 2007, the Department is again ending on a very good note. Despite a curtailed financial horizon from funding agencies, the department has stayed the course and the research programs have remained intact. We have expanded faculty related to service and academics in many key areas. Our clinical services are performing exceedingly well and combined efforts by many of our faculty helped avert any crises that might have arisen. Our teaching (medical and graduate) has grown with new opportunities. I would like to thank you all, faculty, technical and (very important!) administrative personnel, for your commitment to excellence and diligence to the duty, which has kept the department successful in all its endeavors.

Sincerely,

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

**HOLIDAY REMINDERS**

**The University of Pittsburgh and UPMC is closed on the following days:**  
**Wednesday, July 4 in celebration of Independence Day and Monday, September 3 in recognition of Labor Day.**
Over 100 persons attended a special Saturday June 2, 2007 one day event in honor of the career and accomplishments of Magee pathologist Dr. Anisa Kanbour. This event highlighted Dr. Kanbour’s longstanding record as champion for four decades of cytotechnologist education and as founder and benefactor of the University of Pittsburgh School of Cytology Foundation and as Medical Director of the School of Cytology. In honor of Dr. Kanbour’s support of the school, including her remarkable donations to the foundation of over $130,000, the school was appropriately renamed as the Anisa I. Kanbour University of Pittsburgh School of Cytology.

One of the earliest accredited schools in the U.S., the Anisa Kanbour School of Cytology has provided cytotechnologists and screening services for the western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio tri-state region for almost 50 years. Many local observers believe that this school, like so many others, would not still exist if not for the longstanding personal advocacy and support of Dr. Kanbour.

Over 50 former graduates of the school attended the event along with area clinician and pathologist colleagues of Dr. Kanbour. The event was approved for 5.5 hours of continuing education credit for both cytotechnologists and physicians. The registration fee was nominal, due to generous support from the Department of Pathology UPMC. We were honored by having distinguished visiting faculty including Dr. Blair Holladay PhD, SCT (ASCP), Vice President and Executive Director of the Board of Registry, American Society of Clinical Pathology, and Dr. Marluce Bibbo, Professor of Pathology, Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine.

R. Marshall Austin, MD, PhD
Professor of Pathology
Director of Cytopathology

How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!

Maya Angelou, African American poet
Yuan Chang, M.D.
- was an invited speaker at the ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2007, in the ASIP Presidential Symposium: Viruses and Human Cancer. Her lecture title was "Kaposi's Sarcoma, Herpesvirus and p53". The meeting was held from April 27-May 2, 2007.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
- Chaired session at ASIP meeting on Hepatobiliary Pathobiology II: “Liver Injury and Regeneration,” May 1, 2007
- Invited speaker at Laboratory of Experimental Carcinogenesis, NIH, Bethesda, MD, “Pathways Leading to Initiation and Termination of Liver Regeneration,” May 18, 2007.

Paul Monga, M.D.
- invited to give a talk in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh on Wnt/beta-catenin Signaling in Liver, in January 2007.
- invited speaker at the McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine's annual retreat, ectured on “Novel insights into liver development and growth” in March, 2007.
- Chaired the Liver Symposia entitled Pathobiology of ASH and NASH¹ and co-chaired the Stem Cell Symposia entitled “Stem cells for Therapeutics” at the American Society of Investigative Pathology's annual meeting, at the Experimental Biology 2007.
- invited speaker at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, May 15, 2007.
- Chaired the AASLD Research Forum entitled Gene Expression and Cell Signaling, Digestive Diseases Week¹, Washington DC on May 21, 2007.

Adriana Zeevi, Ph.D.
- invited to give presentations on “HLA-Clinical Application” and “Measurement of Anti-Graft Reactivity and Immune Competence” at the 4TH Congress of the IPTA Cancun, Mexico, March 17-21, 2007
- invited to give a talk on “T Cell Activation” at the 2nd Annual Invitrogen Transplant Advisory Board, Los Vegas, Nevada, March 22-24, 2007.
Yuan Chang, M.D. was appointed a member of the AANP Constitution Committee in April 2007.

Simion Chiosea is awarded the Pathologist-in-Training Travel Award by the Pulmonary Pathology Society. Will study pulmonary pathology with Thomas V. Colby, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Arizona.


Ruben Dagda, PhD., Postdoctoral Scholar in the Chu Laboratory. Recipient of a 2007 FASEB/MARC ASIP Minority Trainee Travel Award to present his poster entitled, “ERK2 translocates to mitochondria during neurodegeneration and is associated with mitochondrial autophagy” at the FASEB/ASIP/AANP meeting in Washington, D.C.

Annette Duensing, M.D., hosted a visit from the GIST Cancer Research Fund (GCRF; www.gistinfo.org) and received a check for $25,000 for research on gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) on May 14, 2007.

Paul Monga, M.D., is the new Program Chair Elect for the American Society of Investigative Pathology.

Faculty Promotions

Many faculty members have enjoyed the pleasure of a promotion over the last year. They include:

Andrew Amoscato, Ph.D. as Associate Professor of Pathology
Gloria Carter, M.D., as Associate Professor of Pathology.
Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D. Conferral of tenure as Associate Professor of Pathology.
Youhua Liu, Ph.D. as Professor of Pathology
Wendy Mars, Ph.D. as Associate Professor of Pathology.
Paul Monga, M.D. as Associate Professor of Pathology.
Paul Ohori, M.D. as Professor of Pathology.
Parmjeet Randhawa, M.D. Conferral of tenure as Professor of Pathology.
Karen Schoedel, M.D. as Associate Professor of Pathology
Michael Shurin, M.D., Ph. D. Conferral of tenure as Associate Professor of Pathology.
Steven Strom, Ph.D. as Professor of Pathology
Darrell Triulzi, M.D., as Professor of Pathology

Congratulations!
Amy Davis, M.D., Instructor, Division of Pathology at Children’s Hospital. Amy has finished her 5th year of residency at our Institution and will begin August 14.

Jon M. Davison, M.D., Assistant Professor, Anatomic Pathology, Presbyterian University Hospital. He will finish a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology at Johns Hopkins and join the Department July 1.

Christine Garcia, M.D., Assistant Professor, Presbyterian University Hospital. She has completed a Hematopathology Fellowship at the University of New Mexico and will join the Department July 15.

Walid E. Khalbuss, M.D., Ph.D., F.I.A.C, Associate Professor, Shadyside Hospital. He will join the Department July 1 coming from the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine of the King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences School of Medicine, King Fahed Hospital-National Guard Health Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. His area of expertise is cytopathology.

Dionysios Papachristou, M.D., Ph.D. Visiting Instructor, Department of Pathology. Will join the Division of Cellular and Molecular Pathology September 1 coming from Rion-Patrax Greece. He will do research in the area of molecular anatomic pathology and soft tissue tumors.

William A. Parks, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology Magee Womens Hospital. Joined the Department June 1 coming from the University of Washington in Seattle WA. His area of expertise is perinatal pathology.

Eizaburo Sasatomi, M.D., Visiting Instructor, Division of Transplant Pathology effective July 1. Dr. Sasatomi has just finished a fellowship in Transplant Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Anjana Vijayvargiya, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, St. Margaret’s Hospital. A staff pathologist at Yale New Haven Hospital with expertise in cytopathology will join the Department July 1.

Several members of the Pathology faculty have left the Department and accepted new challenges as their career choice. We wish everyone good luck. Those who are leaving or have left include:

- Cristian Achim, M.D., Ph.D.
- Ronald Balassanian, M.D.
- Jean Dunn, M.D.
- Rafael Medina-Flores, M.D.
- Toshio Miki, M.D., Ph.D.
- Frederico Monzon, M.D.
- Sonam Prakash, M.D.
- Antonia Sepulveda, M.D., Ph.D.
CMP NEWS:

We are in the process of winding down from the 18th Annual Pathology Research Day and Retreat. This year a record number of abstracts were submitted: 36 from graduate students, 28 basic research trainees, 11 clinical research trainees and 8 from faculty. The retreat took place on Friday June 1, from 3:00 until 9:00 PM with approximately 150 people in attendance. Faculty and trainee talks took place from 3:00 until 6:00 PM in room S100A of the South BST. The poster session was held from 6:15 until 9:00 PM at the Concordia Club and included appetizers with a light dinner. A special thanks to the retreat committee and especially Shari Tipton who worked tirelessly to get this organized!

Other news of note:

- The incoming class for our parent Interdisciplinary Program (IBGP) interviewed 118 students from an applicant pool of 528 submissions. Seventy-seven of these students were offered positions and 25 will be matriculating over the summer and looking for laboratories to do rotations in the upcoming year. Our parent Medical School Training Program (MSTP) had 316 applicants, interviewed 54, and made offers to 34 students. Ten applicants matriculated on June 1 and are already hard at work in their various labs.
- Currently we have 26 students in the CMP program, 22 from the IBGP and 4 from the MSTP. Six students have graduated since last September. While it is too early to know exactly how many students will officially join us this September, we anticipate at least 6 and as many as 11.
- After much discussion, the graduate council recommended an increase in the student stipend to $24,000.00 in order to be competitive with other institutes.
- The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) began on May 29 and will run until August 3. This year, due to size limitations imposed by the School of Medicine, our program was limited to 9 students, including 3 who are generously funded in conjunction with UPCI. Please plan to come and hear the student SURP presentations on the mornings of August 2 and 3. More information regarding where and when will follow.

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

Thanks so much!

Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.
Director, Pathology SURP and
CMP graduate program
At the 18th Annual Pathology Research Day Retreat held on June 1, the judges picked individual winners for each category. Below are the award winners for each trainee category.

1st place winners will receive $500, 2nd place $300, and 3rd place $100.

**Clinical:**
- 1st Place: Jill Hagenkord
- 2nd Place: Henry Armah
- 3rd Place: Marie Dvorakova

**Basic:**
- 1st Place: Hong-Min Ni
- 2nd Place: Lihua Ming
- 3rd Place: Kebin Hu

**Graduate Students:**
- 1st Place: Christopher Shepard
- 2nd Place: Jason D’Antonio
- 3rd Place: Tie between Christi Kolarcik and Mike Thompson

Congratulations to everyone and thanks for excellent oral and poster presentations.

Wendy Mars, Ph.D.

“To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of years, to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to the sea, is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be.”

Rachel Carson (1907-1964)
Residency Committee:
The residency committee has been organized into four sub-committees:

Program Committee
- Reviewing AP/CP program requirements of core program to determine if more time can be allocated to electives in the senior years.
- Defining more structure to electives.

Evaluations Committee
- Reviewing electronic evaluation process to simplify and provide guidelines to promote more objective evaluation, including for electives.
- Considering standardization of several competencies while providing for customization by rotation for medical knowledge and patient care competencies.
- Conference evaluation system to be implemented.

Curriculum Committee
- Plans to recommend standard procedure for orientation, expectations (including reading requirements), competency testing tool at end of rotation and exit interview as part of each rotation.
- Developing core didactic curriculum in AP and CP to provide a two year curriculum.

Recruitment Committee
- Plans to review current recruitment process.

The Residency Committee meets bi-monthly and the Sub-Committees usually the alternate month with each sub-committee providing reports on their work at each residency committee meeting.

Fellowship Committee:
Meets three times per year. The fellowship application process has been revised such that only the executive group reviews the application. Provided there is no ‘do not take’ response from any executive group member the Fellowship Director coordinates the interview process and makes the final determination of who to make an offer. The Program Director is now interviewing all fellows.

The Program Office and the Fellowship Coordinators meet three times per year to provide feedback to the fellowship Committee on the support operations of the fellowship program. The group has reached consensus on respective roles of the fellowship program and the program office.

Each Anatomical Pathology Fellow will be scheduled to give a presentation at the Tuesday noon AP Conference – a program organized by Dr Yousem. The purpose is to do an in-depth presentation of the quality that would be given for a faculty recruitment visit. An evaluation form has been developed to give the fellows feedback on their presentations.

Medical School Curriculum:
The newly formed Pathology Medical School Education Committee (PMSEC) has meet twice. It has set priorities to develop Mini-Electives, Integrated Electives with clinical programs and a Pathology Integrated Life Sciences elective.

Mini-Electives:
Mini-Electives are four 2 hour sessions once per week for 4 weeks and are options provided to MS-1 and MS-2 students. Dr Sharma is currently developing the first pathology mini-elective in Occupational Lung Disease as a collaborative course with clinical and regulatory components including field trips.
Electives:
Each student is required to take eight electives in their MS-4 year. Currently pathology has eight electives – Anatomical pathology, Hematopathology, Laboratory Medicine, Surgical and Perinatal Pathology, Clinical Immunology and Immunopathology, Independent Study in Pathology, Neuropathology and Tumor Immunology. The Clinical Immunology and Immunopathology Elective is the one that attracts the most students (22 for the next academic year) followed by Anatomical pathology with 7 and Neuropathology with 5.

Integrated Life Science Elective:
Each MS-4 student is required to take a 4 week course from among a number of courses offered. Currently pathology does not have a specific course and plans are underway to develop one.

Some Courses in which Pathology Faculty Participate:
Integrated Life Sciences Course – MS-4
Pathology faculty serve as small group facilitators for 9 – 10 students for 6 to 7 sessions in February/March of each year.

Pathobiology Course
A one week course for MS-2 students run by Larry Nichols and Charlene Chu.

Organ System Block.
Pathology faculty participate as Co-Directors in coordinating the pathology lecture and laboratory aspects of each organ system.

Scholarly Project
Some faculty serve as the sponsor of the scholarly project required of each medical student.

Faculty Interested in Medical School Teaching Opportunities:
Any faculty interested in exploring and teaching opportunities noted above should contact Dr. Macpherson via email or at 412-802-6013.

Advertising Pathology Elective and Mini-Elective Opportunities for Medical Students:
Once several of the above initiatives have been completed materials will be prepared to advertise what pathology has to offer as electives or mini-electives for our medical students.

Pathology Medical Student Interest Group (PMSIG):
This group of about 15 students meets bi-monthly. Its current focus is to have a faculty member share their career path with the group as a way to have medical students understand the wide diversity of career opportunities in pathology. The President of the group is a member of the Pathology Medical School Education Committee.

Department of Pathology Graduation Ceremony 2007:
This year’s Graduation Ceremony was held at the Renaissance Hotel in a spacious and window-lined room overlooking PNC Park. Ten residents, twenty two fellows and one post-sophomore fellow graduated. A handbook was prepared with a bio-sketch, color photograph and statement by each graduate as a substitute for speeches from the podium. Dr Macpherson presented each resident graduate and the post-sophomore graduate and each Fellowship Director presented their graduating fellow(s). This new format of reduced speeches provided for a shortened ceremony and more time to mix and dance to the disco-music of Gary Snyder. A great time was had by all. Special thanks to the Chief Residents for organizing the event, to Beth Clark for taking the lead on the location and program, to Nicole Esposito for producing the wonderful handbook, and to Trish and Valerie for organizing the logistics of graduation gifts and certificates and providing their support for all involved in organizing a very successful and memorable graduation ceremony.

Electronic Pay Roll and Duty Hours System:
Effective July 2007 each trainee will be required to log their work hours on the new GME system. The program is being coordinated by the Program Office. Each resident and fellowship rotation has provided a template of expected work hours. Each trainee will be required to enter their work hours each week. The Program Office will monitor activity and the Fellowship Directors will have access to the data entered by their fellow(s). The system will replace the current manual card
We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Residents and new (and continuing) Fellows for 2007-08.

**New Residents**

Nidhi Aggarwal, MD (AP/CP)
MD: All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Christopher Gilbert, MD (AP/CP)
MD: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Timothy Gorrill, MD, PhD (AP/CP)
MD: Temple University School of Medicine
PhD: Temple University School of Medicine

Ramachandra Gullapalli, MD, PhD (AP/CP)
MD: Armed Forces Medical College, India
PhD: The Pennsylvania State University

Pal Kaposi-Novak, MD, PhD (AP/CP)
MD: Semmelweis University, Hungary
PhD: Semmelweis University, Hungary

Hannah Kastenbaum, MD (AP/CP)
MD: Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University

Jennifer Miller Picarsic, MD (AP/CP)
MD: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Jay Raval, MD (AP/CP)
MD: University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Diane Sanders, MD (AP/CP)
MD: Saint George’s University, Grenada
Fellows

Duncan MacIvor, MD; Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
Jeffery Richmond, MD; Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
Sara Monaco, MD; Cytopathology
Jing Yu, MD, PhD; Cytopathology
Scott Dufresne, MD; Hematopathology
Marie Beckner, MD; Molecular Genetic Pathology
Jill Hagenkord, MD; Molecular Genetic Pathology
Craig Horbinski, MD, PhD; Neuropathology
Harry Kellermier, MD; Neuropathology
Gabrielle Yeaney, MD; Neuropathology
S. Joseph Sirintrapun, MD; Pathology Informatics
Amitry Mistry, MD; Selective Pathology - Bone Soft Tissue Pathology
Ahmed Bedeir, MD; Selective Pathology - Gastrointestinal/GI Path
Chad Rund, DO; Selective Pathology - Gastrointestinal/GI Path
Alexandr Perepetchikov, MD, PhD; Selective Pathology - Genitourinary/GU Path
Akosua Domfeh, MD; Selective Pathology - GYN and Breast Pathology
Nicole Esposito, MD; Selective Pathology - GYN and Breast Pathology
Denise Haynik, DO; Selective Pathology - GYN and Breast Pathology
Simion Chiosea, MD; Selective Pathology - Head and Neck
Sigrid Wayne, MD; Selective Pathology - Head and Neck
David Cimbaluk, MD; Selective Pathology - Surgical Pathology
Salina Lucero, MD; Selective Pathology - Surgical Pathology
Manuel Zarandona, MD; Selective Pathology - Surgical Pathology
Rosane Achcar, MD; Selective Pathology - Thoracic Pathology (beginning 10/1/07)
Victoria Alagiozian-Angelova, MD; Selective Pathology - Transplant Pathology

For the new residents, Orientation will begin June 25th and run thru July 6th. The Fellows Orientation will begin on July 2nd with additional items scheduled throughout the week.

Finally, we’d like to introduce our new Chiefs for 2007-2008:

Marie Dvorakova, MD (CP Chief)
Jim Edinger, MD (CP Chief)
Alicia Liang, MD (CP Chief)
Debbie Marks-Jones, MD (AP Chief)
Siobhan O’Connor, MD (AP Chief)
Andrew Walls, MD (AP Chief)
For 2007 the Pittsburgh MSTP received 315 applications. We interviewed 54 of these stellar applicants and offered acceptance to 36. The male to female ratio of accepted applicants was 22 to 14. Their average MCAT was 11.8 with an average overall GPA of 3.8. We ran our placement (aka second look) weekend at the end of March and worked with 15 applicants to identify labs for their first lab rotation, a mere 8 weeks away. All of our efforts paid off with the June 1st matriculation of 11 stellar students (9 new students and one 2nd year medical student and one deferral). Despite our success, next year as always we will revise the process. Rather than having a single placement weekend, we will invite back (at our expense) individual accepted applicants on a rolling basis, focusing on pairing them with specific faculty members. If Pathology faculty are paired with accepted applicants, please assist us in recruiting these superb students to Pittsburgh.

After the phenomenal success of last year’s Molecular Medicine course, Dr. Geoff Murdoch again agreed to direct this introduction to biomedical research in Pittsburgh. This course meets for two hours every Tuesday and Thursday evening. The first two weeks are committed to instructing the students in the on line resources available for research in molecular medicine. In collaboration with HSLS the students learn about the abundant online sources available for researching genomic and protein sequences. In each subsequent week a different graduate program introduces an important biomedical problem from the unique perspective of their field. This year Dr. Tim Oury kicks off the graduate program presentations with an overview of Pathology as an optimal career choice for medical scientists. The new students have abundant opportunity to work closely with a broad spectrum of mentors, while each graduate program has the opportunity to showcase its best research and superb faculty. If last year’s class is any indication we also expect that meeting as a class for 4 hours a week will go a long way to building esprit de corpse before the chaos of medical school begins.

Last year will also be remembered for our MSTP competitive renewal. Dr. Manjit Singh and Justin Markuss carried off this grueling 5-year exercise with such great aplomb that we actually received an increase of 2 MSTP positions from NIH! In this day of shrinking budgets this is unheard of. Even though our total graduate training funding from NIGMS remains small, this at least recognizes the quality of our program.

This year we elected to not run our summer minority undergraduate by ourselves, but instead offered assistance and the funding stream to the School of Medicine’s Office of Diversity to run a school wide program. This freed us up to focus on our newest program the Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP). The PSTP is modeled closely on the MSTP with the biggest exception being that the PSTP is a 5-year program without a required PhD. Students will participate in all of the same activities, except after their second year of medical school they will commit only one year to research before completing their MD. Because the two programs are run in parallel, PSTP students have the ability to apply to the MSTP during their research year without losing ground towards completing both degrees. This inaugural year of the program we received 53 applicants and matriculated a class of 5 external and 3 internal (second year medical school) students.

Clayton A. Wiley, M.D./Ph.D.
Associate Dean
Director of MSTP & PSTP
"We take great pride in creating a departmental environment where clinical and educational excellence flourish side by side with world-class research, often embodied in the same individuals. Recent technological advances in studying genes, proteins, and metabolites are likely to profoundly influence the future practice of diagnostic as well as investigational pathology, with additional challenges and rewards for practicing pathologists who lead their own research groups. The PIRT program bridges the critical training gap between MD-PhD programs and successful transition to independent faculty positions. It aims to provide an environment in which residents can engage with research in tissue biology, using molecular tools. The department will commit resources to free up one year so that the residents can engage in research full time and prepare for their next academic step."

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

The Pathologist Investigator Residency Training Program (PIRT) in the Department of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh is designed to train academic pathologists to become independently funded principal investigators in disease-oriented research, and to play leading roles in combined research/diagnostic careers. This program, which was initiated in October 2004 includes two phases of training.

- The first phase involves career guidance and exploration of potential projects.

- The second phase is contingent upon continuing to meet program requirements, submission of a competitive Research Training Plan and its acceptance by the Selection Committee.

Longitudinal career advice and regular meetings with the individual trainee's PIRT Advisory Committee continue through both phases until the trainee completes his or her training in the University of Pittsburgh Pathology Department.

This year, we welcomed the addition of Shari Tipton as the PIRT Program Administrator. Shari did a tremendous job of coordinating PIRT interviews with Dr. Macpherson and Trish Zrimsek, allowing us to interview and evaluate 12 excellent candidates this year from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Dr. Macpherson has been highly supportive of the PIRT program, stating: "The PIRT Program is an exciting feature of our training program, reflecting a strong statement of our commitment to clinical, translational or basic research as an important component for the education of all our residents." We look forward to working further with him on the new Task Force to Explore Research Training and Experience for Pathology Residents and Fellows.
TRAINED UPDATE:

Pal Kaposi-Novak. We would like to welcome our newest Phase I PIRT trainee. Dr. Kaposi-Nowak received MD and PhD degrees from Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary. He has been performing genome wide expression profiling for studies of liver carcinogenesis at the National Cancer Institute, and joins our residency and the PIRT program with clinical interests in liver and gastrointestinal pathology and the application of molecular profiling for cancer diagnostics. He states:

"I am very happy that I have the opportunity to join the PIRT program and meet the potential mentors on the orientation. My primary research interest is focused on the pathobiology of liver cancer formation and liver regeneration. I am confident that by joining the Pathology Investigator Training Program I will get an unparalleled opportunity..."

Edward Plowey is finishing his PIRT funded research year to study signaling pathways involved in neurite dysfunction in models of Parkinson's disease. He has made some very exciting discoveries concerning mechanisms by which Parkinsonian mutations in leucine rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) mediates neurite retraction, which will be presented this year at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, and has preliminary data implicating synaptic caspase activation in a toxin-based model. He states:

"The PIRT Program is a unique opportunity for unfettered and focused research and grantsmanship training with the critical goal to achieve independent funding and primary investigator status. Nearing the end of my PIRT year, I am poised to submit my work ...and begin writing a competitive grant application ...when I return to clinical training. I am confident that this position would have been difficult to reach in my second post-graduate training year without the PIRT program."

Julia Kofler will begin her PIRT funded research year with Dr. Clayton Wiley on July 1, 2007. Her primary research interests involve neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration, and she will be working on the role of micro-RNA regulation in Alzheimer's disease and the role of Notch in lentiviral encephalitis. She states:

"I hope that the excellent training during my clinical rotations and the research experience offered by the PIRT program will give me a solid foundation for an exciting clinical and research career, and I would like to thank Dr Michalopoulos and the PIRT selection committee for providing me with this unique opportunity."

We greatly appreciate the strong support extended by Dr. Michalopoulos, Dr. Macpherson, Shari Tipton and Trish Zrimsk for this "PI" training program. We would also like to thank the Drs. Michael Shurin and Xiao-Ming Yin for their hard work and commitment, and we welcome Dr. Tong Wu as the newest member of the Steering/Selection Committee.

Charleen T. Chu, M.D., Ph.D.
Tim D. Oury, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Directors, PIRT Program
A new departmental website has been created to aid faculty career advancement. It was developed by The Women’s Task Force, a group asked by Dr. Michalopoulos to examine the needs of women residents, fellows and faculty in the department. The task force identified through survey analysis that both male and female faculty desire creative options for enhancing professional and personal life. The new site offers links to such items as the Faculty Handbook, official promotion policies, the home page for the Office of Academic Affairs in the School of Medicine, as well as book titles focusing on negotiation, professional interactions, and quality of academic life. Please visit the website which can be accessed through the department’s home page (path.upmc.edu) by clicking on “Faculty Development” on the right side. It is a work in progress that will be updated with new information and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section. Members of the department are encouraged to e-mail suggestions for topics they would like to see linked to this site, as well as questions that can act as a nidus for the FAQ section to:

Marie DeFrances, M.D., Ph.D. (defrancesmc@upmc.edu).


Thompson, M, Monga SP. Wnt/b-catenin signaling in Liver Health and Disease. Review. Hepatology. 2007 May;45(5):1298-305.

Dr. Tong Wu’s manuscript entitled Cyclooxygenase-2 in hepatocellular carcinoma. Cancer Treatment Reviews, 2006, 32(1):28-41 was one of the 20 most downloaded articles from the journal on ScienceDirect in 2006.


**CME Credit Update**

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences credit transcripts can be obtained via the Internet at ccehs.upmc.edu. Click on the link “Credit Transcripts” enter the required information (last name, last five digits of social security number). To receive a complete transcript do not enter dates and choose “submit.” The transcript reflects the American Medical Association Category 1 credits or the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) which have been entered into the Center’s database. To print the credit transcripts, please click on the drop down menu next to the Select Option and select Print Credit Transcripts. Credits from other institutions can be entered using the option “add/modify” credit information. The Center for Continuing Education will not validate this section of the credit transcript. For questions about the Continuing Medical Education Credits, please contact 412.647.3219.

**Annual Report Update**

The School of Medicine has requested that an annual report be submitted by October 1. In the past, we have emailed faculty the information submitted the previous year. We will do the same this year by email and ask that it be updated and returned. We will start collecting individual faculty data *July 1 and end on September 1*. The data collected will include a research summary paragraph, Study Sections, Advisory Committees, honors, recognition and awards and a bibliography for the last three years (2005, 2006, 2007). Collecting information from all members in the Department is time consuming therefore we are asking you to please respond by September 1 so that we can meet the deadline of October 1. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in compiling the annual report. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu. Thank you.

**Educational Credit Units Update**

Just a reminder that the Educational Credit Units (ECUs) will be collected from every faculty member in the September. A collection sheet was distributed recently by email (May 1, 2007) to help with the process. Please refer to the Newsletter February 2006 (located on Dept. webpage) for details. The ECU spreadsheets are distributed to the Departments from the Office of Medical Education in September and will list the teaching for each faculty member. You will be asked to review and return the information by *October 1*. To get ahead of the deadline and allow time for collecting as much teaching data as possible, please record your data on the sheet provided in the email of May 1 and hold the info until fall. This will allow the Department to respond quickly and meet the *October 1* deadline. If you have any questions please contact Chris Szalkuski at szalkuskict@upmc.edu. Thank you.

**Publication Notification Form Update**

The Dean has requested a Notification of Publication form for each manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The forms ensure compliance with human and animal research policies, technology transfer/patent guidelines and the requirements for citation of grant support. Please submit two copies of the manuscript along with the notification form directly to Dr. Michalopoulos’ office and it will be forwarded to the Dean’s office. The forms can be accessed via the website at: http://www.health.pitt.edu/cbmi/notification.htm. Thank you.