Dear Faculty, Trainees, Staff and Students:

As we end this year, I want to take the opportunity to thank each of you for without devoted individuals advancing the many causes that we represent, we would not be as successful a Department of Pathology as we have been over the last 10 years. Just to mention a few examples of leadership from our Department of Pathology faculty members...recently, Dr. Pasculle gave testimony to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee regarding our preparation for the projected Asian Bird Flu pandemic. Dr. Jennifer Hunt implemented a survey regarding issues affecting female physicians. The results of the survey will give us insight on how we can meet the needs and career aspirations of women faculty. There are many other examples of leadership contained in this newsletter....Dr. Kant received a leadership award from AMP; Dr. Swerdlow was the only American invited by the International Agency for Research on Cancer to participate in the IARC Working Group on the WHO Classification of Tumors; Dr. Triulzi was elected to the AABB Board of Directors; Dr. Bowser has been appointed Director of the ALS Research in the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases (PIND) and many of you have had your research on journal covers which are on display in the hall on the 4th floor of the BST. This just mentions a few of the many accomplishments that our Department has achieved and I know there are many more.

I would also like to especially thank our support staff. We all depend on you to get us through our daily activities, to meet our deadlines and to achieve our highest ambitions. Last of all but not the least, I am proud of our students and trainees who are working on their career paths. The road might be long and not an easy one, but when you are finished with your education and/or training, you will have acquired a great deal of knowledge and hopefully you will use the knowledge to do something unique in the field that you have chosen. Having said that, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your conscientious and diligent work. Without you, the Department and University/Medical Center at large, would not have achieved the world-renown reputation that it presently has. May you and your families have a bright and fulfilling year in 2006! With best wishes for a happy holiday season.

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Pathology
“Molecular Mechanisms of Activity of Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors: Relevance to Anti-Leukemia Combinations”
Kapil N. Bhalla, M.D.
Professor and Scientific Director Department of Interdisciplinary Oncology H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Wed. January 18, 2006 1105 B/C UPMC Conf. Center, Scaife

“Major Histocompatibility Complex Gene Diversity in Humans and Macaques.”
Thomas M. Williams, M.D.
Professor, Department of Pathology University of New Mexico Albuquerque, New Mexico

“Neuro-immune Interactions in HIV-1 Associated Neurodegeneration: Pathologic Correlates and Model Systems”
Yuri Persidsky, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Departments of Pathology/ Microbiology and Pharmacology and Experimental Neurosciences, Univ. Nebraska, Omaha, NE
Wed. February 1, 2006 1104 UPMC Conf. Center, Scaife

“Histopathologic Diagnosis of Thymic Epithelial Neoplasms,”
Saul Suster, M.D.
Professor and Vice-Chair of Pathology Ohio State University Columbus, OH
Wed. February 8, 2006 1105 B/C UPMC Conf. Center, Scaife

“Plasminogen and the Control of Liver Cell Plasticity”
Jorge Bezerra, M.D.
Professor, Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Cincinnati, OH
Wed. February 22, 2006 S100A Biomedical Science Tower


Robinson LJ, Xue J, Corey SJ. Src family tyrosine kinases are activated by Flt3 and are involved in the proliferative effects of leukemia-associated Flt3 mutations. Experimental Hematology 33;2005: 469-479.


"If your efforts are sometimes greeted with indifference, don’t lose heart. The sun puts on a wonderful show at daybreak, yet most of the people in the audience go on sleeping.”

A da Teixeira

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Bowser was appointed as Director of ALS Research within the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases (PIND). He was recently honored as a “Proteomics Pioneer” by ProteoMonitor Newsweekly for his work on protein biomarkers of neurologic diseases. Dr. Bowser was also honored in November of 2005 by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of Pittsburgh’s “40 under 40” for influential young people shaping the region.


Dr Triulzi was elected to the AABB Board of Directors for a two year term. He was also appointed to the editorial board for the journal Transfusion. Lastly he was appointed chair of the NHLBI strategic planning committee on Global Blood Safety and Availability.

COMMITTEES

Frederico Monzon, M.D.
Advisor for the Subcommittee on Molecular Methods for Microarrays for the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (formerly NCCLS).

2006, Program Committee Chair, Association for Pathology Informatics.
PRESENTATIONS

Frederico Monzon, M.D.
Informatics for Molecular Pathology and the Post-Genomics era. MD Anderson Cancer Center, September 8, 2005.

Laboratory Information Systems for Molecular Diagnostics. Is there an adequate solution? Meeting of the Association for Molecular Pathology, November 2005.


USCAP Presentations

Dr. David Dabbs
Poster Session IV – Tuesday Afternoon – Poster # 16
The Spectrum of Molecular Morphologic Abnormalities of the E-Cadherin-Catenin Complex in Pleomorphic Lobular Carcinoma of the Breast
Poster Session V – Wednesday Morning – Poster # 68
Molecular Archiving of Liquid Based Gynecologic Cytology Specimens in paraffin with the Xpress Tissue Processor
Poster Session VI – Wednesday Afternoon – Poster # 198
Tissue Fixation in Surgical Pathology for Proteome Analysis and Protein/DNA Preservation

Dr. Malathy Kapali
Platform Presentation in Section F at 9:00 on Tuesday Morning
What is the utility of repeat HPV testing on ASCUS/LSIL cases followed with repeat Pap tests.
Poster Session V – Wednesday Morning – Poster # 62
Utility of P16 IHC and high risk HPV ISH in liquid bases ASC-H cases.

Dr. Mirka Jones
Poster Session III – Tuesday Morning – Poster # 129
Immunohistochemical expression of DNA mismatch repair gene products –MLH1 and MSH2, metastasis suppression gene mm-23 and beta-catenin I synchronous and metastatic endometrioid adenocarcinomas of ovary and endometrium

Dr. Mamatha Chivukula
Poster Session IV – Tuesday Afternoon – Poster # 116
Expression of D2-40 in Primary peritoneal serous carcinomas, ovarian serous carcinomas, uterine carcinomas and sex cord stromal tumors

Dr. Rouzan Karabakhtsian
Poster Session IV – Tuesday Afternoon – Poster # 8
Clinical Significance of Lobular Neoplasia on Core Biopsy

Dr. Kazuya Onuma
Platform Presentation in Section at on Monday Afternoon
Mammaglobin Expression in Benign and Neoplastic Endocervix and Endometrium

Dr. Reda Saad
Platform Presentation in Section F at 8:00 on Tuesday Morning
Clinical Significance of Cytologic Diagnosis of Atypical Squamous Cells Cannot Exclude High Grade In Perimenopausal and Postmenopausal Women

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and, above all, confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.” Marie Curie, physicist and the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.
The Women's Task Force is an ad-hoc committee that was convened by Dr. George Michalopoulos in July, 2005 to address issues that affect the academic careers of women in the Department of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh. The Task Force utilized two data sources, including departmental statistics and a tremendously successful on-line anonymous survey. We would like to thank everyone for participating in the survey—we achieved an almost unheard of 73% response rate! A wide range of survey participants represented the department extremely well. The data are extremely valuable and gave us insight into the perceptions of the members of our department.

The Women's Task Force utilized the departmental data and the data gathered from the survey to focus on several major areas.

- Leadership and Professional Skills
- Promotion and Tenure Attainment
- Departmental Resources
- Mentoring
- Career Satisfaction
- Managing Family and Career

The Task Force has generated a report that gives an in depth analysis of each of these categories for all members of the department and highlights major differences that are specific to gender. We will soon submit our report to Dr. George Michalopoulos, Chairman of the Department of Pathology, who will share a summary of the conclusions and recommendations with the Department members.

Message from the Chair of the Women's Task Force:

I would like to send a special thank you to Dr. George Michalopoulos, for the vision and leadership that initiated this Task Force and for providing us with the support and resources to fully carry out our charge.

I would also like to give a most sincere thank you to the members of the Task Force. These individuals, who dedicated considerable time to each and every aspect of the Women's Task Force mission, deserve special recognition for their efforts. I am grateful to each person on the Task Force, for believing in the mission and for taking great pride in carrying this project to completion.

Thank you to:
Laura Cassidy, M.S.
Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D.
Marie DeFrances, M.D., Ph.D.
Nicole Esposito, M.D.
Mona Melhem, M.D.
Judy Nestico
Lisa Teot, M.D.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Hunt, M.D.
Chair of the Women's Task Force

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Dr. William Pasculle, Director of the Microbiology Laboratory and Charles W. Mackett, III, MD FAAFP Associate Professor and Executive Vice, Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee of UPMC’s, New Disaster Management Center, were invited to give testimony to The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at an Informational Meeting in Harrisburg on October 31, 2005 on “Asian Bird Flu: Implications for Pennsylvania.” Drs. Pasculle and Mackett gave their expert opinion on readiness needed for the impending pandemic of the bird flu.
Hematopathology News

New faces in the Division of Hematopathology, either here or coming shortly:

Ms. Ketah Doty, a research specialist, joined our division in July 2005 and provides much needed support for the translational research activities of the Division.

Dr. Miroslav Djokic will soon be joining us from the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm. He did his hematopathology training at the University of Chicago under Dr. James Vardiman. His research interests involve minimal residual disease in acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Dr. Sonam Praskash will be joining us from the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, where she has been doing her hematopathology fellowship under Dr. Elaine Jaffe. She is interested in pathogenesis and classification of lymphomas.

Dr. Lisa Robinson received an award from the Cancer and Aging Program of the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute to support her research activities. She will be presenting her abstract on the role of Gab2 in cytokine signaling and also her abstract on myeloproliferative disorders at the December 2005 American Society for Hematology Meeting. Her work on BCAR1 in osteoclast development was presented in a plenary session at the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in September 2005.

Drs. Steven H. Swerdlow, Fiona Craig, Lydia Contis and Sara Monaghan had cases presented at the recent Society for Hematopathology Slide Workshop in Houston in October. Our first year fellow, Dr. Rachel Sargent was selected to make an oral presentation. In addition to his oral case presentation, Dr. Swerdlow also presented a light hearted history of the former slide workshops there.

Dr. Craig participated as both a co-moderator and speaker at the October 2005 Society for Hematopathology ASCP Companion Meeting held in Seattle, Washington which focused on advances related to ancillary diagnostic techniques.


Dr. Steven H. Swerdlow was the only American invited by the International Agency for Research on Cancer to participate in the IARC Working Group on the WHO Classification of Tumors Series in December, 2005. The eight member group is meeting in Lyon, France.
Once again, the Pathology arm of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is looking for graduate faculty who are willing to host college undergraduates in their laboratories for a 10-week scientific research experience this summer. This is a highly competitive outreach program, specifically designed to recruit high quality students into applying for graduate degrees through the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine programs such as the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program and the Medical School. In Pathology, we have been especially successful in meeting this goal as ~75% of our students apply to Pitt SOM programs, ~75% of those students are accepted and ~50% of those accepted matriculate!

The specifics of this year’s program are as follows:

1. Once again, the cost to the individual investigator is $3500.00; however, this year, there will also be supplemental funding from various sources available for select faculty members. If you are interested in a student but unsure about the cost, please contact me at 412-648-9690 or wmars@pitt.edu to learn more about whether or not you are eligible for the funding opportunities that have recently arisen.

2. The program will run from May 30 - August 4. 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.

3. Due to our continuing success, student housing will once again be provided as a generous gift from Dr. Levine.

I would like to stress that the success of this program relies on quality mentors as well as quality students. Part of our tremendous success has been due to participation of interested faculty such as you. In addition, we have implemented several techniques designed to attract the highest quality students to our program, including a close affiliation with an NSF funded SURP program known as CAEC. I would venture that many of you who have participated as SURP mentors in the past can attest to the quality of the students that we are attracting.

If you have any questions or are willing to be a mentor this year, please contact me at 412-648-9690, or via e-mail at wmars@pitt.edu. The application process has already begun.

Thanks so much!

Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.
Director, Pathology SURP program

Well we just finished our application season. Of the 270 applications received, 51 were interviewed for the 30 slots available. Many of the applicants will be returning for our placement weekend March 24-26th, 2006. We won’t know who will actually matriculate until ~ May 1, 2006. Of the second year students who will be directly matriculating into graduate programs this fall, currently three students are considering pathology.

Clayton Wiley, M.D., Ph.D.
Program Director
A NOTE FROM PAYROLL

I would like to remind everyone that the payroll deadlines for each month are very early in the month. The paperwork is due one week prior to deadline in the Dean’s office for processing. If we miss this deadline we are charged a service fee to process the check. If this happens, I will be asking you to supply an account number to cover this expense. Otherwise, the employee will not receive a paycheck until the following month.

REMINDER: SUPERVISORS OF WORK STUDY/STUDENT WORKERS: All timesheets for your students are due into my 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. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THEIR HOURS ARE TURNED IN ON TIME! If a student does not turn in their hours on time, they will not be paid until the following month! Payroll submission has been delayed several times while I attempt to “track down” their timesheets.

VISA UPDATE:

Heather Puskarich now handles all staff J-1 visa issues for the department. Her telephone number is 648-8691 and her e-mail is: puskarichhj@upmc.edu. Please contact her directly if you have any questions or need to have your current visa extended. You must contact her 4 months prior to the expiration of your visa.

Val Kagan will continue to handle all staff H-1B visa issues for the department. His telephone number is 648-8793 and his e-mail is kaganve@upmc.edu. Please contact him directly if you have any questions or need to have your current visa extended. You must contact him 6 months prior to the expiration of your visa.

I will continue to work with incoming faculty who require visas for the first time.

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. These are available on the last working day each month in Room S-417 BSTWR between the hours of 1-4:00 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 their Division Director. Staff should give a resignation letter to their supervisors and the letter should include the final date of employment. This should be done within 24 hours after you have informed your Supervisor of your termination in order to process the paperwork. Be sure to include your forwarding address so that your W-2 form can sent 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. Timesheets are currently being sent via e-mail for all employees. If you are not receiving these, please contact me immediately to verify your e-mail address.

**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

Happy Holidays!

The Department of Pathology Administrative Offices hours of operation during the winter recess.

UPP Finance and Billing Offices:
CLOSED December 26th and January 2nd for the holidays.

University Research Accounting and Payroll:
CLOSED December 23rd through January 2nd
For any purchases to be processed prior to the break, all requests must be received by 5:00 PM on Monday, December 19.