DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY INFORMATICS, IMAGING AND THE INTERNET

The First Annual Conference on Anatomic Pathology Informatics, Imaging, and the Internet (APIII) was hosted by Michael J. Becich, MD, PhD and the Division of Pathology Informatics on November 8 and 9, 1996 in the BST South Wing Conference Center. Approximately 150 people attended the two day conference which included talks on cutting edge topics such as Real-time and robotics issues in telepathology, dynamic versus static telepathology systems for diagnosis, and transaction-based systems in telemedicine. Minicourses in Pathology Informatics were held for both experienced and beginning informaticians including workshops that spanned a wide range of subjects from Web site development, imaging, infrastructure and developing services in Pathology via the Web. There were 18 electronic poster presentations from Universities throughout the country and from the University of Pittsburgh. Everything from video-linked CUCME Internet-based telepathology demonstrations to the Internet Pathology Laboratory for Medical Education and interactive pathology case studies were presented. These sessions were especially popular because the attendees were able to learn different techniques of Web site development, content development and new technologies used in pathology practice.

Twenty commercial supporters presented their products and services during the conference and gave support in the form of grants and equipment for the opportunity to attend.

Please visit the conference Web site at URL: http://www.pathology.pitt.edu/apiii. Most speakers slide presentations are accessible by clicking on the highlighted text within the conference program. Also, the entire conference was recorded and broadcast over the World Wide Web in real time using RealAudio 3.0, and all RealAudio recordings of the conference talks are available for listening on the conference Web site URL: http://www.pathology.pitt.edu/apiii/r-audio.html. For some talks, the speakers slide presentation have been synchronized with the RealAudio broadcast. Instructions on how to download the Real Audio 3.0 player is located at URL: http://www.pathology.pitt.edu/apiii/r-audio.htm. To listen to the conference, your computer must have a 16 bit sound card, speakers, and the RealAudio software, which can also be downloaded for free at: http://www.realaudio.com/hpproducts/player/index.html.

Overall, the first APIII conference was a complete success based on the positive feedback received from attendees, vendors and conference faculty. The Second Annual Conference will be held this Fall on October 9, 10, and 11. Please visit the new conference site currently under construction at: http://www.pathology.pitt.edu/apiii97 for all information or feel free to contact the conference coordinator, Ron Yori at email: yori+@pitt.edu.

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Department meeting, Monday, March 17, 1997 4:00 p.m. room 1104 UPMC
RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

The last quarter has been a busy time for the residency program. December and January were largely devoted to medical student recruitment for six first-year positions as residents in the Department. Two positions were offered to individuals outside the match and Marie Defrances and Wen-Wei Chung, both from the University of Pittsburgh, accepted positions for July, 1997. Four of our positions are posted in the match. Twenty individuals interviewed for the four positions out of a total applicant pool which exceeded 550 candidates. A final match list of 12 individuals was constructed by the Residency Selection Committee. March 19 is Match Day and the results of the interview process will be known on that day. The number of qualified individuals interviewed represented a 33% decrease from the prior year. This trend is uniform across the country. We hope, however, that due to the outstanding nature of our program, we will continue to attract exceptional residents. Since many of our house staff and faculty participated in the selection process, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your time and input.

News about our residents:

Kevin Horn, Mike Torbenson, Patty Aronica, Christine Dorvault and Valerie Holst have become resident representatives for the College of American Pathologists for the state of Pennsylvania.

Valerie Holst and Steven Ruhoy have accepted the request by the faculty of the Division of Anatomic Pathology to serve as Chief Residents for the 1997-1998 academic year.

Shaila Fernandes, our current chief resident, recently gave birth to a baby boy, Ketan. Mother, father and baby are all doing fine.

News about former residents and fellows:

Gail Deutsch and Maria Parizhskaya are beginning Pediatric Fellowships at Brown University, Women and Infant’s and Rhode Island Hospitals and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, respectively.

Lisa Kohler begins her forensic fellowship at the Coroner’s office in the City of Richmond, VA under the tutelage of Dr. Marcella Fierro.

William Field plans to enter private practice in Ithaca, NY where he will be doing AP/CP and medical examiner duties primarily for the Cayuga Medical Center.

Lina Perry begins her cytosurgical pathology fellowship at the University of Virginia with Dr. Robert Fechner.

Nancy Standler plans to accept a position in Moss Regional Medical Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Many of our residents will be presenting abstracts and posters at the US and CA Academy of Pathology meeting in Orlando, FL in March. The numbers are extraordinarily high, and it is hoped that the Pathology faculty who are planning to attend, will make every effort to seek out the presentations and poster sessions of our residents.

by Samuel Yousem, M.D. and Diana Winters

IRB UPDATE

Procedures for submitting protocols to the Institutional Review Board have changed substantially in recent months. The University now requires a departmental committee to review all research proposals prior to IRB committee approval. This is for projects going to outside funding agencies and also internal non-funded projects.

Below is a copy of the checklist for the Pathology Protocol (pre-IRB) Review Committee.

-Member of Pathology Department

-Protocol requires IRB approval:
  *human subjects
  *human tissue
  *tissues, cells, products, etc. obtained from an outside source
  *other situations as outlined in Reference Manual for the Use of Human Subjects in Research
Indexed copies of the new procedures are available in the Path Conference Room S412 BST or from Maddie Dusseau and info is available on the World Wide Web at www.pitt.edu/~oorhs. Hard copies can be obtained by calling 647-7644.

Please submit a rough draft with sections highlighted that are related to human subjects to Maddie Dusseau, Grants Coordinator (S417 BST) 2-3 weeks in advance of your proposal due date. Contact Dr. Joseph Locker, chairman of the committee at 648-8253 for questions concerning content, and Maddie Dusseau at 648-9474 for administrative questions.

**GRANTS RECEIVED**

The Bradford Woods Elementary School, with Dr. Michael J. Becich acting as a consultant, was awarded $9,100 by the North Allegheny Foundation for Excellence for their grant proposal entitled: "Managing Information Resources Through Technology." This project will develop a pilot study for the North Allegheny School District’s use of information technology at the elementary level and will provide Internet access and utilization of Internet resources to 497 students, 45 teachers and interested community members. This project is in response to Vice President Al Gore’s National Instruction Program to promote Internet technology in kindergarten to 12th grade school programs.

**8TH ANNUAL PATHOLOGY RESEARCH DAY**

The Department of Pathology will hold its 8th Annual Research Presentations on Friday, May 16, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in room 1103 UPMC. Abstract submissions are due March 31 and should be sent to Dr. K.N. Rao in care of Pat Arndt in 5845 Main Tower. Abstract forms are available on disk from Pat Arndt. The abstracts will be evaluated by the committee. Presentations will be judged on the basis of scientific quality and originality of the work. Awards will be presented as judged by the committee. Refreshments will be served during the day and lunch will be provided for all who participate and attend. Any questions, please call either Pat Arndt at 647-3761 or Chris Szalkuski at 648-1040.

**UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE PLANS CHANGE IN ADDRESS OR FAMILY STATUS**

Please be advised that when submitting address changes to Helen Piccola, our payroll coordinator, the address change does not change the information for your healthcare provider. The University requires that you complete a change in status form for both the medical and dental plans when changes occur. These forms are now available from Helen in room S417 BST in addition to the Benefit Office in Craig Hall. Please contact Helen at 648-1038 with any questions.

**SEMINAR SERIES**

The Department of Pathology seminar series will continue at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in room 618 Scaife Hall unless otherwise stated.

March 12, 1997  
**Eli Gorelik, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, PCI, "Elimination of endogenous retroviral particle production BL6 melanoma cells transfected with MHC class I genes."

March 19, 1997  
**Garth D. Ehrlich, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor, UPMC, "The genetics of hereditary pancreatitis."

March 26, 1997  
**Brian J. Nickoloff, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Professor and Associate Chairman of Pathology, Director of Skin Disease Research Laboratories, Loyola University Medical Center, Oncology Institute, Maywood, IL, "Review role of T cells in skin disease."

April 2, 1997  
**Carol A. Westbrook, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Genetics, University of Illinois at Chicago, IL, "Genetic and clinical analysis of a chromosomes tumor suppressor gene in epithelial tumors."

May 21, 1997  
**Michael Nalesnik, M.D.**  
Associate Professor of Pathology, UPMC, "Murine models of herpes virus associated lymphomas - current studies."
May 28, 1997

**Stephen Strom, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Pathology, UPMC  
"Culture of hepatitis C virus."

**FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS**

Michael Becich, M.D., Ph.D. * presented "Impact of Pathology Informatics on the Practice of Anatomic Pathology" Yale University, School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, 12/4/96, * presented "Supercomputing in Clinical Medicine" Supercomputing '96, Roundtable, Pittsburgh, PA, 12/19/96,  

Roger A. Hawkins, M.D. has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology due to the merger of UPMC and Horizon Health Center. You can reach him at Horizon on 589-6200.

Sukamal Khasnabis, M.D., Chief of Pathology at UPMC-Southside has joined the Department due to the merger of UPMC and Southside Hospital. You can contact him at Southside Hospital at 488-5725.

Gregory J. Naus, M.D., has received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award and will be recognized at the Honors Convocation on February 28. This award consists of a $2,000 prize and a grant of $3,000 to support teaching functions. Congratulations!

Steven H. Swerdlow, M.D. * has been promoted to Professor of Pathology effective January 1, *is the coordinator for the 1997 Society for Hematopathology Workshop on Extranodal Hematopoietic/Lymphoid Proliferation, September 11-13, 1997 to be held at UPMC, *presented "Posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorders," at the Callendar-Binford Seminar Series at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology on November 21, 1996 in Washington, DC.

Clayton Wiley, M.D., Ph.D. * appointed Director of the M.D./Ph.D. program effective January 1, 1997.

**STAFF UPDATE**

Niladri Aichbhaumik, Research Specialist for Dr. Ehrlich began in the Department in January.

Kathy Spichtet, Research Specialist from CHP, transferred into Pitt and will continue to work for Dr. Zeevi.

Dan Zhu, Ph.D. is a new postdoctoral fellow hired for Dr. Cooper in October.

Vsevolod Kostrubsky, Ph.D., is a new postdoctoral fellow hired for Dr. Strom in December.

Mara Grove-Sullivan, a research specialist who worked in Dr. Becich’s lab and recently transferred to Cell Biology, gave birth to a baby girl named Katheryn. Congratulations!

Elizabeth Jahnke-Spinnenweber an employee of the University since 1966 who worked in Dr. Lombardi’s lab, retired on January 2. Good luck and enjoy retirement!

**PUBLICATIONS**


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NEXT PATHOLOGY QUARTERLY
DEADLINE DATE: April 15, 1997
PLEASE E-MAIL INFORMATION TO
SZALKU@A1.ISD.UPMC.EDU
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