DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Faculty Meeting

A faculty meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 1998 at 6:00 pm in lecture Room 1, Scaife Hall. The purpose of this meeting is twofold: We will discuss the upcoming transition of PERF into the newly formed central practice plan, University of Pittsburgh Physicians, UPP and the Department's new faculty productivity/incentive program. Dr. Richard Baron, President of UPP and Mr. Greg Peaslee, Executive Director of UPP will provide an overview of the implementation of UPP and the proposed fringe benefit package for faculty.

Every Department within the School of Medicine will be conducting a departmental meeting in early March. The UPP Executive Committee has asked each of the Department's to make a hard copy of the slide presentation and distribute them to the faculty. Our Department will distribute this information at the Faculty meeting on March 11, however, copies of the slide presentation will be available in the Department's Administrative Office, S-411 BST on Monday, March 2. If you would like your copy prior to the meeting on March 11, you may stop by the Administrative Office at your convenience. We only ask that you bring your copy with you to the faculty meeting (why kill more trees than we have to?).

We will additionally distribute a copy of all of the faculty profiles for the new faculty productivity and incentive compensation program at the faculty meeting. A copy of the profiles is already available in your Division Director's office.

Light Refreshments will be served at the faculty meeting.

Anna Roman-Koller, Ph.D.
Assistant Chair

PERF UPDATE

I would again like to thank everyone for their patience during the past several months.

Faculty should have received restricted reports by the end of January for all expenses through November. Two weeks following, restricted reports will follow for expenses through December. Faculty can expect reporting from PERF on a monthly basis going forward. The targeted schedule will be: January reports will be available the first week in March, February the first week in April, etc. These reports will include PERF monthly expenses and University purchases and expenses along with any committed expenses. The lag-time of one month is unavoidable because the University accounting reports do not arrive until three weeks after the month closes (this delay has been even longer since the Oracle conversion).

The PERF office and the department has begun sharing a new hire, Mr. Hal Neal. Hal most recently worked for the centralized practice plan as a Financial Analyst, and prior to that was an Accountant for the Department of Otolaryngology. Hal brings a wealth of experience using the Peachtree Accounting System, as well as significant knowledge of the new accounting structure in the centralized practice. Hal also has University accounting experience and will be instrumental in the upcoming transitions. Many of PERF's functions will move to the University and the rest eventually to UPP. Hal's expertise in the communication of financial information from PERF to the University, and from PERF to the centralized practice plan's new accounting structure will be a tremendous help. We are really fortunate to have him join our Department. Welcome aboard Hal!

The PERF billing transition is steadily moving forward. Medaphis, our billing company, is working hard and assumed the responsibility for
UPMC-Shadyside pathology patient billing since January 1st. Linda Kraly continues to work out the "bugs" in the system. Her twelve years experience with PERF provides real depth in resolving billing issues. Jeaninne Hosni also continues CPT coding from the PERF office. Jeaninne remains a specialist in pathology CPT coding and has also recently joined "The American Academy of Procedural Coders," a professional organization for coders. Jeaninne and Linda have also assumed a number of non-billing responsibilities in the PERF office.

Gail Antonich continues to work in the PERF office as a graduate intern from the MHA/MBA program. Gail has handled PERF check requests over the last several months and will train Hal to assume this responsibility. Gail will begin to work on projects in which her past experience as a pathology lab technician will be invaluable. These projects include the implementation of the new coding guidelines outlined by the recommendations of our consultant Mr. Dennis Padget, and an extensive RVU analysis by physicians utilizing Medaphis billing information and the CoPath system.

PERF continues to be an interesting and dynamic workplace! Response time should be significantly reduced since the "catch-up" period is over and we have added a staff accountant. Please call us with your questions or concerns at 648-1260.

Susan DeGeronimo
Controller

OSHA TRAINING FOR STAFF

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all department members potentially exposed to bloodborne pathogens attend an annual training session. Therefore, we have scheduled the Laboratory Safety Training for Pathology staff members on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 p.m. in 1104 UPMC

Thursday, March 26, 9:30 a.m. in 1104 UPMC

Staff members will receive their training session sign-up sheet and Hepatitis B Vaccine forms in the mail within the next week. Please complete both forms and return them to Carla Forsythe, S408 BST before March 16, 1998. Light refreshments will be served at each session.

FACULTY EVALUATION FORMS

Faculty Evaluation forms have been distributed and should be returned to respective Division Directors no later than Friday, March 13.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS

The annual request for the completion of the conflict of interest forms generally raises questions as to the forms purpose. The following information is provided to help in understanding the forms use and to aid in its proper completion:

To WHOM does the Conflict of Interest form apply?

All faculty, and non-faculty employees responsible for the conduct, design, direction, or reporting of research are required to complete Part I of the University of Pittsburgh Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. Part II need only be completed if there was an affirmative response to a question on Part I.

WHAT is a conflict of interest?

A potential or actual conflict of interest exists when commitments and obligations to the University or to widely recognized professional norms are likely to be compromised by a person's other interest or commitment, especially economic, particularly if those interests or commitments are not disclosed. Federal regulations provide that a conflict of interest exists if the reviewer(s) of disclosures determines

PERF PENSION PLAN ROLLOVER MEETINGS

For faculty members who were unable to attend the February 26 meeting regarding the PERF Pension Plan rollover, we are scheduling one-on-one sessions with representatives from Vanguard, TIAA/CREF and Manning & Napier as follows:

TIAA/CREF - Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2

Manning & Napier - Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13

Vanguard - Wednesday, March 25.

If you are interested in a 30 minute session with any or all of the representatives, please call Carla at 648-9466.
that a significant financial interest could "directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, or reporting" of federally funded activities.

**WHEN should the forms be filled out?**

Upon appointment and by each April 15 thereafter, or when new facts create potential or actual conflicts of interest throughout the year.

**To WHOM do I submit my form(s)?**

Part I of the form must be completed and submitted to your immediate supervisor. If there is an affirmative response to any question in Part I, Part II of the disclosure must be completed.

**WHY is this necessary?**

It is imperative that the University be in compliance with federal regulations and as such, updated disclosure forms must be accessible. **The Office of Research will not process research proposals for investigators who do not have a current copy of Part I on file.**

**WHERE will this information be kept?**

Original signed disclosure forms (Part I and Part II) should be retained in the unit for a minimum period of three years. Information on Part II is confidential and should be kept in secure location. Only a current copy of Part I is forwarded to the Office of Research.

**WHAT is the review process?**

Supervisors are to review employee forms. Disclosures will be kept confidential, except to the extent necessary to review, consider, and manage, reduce, or eliminate conflicts. Based on an affirmative response to any question in Part I and additional details provided in Part II, the supervisor should (1) notify his/her supervisor and the Chair of the Conflict of Interest Committee of the outside interests; (2) meet with the individual to discuss means for managing, reducing, or eliminating the perceived or actual conflict; (3) recommend and initiate actions to manage, reduce or eliminate the perceived or actual conflict within 60 days of disclosure or refer it to the next higher level; (4) recommend and initiate action leading to sanctions for non-compliance with proposed management, reduction, or elimination of a conflict.

The Provost of the University has the ultimate authority to determine how conflicts of interest should be prevented, managed, reduced, or eliminated and to approve sanctions for non-compliance. The Provost may utilize the Conflict of Interest Committee in arriving at decisions.

**WHAT if I disagree with the recommended action of my supervisor?**

You may appeal to the next higher level of my administration.

**WHO enforces this policy?**

Enforcement rests primarily with the academic unit. Immediate supervisors should be cognizant of activities taking place in the unit and should monitor research and teaching as to potential and actual conflicts of interest. Reviews should contain questions probing the conflict of interest issue. Conflict of Interest forms should be returned to Carla Forsythe no later than **Friday, February 27**. If you have not sent yours, please send it immediately. Thank you.

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT (EAA) PRELIMINARY REPORT TEACHING FORMS**

The EAA forms were due to Carla Forsythe by **February 13**. If you have not sent them, please do so immediately as these forms will be sent to the Director of Medical Education for a final report that is being compiled for faculty in the Medical School. Thank you.

**NIH NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING R29’S**

The NIH will only fund new investigators through the RO1 mechanism. The R29 mechanism will be phased out as of June 1, 1997. In the past months I have sent information regarding this change, if you did not receive it, please let me know.

New guidelines are available if anyone is interested in information on NIH Support of Scientific Meetings (R13).

The DRG (Division of Research Grants) has been renamed the Center for Scientific Research (CSR).

As an ongoing effort for paper reduction, the NIH Notice of Grant Awards will be in a letter format. I received information in this new format. If anyone is interested in a particular issue, please let me know and I will share the information with you.
**Grant submission dates**

All AID Related - May 1st, September 1, January 2

Competing Continuation, Supplemental and Revised Grants - March 1, July 1, November 1

New Research Grants, Conferences, Research Career Awards, Program Project and Center - March 1, July 1, November 1

Institutional Nation Research Service Awards - January 10, May 10, September 10

**NIH Information Request**

In an effort provide more efficient service to Principal Investigators, I am requesting a photo copy of the IRG Summary Statement that you receive from the NIH for the administrative office file. This will allow the administrative staff to review and Summary Statements in an effort to prepare and advise on issues that can impact the grant and the Department.

**IRB NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

**IRB Adverse Events**

As all faculty may have received the November 1st issue of the Hunteriana newsletter, attached was the University IRB Annual Summary of Significant Adverse Events Reporting Form. I will have these forms on file if anyone needs them. If you did not receive the newsletter and would like a copy, please e-mail or phone me and I will send you a copy.

**GRANT BULLETIN BOARD**

The Department receives various funding bulletins which will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in the conference room. These bulletins change weekly so frequent checking of the board is encouraged.

**THE COMPETITIVE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND (CMFR) HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MARCH 16. PLEASE SEE TRACY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO APPLY.**

If you would like information on any awarding agencies and or foundations do not hesitate to contact me at 648-9474, and I would be happy to help you.

Tracy Crawford
Grants Coordinator
YOUNG WOMEN IN SCIENCE DAY

The Young Women in Science Day has been scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 1998. Volunteers will be needed. Please call Carla if you are interested in helping. Look for more information on this event to come out soon. Any questions, call Carla 648-9466.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY WORKSHOPS

The Medical School's Research Integrity Program requires that each Department conduct ethics training sessions for new personnel. Participation in this program is required by the National Institutes of Health and the University of Pittsburgh for all students, post-docs, assistant professors, research assistants and graduate students involved in biomedical research. Notification will be sent to all those who are required to attend the sessions. For further information regarding scheduling, contact Jeanne Weiss (648-9530). Dr. Kunz (648-9455) is the faculty coordinator if you have specific questions about the workshops.

Schedule of Research Integrity Workshop Dates

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RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

The last quarter has been a busy time for the residency program. December and January were devoted to medical student recruitment for six first-year positions as residents in the Department of Pathology. A total of 39 individuals interviewed for these six positions out of a total applicant pool which exceeded 700 candidates. On March 18, Match Day, we will find out the results of the interview process in which many of the house staff and faculty members contributed. Your help was greatly appreciated.

The merger of the UPMC Shadyside Pathology Residency Program with our program offers the community setting to those who are looking for experience in that arena and also affords the residents the opportunity to gain more extensive orthopedic pathology experience and office management training. The merger will benefit the resident training and add appeal our program in attracting exceptional residents.

Diana Winters
Residency Program Coordinator

Pathology Research Seminar Series
Wednesdays at 4:00 in room 618 Scaife Hall

Michael N. Gould, Ph.D., Professor of Human Oncology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WS
"Monoterpenes: A new class of anticancer drugs - Mechanistic investigations and early clinical results"
March 11.

Daniel Sedmak, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
"Cytomegalovirus persistence inhibition in HCA class II induction"
March 18.

Khalil Ahmed, Ph.D., Professor of Lab. Med. and Pathology, VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN,
"Protein kinase CK2 signalling in normal and neoplastic growth"
March 25.

Thomas J. Gill III, M.D., Inaugural Maud L. Menten Professor of Experimental Pathology and Professor of Human Genetics, Department of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh.
"Genetic approaches to problems in human origins"
April 8.

Cristian Achim, M.D, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh,
"Neurotrophic factors and brain degeneration"
April 15.

Janardan Reddy, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, title to be announced,
April 29.

Yashpal S. Kanwar, M.D., Ph.D. Paul E. Steiner Research Professor of Pathology and Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, IL
"Diverse aspects of renal development"
May 6.

Rodney S. Markin, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
"Clinical Laboratory
Automation" May 20.

Joseph Lipsick, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA "The myb oncogene in normal development and in cancer: DNA-binding takes wing" May 27.

9TH ANNUAL PATHOLOGY RESEARCH DAY

The Department of Pathology will hold its 9th Annual Pathology Research Day on Friday, May 29, 1998 in 1104 UPMC Conference Center. Abstract submissions are due April 10, 1998 and should be sent to Dr. K.N. Rao in care of Marah Connor in room 5845 CLSI. Abstract forms are available on disk from Marah. 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 Marah Connor at 647-3761.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS


Robert Getzenberg, Ph.D. (PI) and Michael Becich, M.D., Ph.D. (CoPI) Spinal Cord Injury and Bladder Cancer Detection NICHD Small Grants Program for three years for $80,400 from 2/01/98-01/31/00.

Donna Beer-Stolz, Ph.D. received a Charlotte Geyer Foundation Grant for $31,521 for 1 year to study Liver Regeneration as a Model for Angiogenesis; presented a poster at the AASLD meeting November 7-11,1997 for coauthors Hebah M. Salem, Katsuhiro Enomoto and George K. Michalopoulos "A Rapid Protocol for the Isolation of and Characterization of the rat liver sinusoidal luminal membrane during regeneration following 70% Partial Hepatectomy," presented at the ASCB meeting Dec. 13-17, 1997 coauthors include Bryon Petersen, Wendy Mars, Tae-Hyoung Kim and George Michalopoulos "Growth Factor Signal Transduction in Rat Liver Immediately Following Partial Hepatectomy."

Jeannette Dunn, M.D. at Shadyside Hospital, has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor of Pathology.


Elaine Elder, Ph.D. has been appointed as a Research Assistant Professor for UPCI.

Jen-Tzer Gau, MD, PhD successfully defended his PhD dissertation on February 13, 1998 - his advisor was Dr. Michael J. Becich. Dr. Gau is currently at the New York State University in Buffalo, NY. Congratulations!

Remigio Gregorio, M.D. of Shadyside, has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor of Pathology.
Fred Gilkey, M.D. of Shadyside, has joined the Department as an Associate Professor of Pathology.

Ronald Jaffe, M.D. has been named Division Director at CHP. Congratulations!

Mirka W. Jones, M.D. presented an abstract at the 87th Annual Meeting of the US and Canadian Academy of Pathology in Boston, MA in February entitled "The presence of HPV infection in well differentiated villoglandular adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix" presented an abstract at the XVI European Congress of Pathology, Maastricht, The Netherlands, August, 1997 entitled "Comparison of p53, BCL2 and sex steroid receptor expression in uterine endometrioid and papillary serous adenocarcinoma."

Jeanne A. Jordan, Ph.D. received grant funding from Magee-Womens Health Foundation entitled "Mechanisms of vertical transmission of human cytomegalovirus", from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998 for $23,000. She also received funding from NIH-NICHD entitled "Diagnosing neonatal sepsis using molecular techniques," for $144,000 for a two-year period.

Heinz W. Kunz, Ph.D., has been named the Research Integrity Officer for our Department.

Alka Palekar, M.D. of Shadyside, has joined the Department as an Associate Professor of Pathology.


Anna Roman Koller, Ph.D. has accepted a new role as Vice President of Administration of Human Resources, Corporate Communications and Faculty Issues for the UPP. She took this additional responsibility on February, on a part-time basis spending Mondays and Wednesdays at the UPP. Also, Anna has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pathology. She continues to function as the Assistant Chair of the Department and will be teaching management classes as a part of her new role. Congratulations!

Dieter Runge, Ph.D. has been promoted to a Research Assistant Professor in Dr. Michalopoulos' lab. He has made three presentations entitled "Growth and differentiation of hepatocytes: Changes in liver-enriched transcription factors and hepatocytes specific gene expression," in Leipzig, Germany on October 16, Halle, Germany on October 17 and Salzburg, Austria, October 20.

Sameer Sakallah, Ph.D. for the second year in a row, was invited to present a workshop on DNA fingerprinting at the University of Puerto Rico between Feb 21 and March 1. During his visit, he will also give a presentation on Molecular Diagnostics at UPR's Medical School.

Eric Schubert, M.D. has resigned from the Division of Informatics and has taken a position as a staff pathologist at Memorial Hospital in the Department of Pathology in Chattanooga, TN.

Daniel Sheahan, M.D. of Shadyside, has joined the Department as Professor Pathology and Director of the Shadyside Division as a part of the merger.

Darrell J. Triulzi, M.D. presented at a ASCP teleconference on "Regional transfusion service networks," on December 3, 1997 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Robert M. Wadowsky, Sc.D. (Principal Investigator) and David Greenberg, M.D. (Co-Principal Investigator) received a grant from NIH for the amount of $302,989 entitled "Evaluation of Mycoplasma pneumoniae and Chlamydia pneumoniae as etiologic agents of persistent cough in adolescents and adults using the polymerase chain reaction," for the period between October 1, 1997 to December 31, 1999.

Eduardo Yunis, M.D. has stepped down as Division Director at CHP and has begun a six month sabbatical leave.

Reza Zarnegar, Ph.D. and Marie DeFrances, M.D., Ph.D. are the proud parents of a baby boy, Arman John, born on February 24. Congratulations!

Adriana Zeevi, Ph.D. promoted to Professor effective July 1, 1998. Additionally, Dr. Zeevi has been asked to serve as the Director of the Tissue Typing Laboratory. Congratulations!

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Raka Bhattacharya transferred from Biological Sciences into Dr. Locker's lab as a Research Associate.

Karin Blakolmir is a fellow working in Dr. Randall Lee's lab in Transplantation Pathology.

Maggie Brunner has joined the Division of Neuropathology as a Research Specialist.
**REMINDER**

The University of Pittsburgh is closed Friday, March 6, 1998 in observance of Great Americans' Day.

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**Maddie Dusseau** has accepted the position of Payroll Coordinator for the Department replacing Helen Piccola who has moved to another position.

**Jorge Guzman** is a visiting post-doctoral fellow in neuropathology for the next few months. He is a resident in surgery in his home country of Columbia.

**Cindy Keeseccker**, our Graduate Program Coordinator, has moved to the Graduate Program Office. Good luck Cindy.

**Bobbi Kostyak** is the new Graduate Program Coordinator. Bobbi has extensive work experience and most recently worked for the City of Pittsburgh in the Zoning Office. Welcome Bobbi!

**Hal Neal** has joined the Department as a staff accountant. Hal has many years of experience as an accountant at the University and will facilitate the transition of the practice plan to the UPP.

**Mary Lou Palimeri**, in glassware, has retired. A donation in her honor, at her request, has been given to the Light of Life Ministries, Inc. Her request is reflective of the thought and care she had for others. Good luck Mary Lou in your retirement years!

**Petrina DeFlavia** also joined Dr. Becich's lab as a Research Assistant.

**Qi Wang** has transferred to a Research Specialist position for Dr. Michael Becich.

**Jeanne Weiss** has accepted the part-time secretarial position working for Dr. Gill. She has worked in a temporary capacity for the Department over the last year. She is in on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Hans Wildeschutte** has joined the Division of Neuropathology as a Research Specialist.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Gau JT, Salter RD, Krill D, Grove ML, Becich, MJ. The biosynthesis and secretion of prostate-specific antigen in LNCap cells.


Martinez AJ. Free-liver amebas: Naegleria, Acanthamoeba and Balamuthia In: Medical Microbiology, Fourth Edition. Edited by Samuel Baron, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, TX Chapter 81, pp. 971-979, 1997.


