

# Pathology News

OCTOBER 31 , 2018

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## CHAIR'S BLOG

October 31, 2018

Dear colleagues and friends:

As I write this message, it is only a few days after the horrible events that inflicted deep pain in our brothers and sisters of the Jewish community, the members of the Tree of Life synagogue and the entire community of Pittsburgh. This pain and sorrow was directly felt by many of our Jewish colleagues, members of our department, some of whom were also members of the synagogue that received the horrendous attack. All of us have in the past recruited faculty to come to our department, and we extolled the peaceful nature and the multicultural environment of our city. We have been proud of it and it was a major factor in convincing other people to join our department. One could take the position that the events that happened have shattered that image. I am of the opposite belief. The true testament to the benign nature of our city and community was the universal strong affirmation that, despite what happened, the spirit of the Pittsburgh citizens is united in supporting high moral principles, advanced civility and culture. Pittsburgh is a multicultural community, and every cultural group feels the pain inflicted upon the others. The unfortunate events that occurred, brought a sense of unity, to make us stronger in our belief in our city, our community and its civilized principles.

*Continued on page 2....*



“Autumn...  
the year's  
last,  
loveliest  
smile.”

John Howard Bryant  
Poet  
1807—1902

### Holiday Reminders

**The University of Pittsburgh will be Thursday November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving Recess. UPMC will be closed Thursday, November 22.**

**The University of Pittsburgh will be closed Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1, 2019. The Administrative Offices will be minimally staff and open during this time. University and Hospital offices will reopen Wednesday, January 2.**

Today is also the day of Halloween, and I extend my wishes to all members of our department, faculty, administrative staff and technical personnel in clinical and research laboratories for a peaceful and joyous Halloween celebration.

We are entering a new period for our department, shaped by the expansion of the UPMC system across the mountains into Central Pennsylvania. Some of us had the opportunity of visiting Harrisburg and meeting our new colleagues. As always it happens when pathologists meet, there was an atmosphere of collegiality and acceptance of each other's local values, habits and principles. We offered a helping hand to support our colleagues in the new UPMC hospitals and provide any technical and diagnostic support required to help them in their integration with our system. There are many opportunities for collaboration and for sharing expertise, in all aspects of pathology. We also learned from some of their experiences, shaped by the peculiarities of their environment. Some of the colleagues across the mountain are faculty of Penn State. We offer them the opportunity to maintain their faculty status and seek adjunct appointments in our institution.

The department has been successful in all its missions. Our residents, as in previous years, all passed the pathology boards in the first effort. Our clinical fellows and instructors proceed through their training programs very well and their contribution is much appreciated. Several research programs have expanded with availability of new grants, both by clinical and research faculty. Several genomic panels designed in our department have met with almost universal acceptance. We are now into negotiations that will expand their reach with commercial partnerships that have an extended network in the United States and the rest of the world. We are also in the process of establishing biocomputational models for cancer immunotherapy. We are working closely with our colleagues in Oncology to apply both new genomic panels and new diagnostic immunotherapy tests.

There are several concerns about institutional budgets and reimbursement, based on which budgetary adjustments have been recommended across the board. Our department is an integral part of the Pathology Service Center. The request for adjusted new budgets aims to bring in savings in expenses and is aimed at the entire Pathology Service Center, including the department. It will take the creativity of all of us to come up with less expensive approaches that will maintain the value of the result, maintaining diagnostic standards at the highest level at a decreased cost. This will be a time of challenge that we have to meet. The finances of UPMC affect all of us directly, and any help that we can render to maintain the integrity of the finances strengthens the department and makes it more possible to succeed in this mission and provide the required services.

Of course, such challenges occur annually. I could say that we have become more adept in dealing with them; however every year has its unique issues, and we will have to borrow paradigms from the previous years to apply them to the current difficulties. I am optimistic that working together, we will surpass these difficulties as we proceed into the next calendar and fiscal year.

I am also extending to you early best wishes for the upcoming holidays of November and December.

Sincerely,

George Michalopoulos

# Grant Administration

Success is no  
accident. It is  
hard work,  
perseverance,  
learning,  
studying,  
sacrifice and  
most of all,  
love of what  
you are doing  
or learning to  
do.

Pele  
Brazilian Athlete  
1940-



## New Pre Award Grant Administrator

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Nancy Barca to our Research Administration area. Nancy formerly worked with Hillman Cancer Center investigators where she gained experience in pre award. She will work with most Pathology faculty whose last name falls within A-M and she will be providing assistance for the processing of MTAs and J-1 visas.

When you have a chance, you are invited to stop by and visit us in our new office location and meet Nancy.

## Premium Processing Fee increase

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that **the premium processing fee will increase from \$1,225 to \$1,410 effective October 1**. USCIS is increasing the fee to more effectively adjudicate petitions and maintain effective service to petitioners. The increase represents change in inflation since the last increase in 2010. Any cases that will request premium processing received by OIS after September 15 will require a check for the new amount of \$1,410. As a reminder, premium processing can be requested on H-1B, O-1, and permanent residency petitions (Form I-140 only).

## Ivona Vasile Pandrea, M.D., Ph.D. Received two NIH Grants:

NIH Grant (**PI: Pandrea**) Title: Pathogenesis of SIV in African green monkeys and pigtail macaques. **Total funds: \$3,601,918**

NIH Grant (**Co-investigator: Pandrea**) Title: New Strategy to Improve Gastrointestinal Health in HIV. **Total funds: \$3,703,241**





## Faculty Highlights

### **Rita Alaggio, M.D.**

2018 President elect of International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA)

### **Dipanjan Basu, Ph.D.**

won conference travel award \$500 from Stem Cell Technologies to attend the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) Breakthrough Summit **2018** at Washington DC Oct 15-16. My presentation abstract accepted for #NORDSummit2018 is entitled below: “Clonogenic Cells are a Therapeutic Target in Neurocutaneous Melanocytosis, a rare melanocytic congenital neoplasm.” Dipanjan Basu, Claudia Salgado and Miguel Reyes Mugica

### **Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D.**

Vice Chair of the Tenured Faculty Promotions and Appointment Committee of the School of Medicine effective August 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019.

### **Anette Duensing, M.D.**

University of Pittsburgh, Office of the Chancellor, Inaugural Pitt Seed Project Grant

“The Pittsburgh Sarcoma Research Collaborative (PSaRC) Comprehensive Sarcoma Tumor Bank and Ristry: Bridging Today’s Samples to Tomorrow’s Cure” in collaboration with Dr. Kurt Weiss (Orthopaedic Surgery), Dr. Melissa Burgess (Medical Oncology), Dr. Kelly Bailey (Children’s Hospital), Dr. Rebecca Watters (Orthopaedic Surgery) - 2018

Shadyside Hospital Foundation “Therapeutically targeting the Vitamin A – retinoic acid pathway: A new therapeutic strategy for *IDH*-mutant malignancies” in collaboration with Dr. Nduka Amankulor (Neurological Surgery)

**Clinical Study:** 2018 “A web-based survey of cognitive dysfunction and other patient-reported outcomes in people with GIST” [Pitt GIST Survey](#) (open for 3 months, attracted almost 1,000 participants worldwide; first results will be presented at the annual Connective Tissue Oncology Society meeting in November 2018) in collaboration with Dr. Dana Bovbjerg and Dr. Robert Ferguson (Biobehavioral Oncology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center) and Dr. Beth Snitz (Neurology).

**Junaid Ibrahim, M.D.** at Passavant Hospital, recently passed his Molecular Genetic Pathology board certification examination.



**Liron Pantanowitz, M.D.**

The Power List is now live on our website (<https://thepathologist.com/power-list/2018/>. PDF: [https://thepathologist.com/fileadmin/pdf/TP\\_0918\\_Issue.pdf#page=18](https://thepathologist.com/fileadmin/pdf/TP_0918_Issue.pdf#page=18)) - . The Pathologist's Power List 2018 is 100 of the best, brightest and most powerful advocates of pathology. Celebrating 100 inspirational and influential professionals in Laboratory Medicine.

**Octavia-Peck-Palmer, Ph.D.**

The American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC, ~25,000 attendees this year) has appointed her to the Board of Directors for AACC. This is incredibly prestigious and competitive. She will serve with 13 other people to direct AACC as it is continuing its national and international growth.

**Jennifer Picarsic, M.D.**

Was the 2018 recipient of the Histiocyte Society's Nesbit award, for a project discovering recurrent kinase alterations in solitary juvenile xanthogranuloma lesions.

**Sarangarajan Ranganathan, M.D.**

Elected Secretary of International Pediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) (part of IAP) for a 6 year term starting 2018.

Invited to IAP, Amman Jordan – Topic: “Update on Pediatric Liver tumors – special emphasis on hepatoblastoma and pediatric HCC”.

Invited lecture, SPP Fall Meeting, Ann Arbor, MI, Oct 2018: “Difficult diagnosis in Pediatric Liver tumors- a case based approach”

Organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pediatric Pathology International CME at Tata Medical Center, Kolkata, India, Jan 17-20, 2019

**Promotions**

**Simion I. Chiosea, M.D.**, Promoted to Professor of Pathology with a secondary in Otolaryngology.



Thursday, November 22, 2018

## SURP AND CMP GRADUATE PROGRAM

From the desk of Dr. Wendy M. Mars ....

As most of you know, last year, the IBGP program was split into two sections and there were 16 students (out of 32 that matriculated) who chose to affiliate with the core IBGP (4 separate programs) as opposed to the break off, PMI program (2 programs combined). There was real concern regarding how that split would affect CMP; however, we were graced in that seven of the 16 IBGP students elected to affiliate with our program. This past year, there were 17 students who recruited directly into the new IBGP; it remains to be seen if this trend will continue or if this was a one-time situation. Taking on students for rotations and participating in recruit opportunities will be key to our continued success.

During the course of the past academic school year, five students graduated (one with an MS); and we matriculated 7 new students (all from the IBGP), presently putting us at 27 students, so that we continue to remain one of the largest of the Interdisciplinary Program affiliates. Also, despite losing some faculty members through career changes, overall our faculty numbers have been growing. This past academic year we added four new faculty members to CMP: Toren Finkel, Dean Yimlamai, Jonathan Alder, and Reben Raeman (all primary), making our current total 79, up three from last year at this same time. Dean has even already had a student join his lab! Please remember to tell interested faculty to contact me if they are interested in joining CMP. We are always willing to add qualified SOM faculty to our graduate program if their interests match with ours.

### SAVE THE DATES

On **May 22, 2019** we will hold our annual **Pathology Retreat**, combining our basic and clinical researchers for an afternoon of stimulating talks, once again followed by a poster session at the University Club. This year our keynote speaker will be Patricia D'Amore, the Charles L. Schepens Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School.

The **Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)** will begin next year, on **May 20, 2019**. For SURP, we are once again actively seeking interested faculty willing to host college undergraduates in their laboratories for a 10-week scientific research experience. SURP 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 (UPSOM) programs such as the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program and the Medical School.

The specifics of SURP are as follows:

The cost to the individual investigator is \$3500.00. In many cases, there is supplemental funding from UPSOM. Please contact Michael Oertel at [mio19@pitt.edu](mailto:mio19@pitt.edu) if you are interested in learning more about these funding opportunities. Michael has been helping with SURP for the past three years and is currently managing specifics of the program on a daily basis!



The program will run from May 20-July 26. 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.

Student housing and travel will generously be provided by UPSOM.

The success of this program relies on quality mentors well as quality students. Part of our past 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 such as a shared online application process. 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. You need not be graduate faculty to take on a student. 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](mailto:wmars@pitt.edu).

Also, remember that Pathology research opportunities and funding are not just for undergraduates! There are also moneys available through our Klionsky Fellowship Program to help offset the costs for first year medical students (MS1) who wish to do summer research opportunities in Pathology. Information on competitive funding for this program can be found at <http://path.upmc.edu/medstudents.htm>. Contact Marie De-Frances ([defrancesmc@upmc.edu](mailto:defrancesmc@upmc.edu)) to hear more about the clinical learning we provide with this program.

Finally, if you are interested in having issues brought before the CMP steering committee, please share them with CMP administrator, Amanda Bytzura ([bytzuraam@upmc.edu](mailto:bytzuraam@upmc.edu)), or with me ([wmars@pitt.edu](mailto:wmars@pitt.edu)).

Thanks so much!

**Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.**

Director, Pathology SURP and CMP graduate program

### FOR ACCESS TO WEB PAGE FOR ECU LOG-ON

*ECU data for the academic year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 for collection now. Please be sure your info is entered via our Department's web page link.*

For faculty with a UPMC network ID, please use this link. Accessing this link off of the UPMC network will bring up a login prompt: <https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUAdmin/auth/index.cfm>

For faculty without a UPMC ID, please use this link: <https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUTrack/index.cfm>

These links are also available on the Department of Pathology webpage under links at: <http://path.upmc.edu/links.htm>.

From the home page select which ECU activity is to be logged, and whether the activity is for medical or graduate students. Then fill in all fields on the form with an option for a free-text note at the end. Confirmation will be given and the activity will be entered into the database for submission at the end of the academic term.

For questions or feedback, please contact Thomas Harper at ISD ([harperth@upmc.edu](mailto:harperth@upmc.edu)). Thank you.

## RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP

From the desk of Dr. Marie DeFrances

## Clinical Training Programs

Residents recently moved into a NEW Residents' Room located in A712 Scaife and a NEW Residents' Collaboration Room located across the hallway in A711.5. Each resident now has his/her own desk equipped with a microscope, computer and phone – a huge improvement over prior arrangements.

Eight new pathology residents arrived July 1 and are settling in at UPMC.

Residency recruitment for next year began October 19<sup>th</sup> – the first of eight interview dates. Eight candidates will be invited for each Friday interview session through December 14, 2018.

We have 16 Fellows and five Clinical Instructors this year.

Recruitment for Fellows and Clinical Instructors to fill positions for the 2020 – 2021

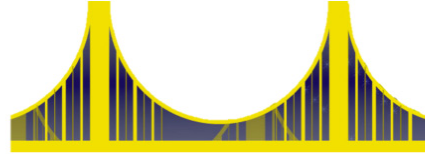
## Medical Student Update

**Dr. Marie DeFrances** presented a poster and gave a talk entitled, “Summer Training Experiences in Pathology for Medical Students (STEPS): A Pathology-Oriented Clinical Enrichment Program for Early Stage Medical Students Engaged in Summer Research in Pathology,” at the Association of Pathology Chairs meeting in San Diego this past July. Co-authors on the work included **Drs. Wendy Mars, Sara E. Monaco, Jeff Nine, Lirong Qu, and Sarah Wheeler**. Dr. DeFrances discussed the department's efforts to introduce MS2 medical students to the role pathologists play in patient care through the ‘Summer Training Experiences in Pathology for Medical Students’ (STEPS) program. Students who are selected to be Klionsky Summer Research Fellows in the department also participate in eight weekly ‘hands on’ STEPS activities highlighting different pathology subspecialties such as autopsy, clinical chemistry, cytology, blood banking, and genomic pathology. The information about the novel enrichment program was well received by meeting attendees. In addition, the fourth group of participants partook in this summer's STEPS program. The students were **Jinman Cai, Shreya Chandrashekhar, Travis Churilla, Mary Claire Cotner, Emade Jaman, Lauren Rank** and **Ashley Zurawel**. Thanks to all who help make STEPS a success year after year!

**Dr. Jen Picarsic** created a new Pathology Mini-Elective for MS1 medical students entitled, “Approaching Pediatric Disease through the Microscope: A Window into the Role of Pediatric Pathology in the Diagnosis of Childhood Disease.” If any faculty member is interested in creating a new Pathology Mini-Elective, please contact Dr. DeFrances for more information.



# Pathology Faculty Mentorship Program



Wednesday, November 7, 2018  
4-5 pm  
Room 520 EEIP (Eye & Ear Board Room)

## Assembling a Mentoring Team for Clinical and Research Faculty in Pathology

**Ora Weisz, PhD**

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Excellence  
Associate Dean for Faculty Development  
University of Pittsburgh

For purposes of planning, please RSVP to Mrs. Karen Weber, [weberkm@upmc.edu](mailto:weberkm@upmc.edu); 412-624-7897. Please free to submit in advance any questions or topics you would like to see addressed, and your primary role(s) (clinician, educator, research). There will be additional opportunities for written and oral questions at the end of the session.

\*\*\*\*\*

For those viewing through the webinar:

**Registration URL: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4867882516847075843>**

- Please register for the live Webinar as soon as possible
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
- You will be prompted to download the CitrixOnline application and install on your PC or Laptop
- Please contact your local PC Support if you need help installing the application or Ishtiaque Ahmed ([ahmedi@upmc.edu](mailto:ahmedi@upmc.edu)) for questions.
- **NOTE:** If possible, use Telephone/Speakerphone and dial in instead of using desktop/laptop speakers for better audio quality. Telephone/Speakerphone Audio option is shown right at the Click to Join Webinar prompt.

Questions or comments?

**Charleen Chu, MD, PhD**

Vice Chair, Pathology Faculty Mentorship

[ctc4@pitt.edu](mailto:ctc4@pitt.edu)

# PUBLICATIONS

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## UNITED WAY NEW INITIATIVE

A new initiative has been established for helping the United Way campaign.. Read more here...

**Hoodies for the Holidays event at Heinz Field** The event will be tailgate themed with several activities, such as cornhole, giant Jenga, Connect Four, and more! For a student in United Way's Be a Middle School Mentor program, a new college hoodie provides more than warmth. It inspires them to show the world they see themselves as a future college

student and graduate. Donate a hoodie which will be given to middle school students, **new ,adult Medium and Large are the recommended sizes, but all sizes of new with tags college, university, or technical school hoodies will be accepted.**

There are several ways you can participate:

1. [Register here](#) attend the November 28<sup>th</sup> event at Heinz Field.
2. If you cannot attend, but would like to donate \$30 for a hoodie, [donate online](#) to Agency code 11936820, the United Way Good Neighbor Center

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ANY PARTICIPATION !



## PRESENTATIONS

### **Rita Alaggio, M.D.**

Pathology Grand round Children's Hospital Los Angeles October 8<sup>th</sup> 2018: Soft tissue sarcomas in the first year of life.

Paediatric Pathology Society (PPS), Paris. Annual Meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> ,2018: Recent Advances in molecular diagnosis of pediatric sarcomas.

EpSSG Spring Meeting 2018: Inflammatory Myofibroblastic tumors, a reappraisal.

### **Anette Duensing, M.D.**

Facing Sarcoma Together, Patient and Caregiver Education Forum, National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Pittsburgh, PA April 21, 2018.

### **Chenquan Zhao, M.D.**

The consideration of cervical cancer screening in China. Annual Meeting of Guangzhou Gynecological/Obstetrical Society, Guangzhou, China, Sep 21-23, 2018.

Challenging for Pathologists to Interpret ASC-H, AGC Pap Tests. JeJiang Province cytopathology Annual QA Meeting, Sept 14-16, 2018.

Cervical cancer screening risk stratification: TBS reporting rate, HPV detection, and histological correlation JeJiang Province cytopathology Annual QA Meeting, Sept 14-16, 2018.

Special Conference: Glandular lesions in Pap test. Changsha, Hunan, China Sept 8-9, 2018.

**Nadia Habib-Bein, M.D.** (pictured here with her husband and Dr. Michalopoulos) has retired from the VA Health System and was recognized at the Department of Pathology faculty meeting on October 26, 2018.



**\*\*Wednesday, November 7, 2018 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**1104 Scaife Hall**

**"Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease"**

**Thomas Montine, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Chair, Department of Medicine  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA

**\*\*Wednesday, November 14, 2018 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Lecture room 3 Scaife Hall**

**"Low Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening. Are we Detecting Clinically Significant Cancers?"**

**Eric Burks, M.D.**  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**\*\*Wednesday, December 5, 2018 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**1104 Scaife Hall**

**"Blood Brain Barrier Injury in Neuroinflammation: Mechanisms and Protective Strategies"**

**Yuri Persidsky, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

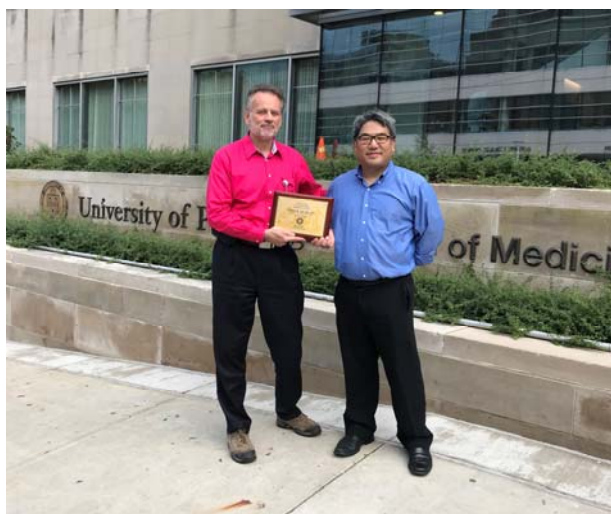
**1104 Scaife Hall**

**"Lineage Histories and Fate Decisions in Native Hematopoiesis"**

**Fernando Carmargo, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology  
Harvard  
Cambridge, MA

**\*Broadcast live and posted**

**\*\* Broadcast only**



**Wednesday, October 10, 2018 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Annual Martinez Memorial Lecture**

**1104 Scaife Hall**

**"Pleiotropy in Frontotemporal Degeneration"**

**Edward B. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania

***PLEASE SEND  
NEWSWORTHY ITEMS AS  
THEY HAPPEN TO:  
szalkuskict@upmc.edu  
Thank you.***



## CME Credit Update

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education for the Health Sciences CME transcripts can be obtained via the Internet at [ccehs.upmc.edu](http://ccehs.upmc.edu). Click on link "Credit Transcripts" enter the required information (last name, last five digits of social security number). 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. Credits from other institutions can be entered using the option "add/modify" credit information. For questions about the Continuing Medical Education Credits, please contact 412.647.8232.

## Educational Credit Unit Update

Just a reminder that the Educational Credit Units (ECUs) are being collected from every faculty member who has been involved with teaching activities for the medical or graduate school programs from **July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**. We have initiated a web-page (see directions for access to page on Page 7 to collect teaching as it happens. The School of Medicine will be asking for the information in July. If you have any questions please contact Chris Szalkuski at [szalkuskict@upmc.edu](mailto:szalkuskict@upmc.edu).

## Publication Notification Process Update

This is a reminder the Dean has requested a Notification of Publication form for each manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The notification ensures compliance with human and animal research policies, technology transfer/patent guidelines and the requirements for citation of grant support. It also allows for newsworthy publications to be passed onto the University media. Please submit preprint information via the website at: <https://pnf.hs.pitt.edu>. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Szalkuski at [szalkuskict@upmc.edu](mailto:szalkuskict@upmc.edu).

## Veteran's Day Sunday, November 11, 2018

Honoring Our Veterans at the University of Pittsburgh Exhibit Tour

November 7, 2018 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

Presented by the University Library System and Office of Veterans Services

### *Location and Address*

Hillman Library – Amy E. Knapp Room

