

VCU Department of Pathology

2006 Annual Report



View from the Chair...

Education is a major mission of the Department of Pathology. All activities in our department support our commitment to providing an excellent educational environment for the training of future pathologists, research scientists, physicians, and other healthcare providers. Members of our faculty are consistently regarded as dedicated contributors to the undergraduate medical curriculum. The School of Medicine formally recognized eight members of our faculty during the Seventh Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program for excellence in teaching. **Best Teacher in the Course Awards** were presented to Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, PhD (M-I Human Genetics); Jonathan Ben-Ezra, MD (M-II Hematology/Oncology); Enrique Gerszten, MD (M-II Pathogenesis Course Lab Teaching); Nitya R. Ghatak, MD (M-II Pathogenesis Course Lab Teaching); Margaret M. Grimes, MD (M-II Pathology Teaching); H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD, DDS (M-II Pathology Teaching). **Faculty with High Evaluation Awards** were presented to Melissa J. Contos, MD (M-II Gastrointestinal Course); H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD, DDS (M-II Renal Course); and William I. Rosenblum, MD (M-II Pathology Teaching). We salute these master teachers for this well-deserved recognition.

Every member of our faculty makes a significant contribution to the teaching mission of the Department of Pathology. During the past year, our faculty provided 3,649 contact hours in formal, numbered courses; 1,452 additional lecture hours on the MCV Campus; and 202 outside lecture hours. In an environment where there is an ever-growing clinical service workload, our faculty averaged 13 hours each per week of teaching activity. This ongoing commitment to education defines us, and it will continue to be a major focus of our activity.

*David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD
Professor and Chairman*

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➤ **Lynne W. Elmore, PhD**, was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Pathology. Dr. Elmore is Co-Director of the Elmore/Holt Aging and Cancer Research Laboratory and a recent recipient of the prestigious National Cancer Institute Howard Temin Award.

➤ **William I. Rosenblum, MD**, Professor Emeritus Pathology, was named the 2006 recipient of the Eugene M. Landis Research Award. This award is given annually to an outstanding active investigator who has published innovative research in the field of microcirculation. The Landis Research Award was established in 1969 by the microcirculatory Society, which is dedicated to ongoing research efforts of scientists in fields of microcirculation, including microvascular disease. The Microcirculatory Society is the official sponsor of the Journal of Microcirculation, published eight times per year.

➤ **Youngman Oh, PhD**, was an invited Symposium Speaker and presented a lecture entitled "The role of IGFBP-3 in human disease" at The Endocrine Society's 87th Annual Meeting, San Diego, June 2005. Dr. Oh was invited to present a lecture entitled "IGFBP-3 induces caspase-dependent apoptosis through the newly identified IGFBP-3 receptor in human breast cancer cells" at The Era of Hope DOD Breast Cancer Research Program's Meeting in Philadelphia, June, 2005.



Alphonse E. Sirica, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Division of Cellular and Molecular Pathogenesis, and his staff of dedicated graduate students and post-doctoral researchers have established a remarkable record of funding by the National Institutes of Health. Their latest grant renewal for biliary cancer research confirms them as a consistent research program, funded continuously since 1981. The latest renewal will continue their funding through the year 2010. The current NIH grant renewal increases Dr. Sirica's resolve to find new therapeutic approaches to molecular targets for cancer treatment. Since this is a rare cancer and fewer dollars are spent on its research, his lab is one of the few centrally focused on unraveling the mysteries of bile duct cancer. He is also fueled by the stream of phone calls, e-mails, and letters from families affected by this cancer's sudden devastation without hope for a cure. Like other difficult to treat cancers, bile duct cancer is swift and insidious. During the next five years, the Sirica lab will focus on establishing pre-clinical models as platforms for testing new therapies in the hopes to generate viable and realistic data that allows medical researchers to justify the possibility of clinical trials and eventually offer more hope to victims and their families.



At the 11th annual meeting of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) held in the fall of 2005, Maria Fernanda Sábato, who has been a member of the AMP and an employee of the Department of Pathology since 2003, was chosen to receive the Young Investigator Award. The AMP selected Ms. Sábato for her recent poster presentation on "Simultaneous Detection of Two Polymorphisms of the Beta 2-Adrenergic Receptor (ADRB2) Influencing Drug Sensitivity in Asthma Patients."

WELCOME

The Department of Pathology extends a warm welcome to four new faculty members.

- Ema Berbescu, MD, specializing in Anatomic Pathology and Cytopathology, was hired on September 1, 2005 at the rank of assistant professor. She completed a fellowship in Cytopathology in our Department in June, 2005.
- Nooshin K. Brinster, MD, specializing in Dermatopathology, was hired to begin July 24, 2006 at the rank of assistant professor. She joins us from a faculty position at Harvard.
- Michael O. Idowu, MD, MPH, specializing in Anatomic Pathology, was hired at the rank of assistant professor. His start date was July 11, 2006. Dr. Idowu will support Radiology's breast imaging clinic.
- David C. Williams Jr., MD, PhD, specializing in Hematopathology. He began on July 1, 2006 at the rank of assistant professor. He completed a fellowship in hematopathology in our department in June, 2006.



Ema Berbescu, MD



Nooshin K. Brinster, MD



Michael O. Idowu,
MD, MPH



David C. Williams Jr.,
MD, PhD

Mini-Medical School

Dr. David Wilkinson, Chairman of Pathology, and **Dr. Joy Ware**, Professor of Pathology, serve as co-directors of the Mini-Medical School, an ongoing educational outreach program sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Science Museum of Virginia. This lecture series, held in the fall and the spring of each year at the Omni-max Theater, features VCU faculty offering one-hour seminars on a range of biomedical topics that are of interest to the community. Topics have ranged from cancer to biomedical ethics. In spring 2006, an average of 220 people attended each of the five seminars on the topic of "Healthy Aging." By organizing these programs and recruiting excellent VCU speakers, Drs. Wilkinson and Ware have provided the Richmond community the opportunity to meet individual VCU physicians and scientists and to gain up-to-date knowledge of critical health issues.



Marie Do, Pathology resident performs gross examination

FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

During the 7th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program sponsored by the School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University on October 12, 2005, eight Pathology faculty members were recognized for their excellence in teaching.

Outstanding Teacher Award in Undergraduate Medical Education

Best Teacher in the Course Awards

were presented to the following faculty:

- ▶ Jonathan Ben-Ezra, MD, for the M-II Hematology/Oncology Course
- ▶ Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, PhD, for the M-I Human Genetics Course
- ▶ Enrique Gerszten, MD, for the M-II Pathogenesis Course (Lab Teaching)
- ▶ Nitya R. Ghatak, MD, for the M-II Pathogenesis Course (Lab Teaching)
- ▶ Margaret M. Grimes, MD, for M-II Pathology Teaching
- ▶ H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD, DDS, for M-II Pathology Teaching

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

Faculty with High Evaluation Awards

were presented to the following faculty:

- ▶ Melissa J. Contos, MD, for the M-II Gastrointestinal Course
- ▶ H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD, DDS, for the M-II Renal Course
- ▶ William I. Rosenblum, MD, for M-II Pathology Teaching

Congratulations to these dedicated educators!



Above: Drs. Rosenblum, Ghatak and Massey pose for a group photo following the 2005 Teaching Awards

"The School of Medicine (SOM) Teaching Awards Program honors faculty members for excellence in the achievement of our educational mission."



Above: Dr. Colleen Jackson-Cook, Drs. Massey and Ghatak (right)

Below: Drs. Gerszten and Ben-Ezra



➤ The Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship has been fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). This recent accreditation is due to the dedication of **Carleton T. Garrett, MD, PhD**, former Chair of the Division of Molecular Diagnostics, **Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, PhD**, Director of the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, and the entire Molecular Diagnostics staff. Their commendable efforts have created a superior learning environment for residents and fellows. This effort has been duly acknowledged by the ACGME giving the fellowship training program a full 5-year accreditation.

➤ Thirty-five medical students recently earned membership in the Pathology Honor Society which celebrates the academic achievements of second year medical school students in the M-II Pathogenesis Course which is directed by **Enrique Gerszten, MD**, Professor of Pathology, Vice Chair, Pathology Education Programs.

➤ The Hematopathology Fellowship was fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) effective April 1, 2005. This accreditation is due to the dedication of **Dr. Jonathan Ben-Ezra, MD**, Director Hematology Laboratory, **Dr. Roger Riley, MD, PhD**, Director Coagulation Laboratory, Manager **Jean Willoughby, MT(ASCP)** and the entire Hematology staff. They have created a learning environment in which residents and fellows can excel, and their efforts have been duly acknowledged by the ACGME in their giving the fellowship training program the full 5-year accreditation.



(left to right)
RoseAnne Weidner MT(ASCP) with
Dr. Susan Roseff

J. Clinton Brown Awards

Each spring, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, School of Allied Health Professions, recognizes the contributions of Outstanding Clinical Instructors. These instructors are laboratory professionals who make a real difference in the lives of the students they teach in the clinical laboratories.

The MCV School of Medical Technology established the J. Clinton Brown Award in 1981 as a tribute to Mr. Brown's excellence in teaching MT students and pathology residents during their rotations in the Toxicology Department. Each year, the senior class nominates and votes for the clinical instructor who epitomizes outstanding teaching abilities and contributions to the education of clinical laboratory sciences students during their clinical rotations.

RoseAnn Weidner, Medical Technologist, Transfusion Medicine Laboratory received the award for outstanding clinical instructor from the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Class of 2006.

Pathology Electives for Medical Students

Eleven distinct Pathology electives (Diagnostic Hematology, Clinical Microbiology, Autopsy Pathology, Applied Transfusion Medicine, Forensic Pathology, Surgical Pathology Subspecialties, Paleopathology, Molecular Diagnostics Practicum, Effective Use of Laboratory, Diagnostic Hematology Internship, Transfusion Medicine Internship) were provided for 48 medical students.

Welcome New Residents and Fellows!

PGY-1

- Ashish Barman, MD
University of Virginia School of Medicine, 2006
- Hee Sung Kim, MD
Seoul National University, 1999
- Guanhua Lai, MD, PhD
Shanghai Second Medical Univ., 1997
- Emerald O'Sullivan-Mejia, MD
Eastern Virginia Medical School, 2006
- Kimberly Stogner, MD
Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine, 2006

PGY-2

- Aileen Buckler, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, 1999
- James Fulcher, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, 2004

Cytopathology Fellows

- Dan Klink, MD
VCU Pathology Residency, 2006
- Shah Giasuddin, MBBS
Barisal Medical College University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1994

Surgical Pathology Fellow

- Jean Thomsen, MD
University of Nebraska College of Medicine, 2001

Molecular Diagnostics Fellow

- Ranjitha Veerappan, MBBS
JSS Medical College, Mysore, India, 1999

Hematopathology Fellow

- Micaela Ross, MD
Wake Forest University School of Medicine, 2001

Chief Residents for 2006 - 2007



Dr. A. Scott Mills instructs resident Saud Rahman

Graduation Banquet June 1, 2006

On June 1, 2006 the Department of Pathology held its annual Graduation Banquet to honor graduating and departing faculty, residents, fellows and doctoral candidates.

Each year's banquet concludes with the presentation of special awards for dedication and excellence (next page).

Retiring Faculty: Carleton T. Garrett, MD, PhD

Graduating Residents and Fellows

Paul Benson, MD
Jennifer Daniel-Johnson, MD
Robert Franklin, MD
Toby Gray, MD
Vasavi Kaliki, MD
Daniel Klink, MD
Seshamma Reddy, MD, PhD
Micaela Ross, MD
Kimberly Sanford, MD
Erin Thibault, MD
Jean Thomsen, MD
Darin Trelka, MD, PhD
Lisa Warren, MD
David Williams, MD, PhD

We wish them well in their future endeavors!

PATHOLOGY AWARDS - 2006

The **Lyman Research Fellow Award** was presented to Kimberly Sanford by David Wilkinson, MD, PhD. This award recognizes demonstrated excellence in Pathology research.

The **Clinical Pathology Service Award**, presented by Richard McPherson, MD, went to Patrick McDonough. Created in 2002, it is given to a resident who demonstrates excellence in Clinical Pathology Service.

The **Fergus O'M Shiel Award** was presented by Enrique Gerszten, MD, and Dr. Kas Angela Brosnan to two residents:

Robert Franklin & Micaela Ross

Fergus Shiel was a long-serving member of the faculty and Director of Pathology Education programs. The award was created in 1995 to honor his dedication as a teacher and is given to a resident who demonstrates skill and dedication in teaching medical students.

The **Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Award** was awarded to Saud Rahman and Marigny Roberts by H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD, DDS. Charles Moncure was a member of the faculty and Director of Autopsy Service for many years. The award was created in 1999, and a faculty member awards it to a resident who shows dedication and enthusiasm on the Autopsy Service.

The **Saul Kay Award** was bestowed upon **Susan D. Roseff, MD**, by this year's graduating residents. The Saul Kay Award, named after Dr. Saul Kay, Professor Emeritus in surgical pathology, recognizes effectiveness and unique dedication in resident teaching. Previous recipients are:

Margaret M. Grimes, MD, 2005
Roger S. Riley, MD, PhD, 2004
Kristin A. Atkins, MD, 2002 and 2003
Barbara Amaker, MD, 2001
Celeste N. Powers, MD, PhD, 2000
Margaret M. Grimes, MD, 1999
William J. Frable, MD, 1998
Nitya R. Ghatak, MD, 1997
Saul Kay, MD, 1996
Fergus O'M Shiel, MD, 1995



Lyman Research Fellow Award



Clinical Pathology Service Award



Fergus O'M Shiel Award



Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Award



The 2006 Saul Kay Award presented to Susan D. Roseff, MD, by graduating residents

- **Susan D. Roseff, MD**, was a member, Blood Safety and Availability Committee, Department of Health and Human Services; and served on the Abstract Selection Committee, ASFA (American Society for Apheresis). She spoke at the annual AABB meeting in Seattle, Washington, October 17, 2005 on the topic "The Transfusion Committee as an Agent of Change: Can Transfusion Practice be Changed?"
- **Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, PhD**, presented "Molecular Diagnostics of BKV Viral Infection in Transplant Patients" at the American Association for Chemical Chemistry 2005 Annual Meeting, July 17, 2005. She presented "Quality Control and Quality Assurance in Molecular Diagnostics: Cool Tools for Nucleic Acids" at the American Association for Chemical Chemistry 2006 San Diego Meeting, March 2006. She was elected president for the Association for Molecular Pathology and Chair of the Nominating Committee for the American Association Clinical Chemistry.
- **Margaret M. Grimes, MD**, Professor of Pathology, was named in the April 2006 edition of Richmond Magazine featured "Top Docs" from the area as selected by their peers.
- **Lynne Elmore, PhD, and Shawn Holt, PhD**, have served as mentors for Sohini Sircar in the Maggie Walker Governor's School Mentorship Program. Sohini's research this past year has given her the opportunity to participate in nine regional, state, national, and international science competitions. Among her top recognitions, she placed first at the Metro Richmond Science Fair, first at Virginia Junior Academy of Science, and fourth at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.
- **Greg Miller, PhD**, was appointed Treasurer of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute in 2006. Dr. Miller was appointed Chair of the Laboratory Working Group of the NIH National Kidney Disease Education Program in 2005.
- **Alphonse Poklis, PhD**, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, was also named to serve on the Virginia Commonwealth Department of Forensic Science Scientific Advisory Board.



Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, PhD, received special recognition at the Virginia Commonwealth University Founder's Day Alumni Stars Awards dinner as the sole recipient of the Humanitarian Achievement Award. She is a Professor of Pathology and Director of the Cytogenetics Laboratories. Her primary research interests are focused on Down Syndrome and Mosaic Down Syndrome, as well as the emergent area of Chromosomal Changes in Aging. Dr. Jackson-Cook's current grant research projects for which she is either principal or co-investigator, total over \$3.1 million.

Dr. Jackson-Cook with Dr. Eugene P. Trani, President VCU
(photo reprinted with permission of VCU Alumni Association)

- **Susan D. Roseff, MD**, Medical Director of Transfusion Medicine, and Associate Professor of Pathology, has been appointed as the Executive Editor for the “Check Sample” publication of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Dr. Roseff has been the editor of the Transfusion Medicine section for the past six years, co-editor for the last two years.
- **Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, PhD**, served as a “client/adviser” to a group of students from Deep Run High School Technology Center in the development of a website as part of the students' curriculum. The VCU Molecular Diagnostics Clinical Trial Services web site was designed by students Constanza Gonzalez, Steven Seal, Scheil Rostami, and Jason Eaheart Center for Information Technology, Deep Run High School, Class of 2007. The website can be visited at <http://www.pathology.vcu.edu/clinical/moldx/index.html>.
- **Margaret M. Grimes, MD**, served as Chair, ACGME Residency Review Committee for Pathology (2005-2007). She was Vice Chair, RRC Subcommittee for Dermatopathology (2004-2007). Furthermore, she was Co-Chair, ACGME ad hoc Committee to Reconcile Institutional and Common Program Requirements (2005-2006) and selected as Finalist, ACGME Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award, 2005.
- **David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD**, served as President, Association of Pathology Chairs, 2004-2006. Dr. Wilkinson presented "The Future of Pathology" symposium in honor of the opening of the New Departmental Space, Department of Pathology, University of Massachusetts on November 11, 2005.
- **Alphonse Sirica, PhD**, presented a one hour lecture titled “Overview of Cancer Research: Pathobiology and Molecular Therapeutics” to members of the Junior and Senior Biology Class at Benedictine High School, Richmond, Virginia on May 16, 2006.
- **Celeste N. Powers, MD, PhD**, Professor of Pathology and Chair, Division of Anatomic Pathology, has been named Paul Brindley Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2006-2007. The professorship was set up in honor of Paul Brindley, a beloved teacher of pathology and former chair at University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) and recognizes an eminent pathologist, well known for scholarship in the field, but also, importantly, someone with a real gift for teaching. Dr. Powers will give a guest lecture to first-year medical students during their General Pathology course next year. She served as Director of the USCAP Cytopathology course in 2005.
- **Roger S. Riley, MD, PhD**, was a member of the Resident Inservice Examination (RISE) Committee, American Society for Clinical Pathology. He was an invited speaker at the Central Virginia Association of Neonatal Nurses (CVANN Annual Meeting); Richmond Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists; Tumor Board, Thomas Johns Cancer Center, Chippenham & Johnston-Willis Hospital. He served on the Editorial Advisory Board, Journal of Clinical Laboratory Analysis.
- **Lynne Elmore, PhD**, was one of two keynote speakers for the Annual Pugwash Conference held at the Maggie Walker Governor's School in April 2006. Her lecture was entitled “Stem Cells and Cloning: Science or Science Fiction”. She serves as a research mentor in the Honors Summer Undergraduate Research Program (HSURP) at VCU beginning June 2006.



Clinical Laboratory Scientists in Department of Pathology laboratories celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 23-29, 2006, with educational, social, and community service activities. Department of Pathology employees donated over 374 items, including stuffed toys, books, crayons, and \$280 in cash and gift cards in support of the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer (ASK).



OUTREACH REPORT

During FY06, Pathology Outreach will open its second free-standing Patient Service Center at 105 Wadsworth Way off Midlothian Turnpike. This new PSC will offer convenient access with no wait time for area patients referred by VCUHS and community physicians for clinical laboratory, Employee Drug Testing, and paternity testing. Outreach, working with the LIS staff, is testing Cerner's e-PathLink that will enable clients to use the internet for inquiry on laboratory results and to order tests on their patients via an internet server. Testing is currently being conducted in two *alpha* sites, and implementation will begin with other clients in 2007.

The Outreach Program is in the final stages of negotiation with a commercial courier service to provide local, long distance, daily and on-demand courier services, with an anticipated \$80,000 in savings during FY07. The Department of Pathology, in partnership with the VCU Telemedicine Clinic, has negotiated a contract with the Virginia Department of Corrections to provide testing for 1600 inmates housed throughout the state and who are seen at VCU via the Telemedicine Clinic. This approach keeps the EMR intact for VCU healthcare providers. In August 2006, the new printed edition of the VCU Department of Pathology Laboratories Directory will become available.

Department of Pathology

Goals for 2006-2007

► Research

Improve infrastructure, which facilitates research in a collaborative environment. Continue to build the tissue-banking infrastructure for use as an institutional research resource. Improve applications of informatics through training and personnel development.

► Clinical Service

Control costs by consolidating vendor relationships, improving utilization control, and using information services to improve operational efficiencies. Enhance revenues through increased outreach business. Improve the overall work environment by focusing upon recruitment and retention of the highest quality workforce. Improve customer service to all constituencies.

► Education

Increase contact hours by involving more faculty and residents in teaching activities, to include formal courses, electives, and conferences. Enhance the pathology curriculum. Improve teaching materials and technologies used in teaching.

► Administration

Improve all functional areas of Pathology Administration - which include Finance, Billing, Personnel, Operations, Grants Administration, and Outreach Support - to ensure optimal support of established strategic initiatives in Pathology Research, Clinical Service, and Education. Proposed improvements focus upon space, training, personnel development, and technology enhancements.

The Pathology SCOPE Annual Report is a production of the Department of Pathology.

Your submissions are encouraged. Please send news and information to:

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(pictured from left to right)

Jason P. Nagy
Shelby A. Taylor
Nazar A. Mohammadali

Department of Pathology Awards
Clinical Laboratory Sciences
2005-2006 Scholarship Winners
\$10,000

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On the Cover

One of the many factors distinguishing Department of Pathology faculty is their impressive array of publications. VCU Pathology faculty members have had leadership roles, either as authors or editors, in major reference manuals, scholarly journals, and medical textbooks. In an effort to showcase this highly talented group of clinicians, educators, and researchers, fifteen authoritative publications authored or edited by VCU Pathology faculty are highlighted in this mosaic. Visit our web site for a larger image and complete listing.