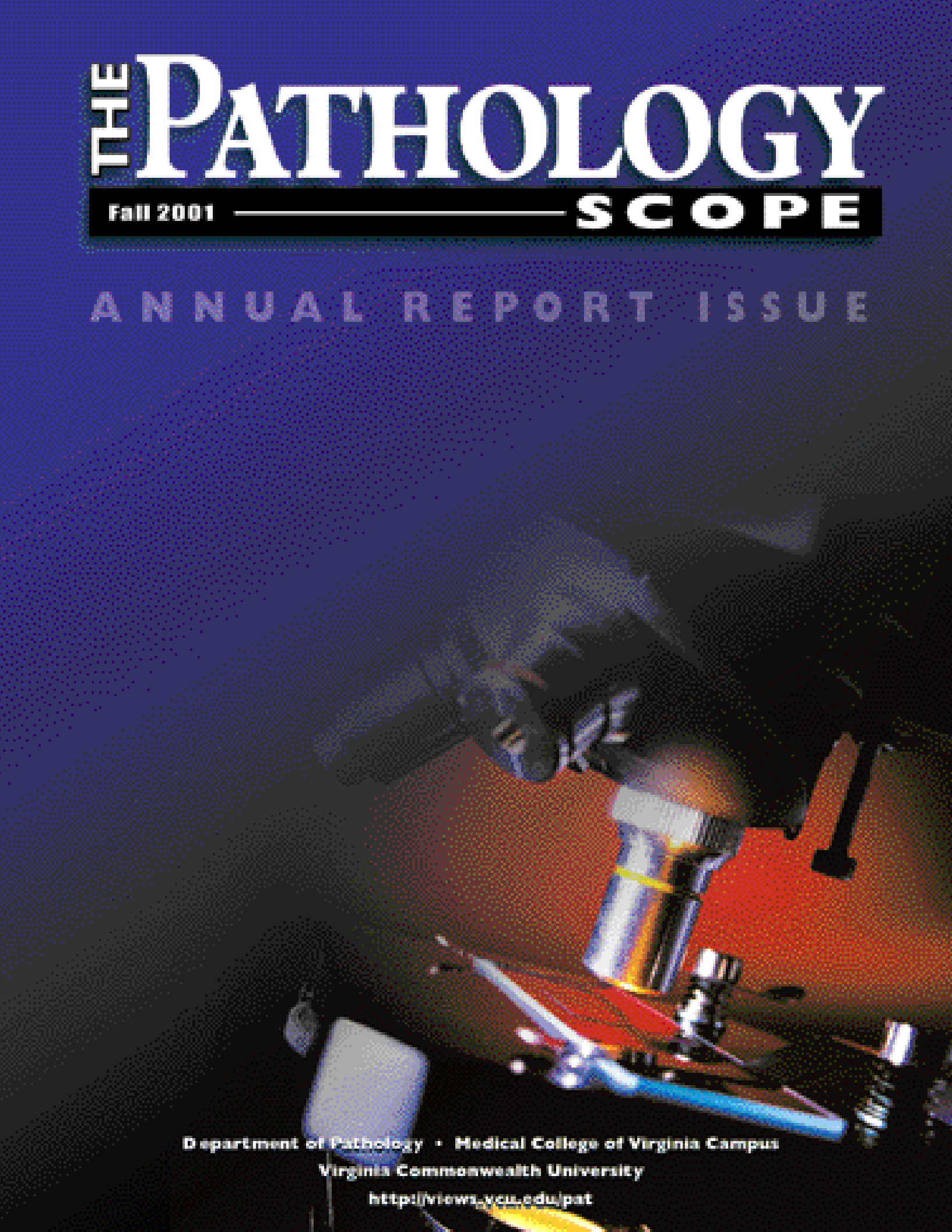


THE PATHOLOGY

Fall 2001

SCOPE

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



Department of Pathology • Medical College of Virginia Campus
Virginia Commonwealth University
<http://views.vcu.edu/pat>

IEW FROM THE CHAIR

Those familiar with the Pathology Scope will recognize that this issue represents a slight departure from our usual presentation of news and information about the Department of Pathology. We would like this edition of the newsletter to serve as an “Annual Report” of sorts, to share with our readers some of our accomplishments during the last fiscal year and some of our goals for the upcoming year. As you know, we are a large and diverse department, with overlapping enterprises in education, research, and clinical service. During the past year, we have made significant progress in all of these areas.

Our department is recognized throughout the VCU Health System for excellence in teaching, for providing outstanding diagnostic and laboratory service to our patients and physicians, and for strong programs of sponsored research. Our stewardship over the VCUHS Clinical Laboratories is well recognized. The responsiveness of our physicians to clinical needs sets the standard for consultation in this medical center. Our funded research enterprise is growing. We have cutting edge programs in cancer research, functional genomics and proteomics. We recently opened one of the largest and most sophisticated university-based molecular diagnostics laboratories in the country. Our physicians and scientists are leaders in setting national and international practice standards in surgical pathology, cytopathology, transfusion medicine, hematology, microbiology, clinical chemistry, and toxicology.

As an example of our national and international recognition, Pathology faculty members co-edited and contributed generously to the two major textbooks used by practicing pathologists today, “The Principles and Practice of Surgical Pathology” and “Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods”. Whenever national pathology meetings are held, our faculty are always present on the programs. In the past three years, the VCUHS has invested over ten million dollars in our department to support our Functional Genomics Program, a new laboratory information system, a new Molecular Diagnostics laboratory, and space in the Gateway Building which will house Surgical and Cytopathology and Transfusion Medicine.

These investments would never have materialized without a demonstrated pattern of continued success at all levels. This success would not be possible without the dedication and professionalism of our outstanding faculty members, residents, technologists, directors, managers, supervisors, and employees at every level. Because of our vitality and commitment to the highest standards of excellence, we continue to attract the best and brightest people to our programs. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve this department as chairman, and I wish to acknowledge and thank each and every person associated with the Department of Pathology for their commitment.

David S. Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

Administrator’s Corner

Pathology at VCU ended the last academic and fiscal year in good standing. Our finances remain solid and we are moving forward in many areas. But our work life, much like our home life, is filled with change and pluses and minuses. Over the past year the department saw several faculty members leave and move on to other opportunities. Many Pathology staff members, clinical, non-clinical and administrative, also departed our midst. Those of us who remain frequently have to fill those holes. But such is the nature of our profession and academic medical centers in general. Nothing stays the same for very long. This churning of faculty and staff, moreover, gives us the

opportunity to be reborn every now and again, as we grow and evolve into something new and hopefully something much better. Our outlook as we enter another year of great change must be positive. As new faculty and staff join us they will bring a wealth of new ideas and perspectives that we can meld with our existing strengths. We will emerge stronger and better. Our vision is “to become a preeminent Department of Pathology in the United States.” And every time we search for someone new to join us we take a step closer to realizing that vision.

Jeffrey Casterline
Administrator

Overall Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2001

- The Department continues to engage the faculty and executive management in an ongoing Strategic Planning program which most recently developed a comprehensive plan for a strengthened and integrated research enterprise.
- The Cerner Laboratory Information System became fully operational in a live environment, giving the Department of Pathology a powerful tool for clinical testing and specimen processing.
- Our faculty were extremely productive, providing a total of 964 formal contact hours and 1242 lecture contact hours within the School of Medicine. Their scholarly productivity included 64 peer-reviewed publications, nine book chapters, one book, and 72 abstracts. They served on 26 editorial review boards and reviewed 355 manuscripts.
- The newly redesigned Pathology web page won recognition with an "Honorable Mention for Best Departmental Web Page" at the Pathology Informatics Conference in Pittsburgh.

Educational Accomplishments

- The Department established an annual award for resident research.
- We developed a new fellowship in Molecular Diagnostics
- The resident evaluation process has been strengthened, with a faculty quarterly review now a routine part of the ongoing evaluation process.
- Teaching materials have been upgraded and improved in the teaching labs.
- Computer based instructional materials were developed for use on the internet and CD ROM.
- Creation of a new Pathology web site greatly enhances our ability to provide online Pathology education. Web pages have been developed for medical and dental students. Syllabi, course materials, PowerPoint lectures, schedules, and laboratory images are published online. Online forms for evaluating the lab supplements are also available, and an online calendar is updated on a daily basis during lab weeks so that students have a convenient online reference for assignments and schedules.



Research Accomplishments

- Our research programs were strengthened with significant capital equipment acquisitions, including a MALDI mass spectrometer for analysis of proteins, the Affymetrix gene chip instrument, a tissue arrayer, a capillary electrophoresis instrument, and an automated sample preparation instrument.
- Funded research projects with direct and indirect costs of \$1,161,378 were in progress last year.
- The Functional Genomics Program was established under the leadership of Joy L. Ware, Ph.D. with financial support from VCU, the School of Medicine, the Department of Pathology, and the Massey Cancer Center. This is a multidisciplinary, multi-departmental research program.

Clinical Service Accomplishments

- We opened a state-of-the-art Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, a 6,000 square foot nucleic acid-based clinical testing facility in the Clinical Support Center.
- We secured a commitment of space and completed blueprints for the relocation and expansion of Transfusion Medicine, Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology in the Gateway Building.
- The Department completed the installation of the Cerner Millennium Laboratory Information System to support all areas of the anatomic and clinical pathology laboratories. We successfully implemented a conversion to the Cerner Blood Bank Millennium laboratory information system.

... Continued

- There was continued re-engineering, reorganization and consolidation of clinical laboratories including Specimen Processing, Toxicology, Clinical Chemistry, Special Studies, FIRM lab, and Histology. These moves were accomplished to better utilize space, staff, and instrumentation. These improvements also increased efficiency and reduced costs.
- Our Outreach Program expanded significantly with an increase in net revenue of almost one million dollars.
- We performed a comprehensive salary review of positions and salaries to address parity issues and create a more competitive recruitment position.
- A pneumatic tube carrier plan was implemented to meet the evolving specimen delivery needs of the Emergency Department and the ICU.
- Laboratory support was expanded for the new Oncology Clinic at Stony Point.
- Inpatient phlebotomy was transferred to nursing units with the elimination of eight FTE's.
- Our clinical laboratories earned a two-year accreditation from the College of American Pathologists following a successful comprehensive inspection.



VCU President Eugene Trani and Dr. David Wilkinson cut a ceremonial ribbon to dedicate the new Molecular Diagnostics Clinical lab

◆ Overall Goals for Fiscal Year 2002

- The Department of Pathology will provide high-quality, cost-effective pathology services in a manner that supports the patient care, research, and education missions of the VCUHS Academic Medical Center and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.
- The Department will continue to engage its faculty and managers in an ongoing strategic planning process to maintain a “living” and viable plan of operation in the critical areas of education, research, clinical service, and administration.
- We intend to continue utilizing the latest technology to educate residents and medical students.

▶ Educational Goals

Our goals in the area of education are to:

- Strengthen the resident training curricula in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology by improving rotation-specific objectives, skills checklists, pre- and post-tests, case-based tutorials, didactic teaching methods, advanced rotations in specialty areas, and feedback mechanisms.
- Improve performance in the resident match and attract an increased number of qualified resident applications.
- Improve the effectiveness of pathology education to medical students by upgrading digital imaging and computer-based learning.
- Expand and develop use of the internet for teaching and learning and to continue improving the educational content of the department's web pages.
- Explore and utilize new technologies in teaching.

Research Goals

Our goals in the area of research are to:

- Develop an enhanced collaborative environment within Pathology
- Develop an infrastructure to facilitate research
- Create a Grant Support mechanism
- Hire a grant administrator, to be used as a shared Pathology resource
- Educate faculty and residents in research and grantsmanship
- Focus future faculty recruitment on research potential in basic, clinical and translational research
- Add personnel to query and manage databases (programming and analysis), possibly at the faculty level
- Provide leadership for the Cancer Genomics Initiative

Clinical Service Goals

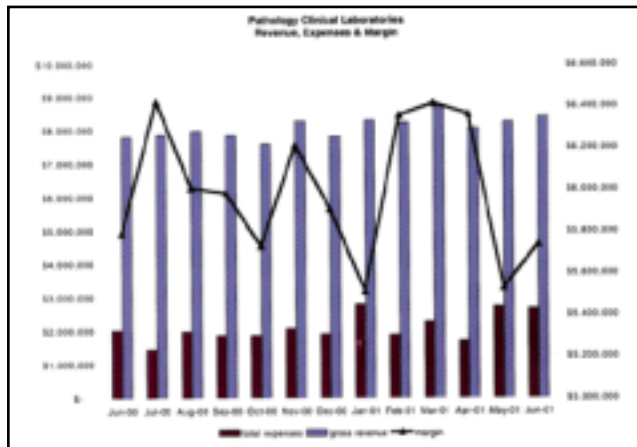
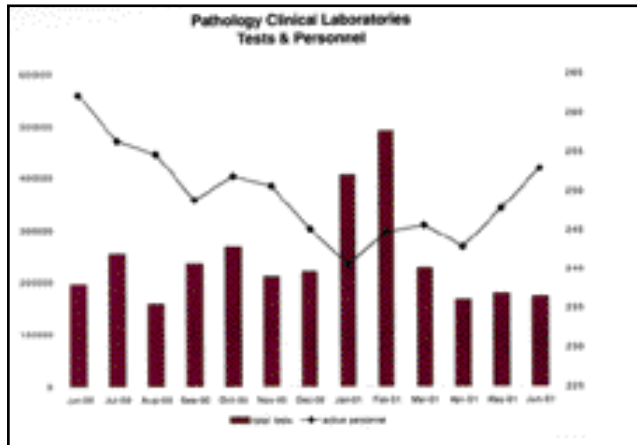
In laboratory service, we intend to:

- Implement two new clinical laboratories. An Ultra STAT Laboratory will reduce turnaround times for the Emergency Room and the ICU's. A redesigned OR laboratory, with Novas interfaced to the Cerner LIS, will provide new hematology and coagulation testing.
- Add new instrumentation and robotics in specimen processing and analytical areas of the laboratories to increase efficiency and decrease costs per test.
- Develop and implement a Recruitment and Retention Plan to ensure staffing of the laboratories with personnel of the highest caliber. We will continue working with Human Resources to analyze and adjust salaries to foster a competitive position in the personnel market.
- Successfully relocate Transfusion Medicine and Anatomic Pathology laboratories to the Gateway Building.
- Expand Outreach Programs, including an Outreach billing system, with the intention of adding an additional one million dollars of net revenue to the hospital's bottom line.
- Improve billing and collection procedures.
- Decrease billing errors.
- Stabilize and improve transcription support by adding home transcription capability to the Surgical Pathology laboratories.
- Provide leadership in the implementation of the Clinical Information System utilizing experience gained in implementing the Cerner Laboratory Information System.

Other Goals

- Continuously improve communications, flow of information, and business practices.
- Develop and implement uniform departmental administrative procedures.
- Coordinate internal pathology functions between VCU Health Systems and Virginia Commonwealth University policies and procedures.

Progress will be made in all areas through the thoughtful and deliberate approach to problem solving in a collaborative environment.



CLINICAL LABORATORY PERSPECTIVES

The Clinical Laboratories of the Department of Pathology have had a very successful year. We have seen an increase in testing volume and net revenue for the department, including nearly one million dollars of new Outreach revenue. Three new managers have joined our team, bringing strong leadership to help the laboratory operation move forward. We continue to improve the capabilities of our new Cerner Laboratory Information System (LIS), having recently added the Cerner Millennium in the Transfusion Medicine service. Two major challenges that we continue to face are “doing more with less” and increased competition for labor resources. We will continue to address these challenges with utilization of state-of-the-art instrumentation, automation, computers, and robotics. We are focusing on the needs of staff members by implementing a staff retention plan and making market adjustments in salaries to remain competitive. The major accomplishments for FY01 and the goals for FY02 give a snapshot of where we are going. We look forward to the challenges of this changing health care environment.

Thomas Dilts

Director of Laboratory Operations

Virginia's Commonwealth Technology Research Fund (CTRF) will provide nearly 1 million dollars per year for three years to a consortium comprised of Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University and the Inova health care system to evaluate gene expression and genetic changes in human brain, ovarian, breast, and hemolymphocytic cancers. There will be linkage of gene expression data and genetic changes to clinical findings in a common database. The linked data will be evaluated using bioinformatics to identify new diagnostic markers and prognostic indicators in the aforementioned cancers.

Dr. Carleton Garrett, Professor of Pathology and Chair of the Molecular Diagnostics Division has been selected to serve as Interim Project Director during the project's first year. The Department of Pathology is primarily responsible for establishment of a tissue bank to support testing for changes in gene expression in the human tumors. It will acquire residual specimens from patients undergoing surgery for treatment of any of the specified tumors. The Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory will perform some testing of residual specimens. Funding to Pathology for this project will be in the amount of \$273,436 for the first year, with a potential total of \$605,402 for three years.

Several of the Department's faculty will be involved in establishing a Tissue Bank, developing databases, performing data analysis, and creating a Quality Assurance (QA) program. Drs. Kristen Atkins, Celeste Powers and Margaret Grimes will provide key support and leadership in establishing the Tissue Bank. Dr. Suhail Nasim will join the faculty in December to participate in this effort. Dr. Greg Miller, the Department's director of Pathology Informatics will lead database development and data analysis efforts. Dr. Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez will provide leadership in QA for monitoring these complex testing processes.

“The CTRF Cancer Genomics Project provides the Department with a unique opportunity to develop infrastructure to support cutting edge research and to provide leadership in an important emerging area of clinical practice.” said Dr. Carleton Garrett, Interim Director of the CTRF Cancer Genomics Project.

GATEWAY PROGRESS

Work is progressing rapidly as the new Gateway Building nears completion. This is an especially exciting time for the Department of Pathology as we anticipate moving the Transfusion Medicine Service and the Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology Laboratories into custom designed space in the Gateway Building. In addition to the advantages of working in new and modern space, these laboratories will benefit through improved process flow and quicker turnaround times.

In the words of Judy Luck, Manager of our Anatomic Pathology labs, "The new Gateway space will place the laboratory closer to the patients we serve, most importantly in the OR. The open laboratory scheme will provide flexibility to reconfigure resources as needed. This open design will allow for ease in cross training laboratory staff, shared resources and reduced expenses."

Transfusion Medicine patients will benefit as well. "It will be much more convenient for our patients to get to the apheresis area once we move. The clinical environment will be considerably more accessible, and the apheresis patients will have a less stressful experience," according to Dr. Susan Roseff, Medical Director of Transfusion Medicine.

We are extremely optimistic that our employees will enjoy the improved working conditions. "This new facility will provide a recruitment and retention tool for our current and new employees by providing a pleasant work environment and a smoother, more efficient work flow. We are always looking at how we are doing things and identifying areas for improvement, and the Gateway design allows this flexibility," said Ms. Luck.

If progress continues at its current pace, we hope to have our laboratories relocated and fully functional within the Gateway Building by early spring of 2002.



SBRA Architects, Boston

HISTOLOGY LAB

The Histology Lab has begun using the Artisan Staining System by Cytologix. This is the latest generation of staining automation, providing us with the flexibility of manual staining coupled with the precision and consistency of automation. The Artisan system is designed to perform multiple special staining procedures simultaneously, thus freeing up valuable technician time and decreasing turnaround times.

FUNDING RESEARCH

In August, Dr. Alphonse Sirica was awarded a Merck Research Grant (MSGP#284c) in the amount of \$50,000 to investigate cyclooxygenase-2 in human and rat biliary carcinogenesis. The period covered by this award is August, 2001 through July, 2002.



MCVH Cytopathology To Offer Pap Smear Alternative

The Department's Cytopathology Lab will soon offer a liquid based monolayer technology as an alternative to the conventional pap smear. Tripath's Autocyte PREP has been selected as the collection system to improve technology in the procurement and preparation of gynecologic specimens. Studies done in other institutions with Autocyte PREP have indicated increased sensitivity in the diagnosis of squamous intraepithelial lesions, while experiencing a decrease in unsatisfactory and less than satisfactory gynecologic samples. When compared to others, Autocyte's stained preparations appear to more closely resemble conventional pap smears, while their enrichment process and differential centrifugation help eliminate obscuring material and increase the concentration of abnormal cells. In addition, Tripath has the only FDA approved automated screening system which can be directly linked with their monolayer preparation system. Preliminary studies have also indicated there is adequate residual specimen in Autocyte vials after processing to satisfy HPV hybrid capture studies, which can be used for additional testing. All these factors will enhance patient results and facilitate optimal care and management. Cytopathology has obtained the help of Amanda Richards, M.D., Co-Director of Women's Health at Stony Point, an outreach facility of MCVH, in the collection of samples for the validation process with this new technology, which will be completed this year.

Residents and Fellows

The Department's Residency Program and Fellowship Programs continued to provide outstanding educational opportunities for trainees during the academic year 2000-2001. Recent events have given faculty and house staff the chance to reflect on their accomplishments and plan for the future.

On June 14, 2001, the annual Graduation Banquet was held at the Capital Club to honor those trainees finishing residencies, fellowships and doctoral programs. Faculty from each division joined graduate students and house staff in wishing "bon voyage" to those who were leaving the Department, or staying with the Department in new capacities after completing their educational programs. It is at this event that the Department also traditionally recognizes outstanding contributions to the Department's educational mission. Historically, three awards have been bestowed; the Fergus O'M. Shiel Award for resident teaching excellence, the Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Autopsy Service Award, and the Saul Kay Award presented by graduating residents to the faculty member of their choice. This year, the Resident Research Award was added and will be given annually for outstanding resident work in scholarly activities. These awards were presented as follows:

- Fergus O'M. Shiel Award - David Rowe, M.D. (presented by Dr. Enrique Gerszten and Dr. Angela Brosnan (Mrs. Fergus Shiel))
- Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Autopsy Service Award - Rajat Goel, M.D. (presented by Dr. Nitya Ghatak)

- Saul Kay Award - Barbara Amaker, M.D. (presented by 2000-2001 graduating residents)
- Resident Research Award - Christine Cesca, M.D. (presented by Dr. Joy Ware)

The banquet honored those who were completing their time in one role and moving on, here or elsewhere. Honorees were:

- Eric Christiansen, M.D. finished his fellowship in Forensic Pathology and is now on staff with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond.
- Mary Mainland, M.D. completed her fellowship in Forensic Pathology and is now on staff with the Medical Examiner's Office of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.
- Kristen A. Atkins, M.D. finished her fellowship in Surgical and Cytopathology and joined the faculty of the VCU Department of Pathology as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Surgical and Cytopathology.
- Lampros S. Karageorge, M.D. finished his fellowship in Surgical and Cytopathology and is now a Pathologist at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Roanoke, Virginia.
- David Rowe, M.D. completed his residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is now a Dermatopathology Fellow with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.
- H. Davis Massey, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D. finished his

residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is now an Assistant Professor in the VCU Department of Pathology's Division of Surgical and Cytopathology.

- Cindy L. Holmes, M.D. finished her residency program in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology is now a Surgical and Cytopathology Fellow with our Department.
- Anna B. O'Grady, M.D. completed her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is now a Molecular Diagnostics Fellow with our Department.
- Priya Krishen, M.D. transferred to the Cleveland Clinic to finish her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

A short film produced by senior residents Rob Forsythe and Rajat Goel provided the evening's entertainment. "I feel privileged to have been present during a crucial point in American cinematic history," said one who was in attendance.

The Department is also pleased to welcome new residents and fellows that began their training this year. Unless otherwise noted, all new house staff started with our Department on July 1. They are:

- John Fernandes, M.D. - New Forensic Pathology Fellow

- Matt R. Foster, M.D. - New Surgical and Cytopathology Fellow
- Juan Perez-Berenguer, M.D. - Neuropathology Fellow (started January 1, 2001)
- James Christian, M.D. (PGY-3) - New AP/CP Resident
- Zach Ellis, M.D. (PGY-2) - New AP/CP Resident
- Rob Franklin, M.D. (PGY-1) - New AP/CP Resident
- Kim Sanford, M.D. (PGY-1) - New AP/CP Resident

This year's welcome picnic was held at Deep Run Park in Henrico County on Saturday, August 4th. The Chief Residents, Drs. Rob Forsythe and Dawn Pavot did an outstanding job in organizing the event and creating an atmosphere conducive to an enjoyable experience for all present.

The Department's Graduate Medical Education Programs continue to draw talented graduates from respected educational institutions. The collegial atmosphere that we create as a Department and the excellent education we are able to provide have distinguished the programs.

Rob Ferguson
Coordinator, Pathology Resident Training Program

elcome New Employees

Please join us in welcoming the following new employees to the Department of Pathology, and help us make them feel at home in their new positions.

Kwame Asante, Microbiology; **Clarice Baker**, Outreach; **Lucy Boyd**, Chemistry; **Elijah Cheeks**, Toxicology; **James Ellis**, Transfusion Medicine; **Tony Ferrell**, Hematology; **Terisa Greene-Potter**, Functional Genomics; **Dan Holmes**, Anatomic Pathology; **Edward Jamelarin**, Transfusion Medicine; **Nadia Jones**, Chemistry; **Pamela Lewis**, Hematology; **Geraldine Lightfoot**, Outreach; **Donna Lightner**, Microbiology; **Sophie Liu**, Functional Genomics; **Megan Low**, Microbiology; **Rayette Maddox**, Microbiology; **Sylvia Makoge**, Chemistry; **Tina Mehta**, Anatomic Pathology; **Ian Moreno**, Outreach; **Kelly Perkins**, Transcription; **Robin Reynolds**, Transcription; **Damon Robinson**, Outreach; **Astrid Rogers**, Transfusion Medicine; **Trevia Strandberry**, Specimen Processing; **Anthony Stroud**, Microbiology; **Karen Tinsley**, Client Services; **Jeffrey Wellman**, Transfusion Medicine.

Pathology Grand Rounds

Pathology Grand Rounds are held every Friday during the academic year at noon in Sanger Hall 4-026. We offer a diverse and distinguished lineup of guests this Fall speaking on a variety of relevant and timely topics. All are welcome to participate in this informative lecture series. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits are available.

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE
9/ 7	Steven Sawyer, Ph.D.	VCU	Extracellular Signaling in Determining Survival vs. Apoptosis and Proliferation versus Differentiation in Hematopoietic Cells; Actions of EPO
9/14	Shawn E. Holt, Ph.D.	VCU	Telomeres, Telomerase, and Human Cloning
9/ 21	Glen E. Kellogg, Ph.D.	VCU	Understanding Biological Function One Molecule at a Time. The Role of Computational Chemistry and Molecular Modeling
9/28	A. Scott Mills, M.D. Mitchell Schiffman, M.D.	VCU	Hepatitis C: Grading, Staging, and Treatment
10/5	Carolyn A. Price, Ph.D.	University of Cincinnati	Telomeres and Telomerase Regulation
10/12	Anthony Demetris, M.D.	VCU	The Role of IL-6 in Biliary Disease
10/19	Irene Newsham, PhD	Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan	The Membrane Associated Protein DAL-1 Modulates Growth in Breast and Brain Tumors
10/26	Raghu Mirmira, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Virginia	Transcriptional Regulation of Pancreatic Beta-Cell Differentiation
11/2	Roger Dodd, M.D.	American Red Cross, Rockville, MD	The Current State of Blood Safety
11/9	Jolene Windle, Ph.D.	VCU	Genetic Determinants of Tumor Properties in Transgenic Mice
11/16	Dominique Broccoli, Ph.D.	Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia	Telomere Dynamics in Aging and Cancer
11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Grand Rounds	
11/30	S. Perwez Hussain, Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute	P53 at the Cross Road of Molecular Carcinogenesis, Molecular Epidemiology and Human Risk Assessment
12/7	Harold S. Kaplan, M.D.	Columbia University	Error Management
12/14	George Vande Woude, M.D.	Van Andel Institute, Grand Rapids, MI	HGF/met in Human Malignancy

AWARDS

J. CLINTON BROWN AWARD

Kathy Corker, MT Senior in the Department of Pathology's Hematology Lab, recently received the J. Clinton Brown award. This award recognizes the clinical instructor who best demonstrates outstanding teaching abilities and contributions to the education of CLS students during their clinical rotation at MCVH. The recipient of this annual award is chosen by the CLS graduating class. Congratulations to Ms. Corker for this unique honor.

RSCLS AWARD OF MERIT

Ann Tidwell, MT Senior in the Hematology Lab, received the 2001 RSCLS Award of Merit. The Richmond Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists Award of Merit is awarded biannually. Nominations are solicited from the membership. The award recognizes a distinguished member who has given of his or her time and talent to further the professional goals of the society. Congratulations to Ms. Tidwell for her accomplishments.

Faculty Notes

Lisa A. Weymouth, Ph.D. earned academic promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Pathology effective July 1, 2001. In August, Dr. Weymouth retired to Key West, Florida. We thank her for her many contributions to the Department and wish her the best in her retirement.

H. Davis Massey, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D. joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Massey recently completed his combined AP/CP residency training in the Department of Pathology.

Kristen A. Atkins, M.D. joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Atkins recently finished her Cytopathology Fellowship in the Department of Pathology.

Alphonse E. Sirica, Ph.D. was the Organizer and Chair of a FASEB Summer Research Conference on Growth Factor Receptor Tyrosine Kinases in Mitogenesis, Morphogenesis, and Tumorigenesis held in Snowmass Village, Colorado August 4-9, 2001. This International Conference was sponsored by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and was supported in part by a NIH Conference Grant (Principal Investigator: A.E.Sirica) from the National Cancer Institute.

In June, 2001, **Dr Sirica** chaired and presented in a Session entitled "Malignant Transformation of Cholangiocytes" at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Single Topic Conference entitled "The Pathobiology of Biliary Epithelia". This International Conference was held at the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, Virginia June 7-10, 2001.

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Once again, graduates of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program at the Medical College of Virginia Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University achieved outstanding success on the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Board of Registry Medical Technologist Certification Examination. Of the examinees tested in the most recent examination cycle, six of the top twenty scoring individuals in the nation, including the highest score, were graduates of the CLS program at VCU. The individuals and their rank are as follows:

Anthony Stroud Placed 1st
Donald Bowling Placed 5th
Megan Low Placed 6th
Justin Dalton Placed 14th
Jennifer Runion Placed 18th
Shari Scott Placed 19th

In addition to these six individuals, the entire CLS graduating class of 2001 deserves recognition. The ASCP certification examination is highly competitive with only 78% of the examinees attaining a passing score during the period of this review. The CLS class of 2001 from VCU not only surpassed this passing rate, but three-quarters of the class scored higher than the average score of all first time candidates nationwide. In fact the cumulative program mean was 69 points above the national average. Please join in extending our congratulations and best wishes to all of these very talented new laboratorians.

In Remembrance

Robert Kevin Brown, Medical Technologist in the Specimen Processing area, passed away on July 9, 2001. Mr. Brown, born June 2, 1955, was a twenty five year employee of MCV Hospitals. The fifth of seven children of the late Paschal and Lorraine Brown, he was a graduate of John Marshall High School in Richmond, Virginia where he was captain of the cadet corps. He was a devoted member of the music ministry and the usher's ministry at Trinity Baptist Church. Mr. Brown will be remembered as a dedicated employee and a devoted co-worker. His positive attitude and encouraging demeanor will be sadly missed by his many friends here in the Department of Pathology.

THE PATHOLOGY SCOPE

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following individuals for contributing to this issue of the Pathology Scope: Violet Brown, Jeffrey Casterline, Thomas Dilts, Rob Ferguson, Enrique Gerszten, Margaret Grimes, Ann Harris, Shawn Holt, Pat Johnson, Garry Land, Barbara Lindsey, Judy Luck, Mary Ann Pedigo, Debbie Reynolds, Carol Rodgers, Susan Roseff, Alphonse Sirica, Joy Ware, and David Wilkinson

Your Contributions are Encouraged
Please send news and information to:
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