

THE PATHOLOGY

FALL 2000

SCOPE

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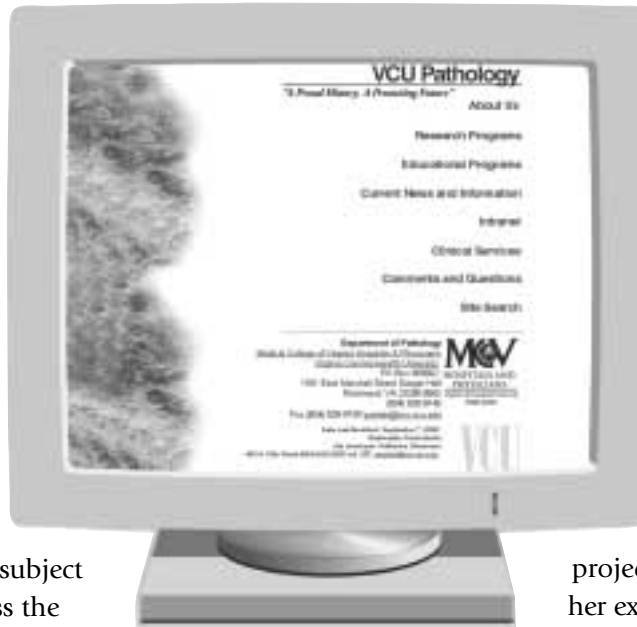
VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the internet in today's academic environment. During the past five years, advances in technology have made the world wide web an indispensable communication medium. The Department of Pathology recognized the need to develop a modern web site that provides relevant content to a wide audience that includes students, residents, employees, researchers, and laboratory clients. After months of meticulous planning, we unveiled a totally redesigned Pathology site in July, 2000. This new web site offers enhanced content, improved navigation, and a pleasing visual appearance.

The process of redesigning the web site was deliberate and collaborative. A team of subject matter experts from across the department created a conceptual design in the form of a detailed flowchart that provided a blueprint for the web page. Entirely new content was developed from the perspective of potential users. This thoughtful approach ensured that the content presented on the web page is current, concise, and relevant to the needs of our audience. Information is divided intuitively into categories that reflect our critical missions of education, research, and clinical service. We are

in the process of creating an intranet for the proprietary use of employees of the Department of Pathology. The intranet will be especially useful as a central repository for policies, procedures, and documents that are used in the daily administration of the department.

We are now positioned to use our web site as an effective tool to enhance our efforts in education, public relations, and marketing. The web project is a dynamic work in progress, and new content is routinely added to strengthen and enrich the site. Special recognition is appropriate for Larry Vetter, who has managed this project with precise vision; Rudy Muller, who lends his considerable technical expertise as webmaster; and Katherine Stevenson, who took this project from concept to reality with her extraordinary skill in web site development.



I invite you to spend some time visiting our web pages at <http://views.vcu.edu/pat>. There is a feedback form that you may use to offer comments and suggestions on how we can further strengthen this web site to meet the needs of our growing audience.

By David S. Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D.

FACULTY NOTES

Mary E. Barcus, M.D., joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Molecular Diagnostics on July 10th. Dr. Barcus is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and trained in the MCVH Department of Pathology as a resident and fellow. She completed a fellowship in Molecular Diagnostics on June 30th.



Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, presented a talk at the Spring Meeting of the College of American Pathologists/ASCP. Her topic was "DNA Array-based Detection of Nucleic Acids in Molecular Oncology and Microbiology."

Carleton Garrett, M.D., Ph.D., Division Chairman of Molecular Diagnostics, attended the 34th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology in Sao Paulo, speaking on the subject of Tumor Markers.

Enrique Gerszten, M.D. and **Marvin J. Allison, Ph.D.**, Professors of Pathology, along with **Danny R. Sawyer, D.D.S., Ph.D.**, created their second educational CD-ROM called Paleopathology 2. The CD-ROM features soft tissue diseases and dental pathology of the Andean cultures over an 8000 year period.

Shawn E. Holt, Ph.D.; **Lynne Elmore, Ph.D.**; and **Heidi Liss, D.P.M.** presented data at the Telomerase and Telomere Dynamics in Cancer and Aging Symposium in San Francisco in June. Dr. Holt spoke on the topic of "Chaperones and Telomerase: A Functionally Significant Interaction." Dr. Elmore gave a poster presentation called "Timing of Telomerase Expression May Influence Its Biological Effect," and Dr. Liss presented a poster on "Expression of Human Telomerase in Normal Diploid Fibroblasts May Provide a Selective Growth Advantage In Vitro." The symposium was sponsored by Geron Corporation.

Richard A. McPherson, M.D., Professor and Division Chairman of Clinical Pathology was co-author of Wiedmann's Clinical Interpretation of Laboratory Tests, 11th Edition along with Ronald A. Sacher, MB, Bch. The textbook, published by F.A. Davis Company, includes information on pre-natal testing of fetuses, hepatitis C and new viral infections, new strategies in coagulation testing, diagnosis of cancer risk, diagnosis of myocardial infarction, molecular analysis in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, and an update on detecting and safeguarding against contamination of blood supplies.

William I. Rosenblum, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pathology, spoke at The Holocaust Museum of Virginia's program called "Nazi Doctors and the Ethics of Human Experimentation." Dr. Rosenblum's topic was "False Reassurance about Biomedical Ethics in America." The panel discussion was held on Sunday, May 7th.

Susan D. Roseff, M.D., Assistant Professor, joined our faculty as Medical Director of the Blood Bank on July 17th. Dr. Roseff had been the Medical Director for the American Red Cross Blood Services in Charlotte, North Carolina. She earned her M.D. degree from Albany Medical College and received resident training at the George Washington University Hospital.



Alphonse Sirica, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, is the recipient of a Wellcome Visiting Professorship for 2000, one of 28 awards made nationally. The Wellcome Visiting Professorship Award is made through the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Dr. Sirica will present a Wellcome Visiting Professor Lecture to the Faculty of Penn State College of

Medicine during the week of October 10-13, 2000. He will also participate at Penn State College of Medicine in a number of academic activities associated with this award during this period. The title of his Wellcome Visiting Professor Lecture is "Biliary Cancer: Pathogenesis to New Therapeutic Strategies."

Dr. Sirica was an Invited Speaker at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Clinical Single Topic Conference on "Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis: Controversies and Consensus" in Atlanta, GA, September 15-17, 2000. The title of the talk was "Altered Growth Factor Pathways in Biliary Cancer"

David S. Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of Pathology, was the featured guest on WRVA radio's "Ask the Doctor" program on August 12th. The one-hour program, sponsored by the Richmond Academy of Medicine, included an interview and caller questions.

Margaret M. Grimes, M.D., Vice Chair for Graduate Medical Education, was appointed Chair of the Program Directors' Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs. This two-year term began in July, 2000.

Kanenori Endo, M.D., Ph.D. joined the Sirica laboratory as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in June, 2000. Dr. Endo received his M.D. in 1995 from Tottori University School of Medicine, Japan. He received his Ph.D. in 2000 from the Second Department of Pathology at Tottori University School of Medicine. His postdoctoral research relates to defining unique aberrant growth factor pathways in human biliary cancers that may have diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic potential and also relates to molecular pathogenesis of the human disease.

Grand Rounds Schedule

Pathology Grand Rounds are held every Friday at noon during the academic year in the Pathology lecture hall, Sanger 4-026. We offer a diverse and distinguished lineup of guests this Fall speaking on a variety of relevant and timely topics. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits are given. You are welcome and encouraged to attend these informative seminars.

September 1	Marcella Fierro, MD	Chief Medical Examiner	The History of Forensic Pathology
September 8	Xin Wang, PhD	NIH	p53 Mediated Pathways in Liver Cancer
September 15	J. Dean Nuckols, MD, PhD	Vanderbilt University	Lymphomaviridae: Bad Bugs or Bad Neighborhood?
September 22	Woodring Wright, MD, PhD	University of Texas	Telomere Biology, Cellular Immortalization & Cancer
September 29	John Cousar, MD	Vanderbilt University	Hodgkin's Disease
October 6	Lawrence Schwartz, MD, PhD	VCU	Mast Cell & Basophil Involvement in Human Disease
October 13	Lynne Elmore, PhD	VCU	Telomerase and Breast Cancer Biology
October 20	Rebecca Taub, MD	University of Pennsylvania	The Role of Interleukin-6 in Promoting Liver Regeneration and Repair
October 27	Mark Wick, MD	University of Virginia	TBA
November 3	Kenneth Shroyer, MD, PhD	University of Colorado	Molecular Markers of Cervical Dysplasia & Carcinoma
November 10	Rita Shiang, PhD	VCU	Characterization of the Treacher Syndrome Gene
November 17	Nelson Fausto, MD	University of Washington	Mechanisms of Liver Regeneration and Apoptosis Through Cytokine Networks
November 24	No Grand Rounds		
December 1	Richard Clatch, MD, PhD	Consolidated Medical Laboratories, Inc.	Immunophenotypic Analysis By Laser Scanning Cytometer
December 8	Sharon Weiss, MD	Emory University	TBA
December 15	Michael Wallace, MD	VCU	Immunohistochemistry in Dermatologic Pathology

Graduation Banquet

Departmental faculty, residents and fellows celebrated with graduating trainees at the Sixth Annual Graduation Banquet, held at the Commonwealth Club on June 15, 2000. Residents completing their training include Catherine Palmer, M.D. (George Washington University, 1995) and Shaozeng Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. (Shanghai Second Medical University, 1982). Cathy has begun private practice at Williamsburg Community and Sentara Hampton Hospitals. Shao is now a fellow in GU Pathology at M.D. Anderson Medical Center in Houston.

Cytopathology fellows Jennifer Brainard, M.D. (Ohio State University, 1994) and Christopher Ackley, M.D., Ph.D. (University of South Alabama, 1995) finished one year of training under the direction of Dr. Celeste Powers. Jennifer is now a faculty member at the Cleveland Clinic, and Chris has entered private practice in San Antonio.

Martha Quezado, M.D. (Universidade Federal do Ceara, Brazil, 1984) will complete a two-year fellowship in Neuropathology in September. She has accepted a faculty position at the National Institutes of Health. Lampros (Bobby) Karageorge, M.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University, 1994) was recognized for completion of a fellowship in Clinical Chemistry/Informatics. Bobby is staying at MCVH for a one-year fellowship in Cytopathology. M. Lucie Fritz, a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Chemistry, was also honored for the completion of her studies.

Drs. Carleton Garrett and Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez presented two fellows completing training in Molecular Diagnostics: Mary E. Barcus, M.D. (University of Maryland, 1994) and Arlene

Buller, Ph.D. Mary has now joined the Pathology faculty in Molecular Diagnostics, and Arlene has taken a position with Quest Diagnostics in San Juan Capistrano, California.

William A. Shores, M.D. and Dorota Latuszynski, M.D., fellows in Forensic Pathology, were presented by Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Marcella Fierro. Joy Ware, Vice Chair for Graduate Research and Education, recognized Ali Akalin, M.D. and Stephen Culp, doctoral candidates in Pathology.

Graduating residents Cathy Palmer and Shao Zhang announced the Saul Kay Award, which honors an outstanding faculty member. This year's recipient was Dr. Celeste Powers. Dr. Enrique Gerszten, Vice Chair for Pathology Education Programs, and Dr. Angela Brosnan (Mrs. Fergus Shiel) presented the Fergus O'M. Shiel Award to Mary Jo Martin, M.D., a second year resident in the AP/CP program. The award was established to recognize excellence in teaching medical students, and the recipient is selected on the basis of student and faculty evaluations. Dr. Martin received a plaque and a monetary award.

Dr. Barbara Amaker, Director of Autopsy Services, presented the Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Autopsy Service Award to Davis Massey, M.D., Ph.D., a fourth year resident, in recognition of exemplary performance in this area. The celebrations concluded with the showing of a video spoofing the graduating residents, and a group photo of the faculty and trainees.

We congratulate all of our graduates and wish them the best of success as they begin their professional careers. Their dedication to excellence is a source of great pride for the Department of Pathology.

Acknowledgements

Lynne Elmore, Enrique Gerszten, Margaret Grimes, Ann Harris, Mike Langley, Judy Luck, Debbie Reynolds, Alphonse Sirica, Katherine Stevenson, Garry Land, William Rosenblum, Joy Ware, David Wilkinson

NEW Employees

We would like to welcome the following new employees to our department. Please make them feel welcome and at home in their new positions. **Johnetta Balk**, Outreach; **Susan Bollinger**, Microbiology; **Leah Coy**, Research; **Catherine Dumur**, Molecular Diagnostics; **Charlton DuPont**, Blood Bank; **Kanenori Endo**, Research; **Melissa Every**, Blood Bank; **Alesia Ford**, Phlebotomy; **Mary Golixer**, Hematology; **Tamara Green**, Blood Bank; **Ernestine Hall**, Specimen Processing; **Gael Harman**, LIS; **Sara Hatcher**, Blood Bank; **Lien Huynh**, LIS; **Ashraf Ibrahim**, Hematology; **Monica Jones**, Administration; **Yang Sun Kim**, Research; **Donna Li**, Molecular Diagnostics; **Yvette Major**, Microbiology; **Nicole Miller**, Specimen Processing; **Lisa Moore**, Billing; **Paula Morris**, Research; **Linda O'Hanlon**, Microbiology; **Barbara Parham**, Specimen Processing; **LaVonda Robinson**, Phlebotomy; **Nicole Sauer**, Hematology; **LeNai Saunders**, Surgical Pathology; **Christopher Scott**, Research; **Abdul Slam**, Hematology; **Katherine Stevenson**, Education; **Kimberly Trainum**, Microbiology; **Calvin Walker**, Chemistry.

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS

The Molecular Diagnostics laboratory is expanding its operations in renovated space on the second floor of the Clinical Support Center. Work is well underway and should be complete by the first of January, 2001. We will host an open house after relocation to showcase this outstanding new facility.

Three posters will be presented on work performed in the MDx lab by Pathology Department personnel at the Association for Molecular Pathology annual meeting in November, 2000. Dr. Katherine Dumur will be presenting "Analysis of Wilms tumor by real-time PCR on the ABI 7700;" Dr. Murilo Melo and Dr. Mary Barcus will present "Quantitative analysis of t(9;22) by real-time PCR on the ABI 7700;" and Mike Langley and Dr. Gonzalez will present "Analysis of blood card samples for factor V Leiden using the ABI 7700."

MDx has begun offering genotyping of HCV by Inno-Lipa assay to determine subtypes of the virus in patients. This knowledge is helpful in determining likelihood of response to therapy regimens. The ABI 3100 sequencer has been received and will be installed in our existing lab space in September.



PATHOLOGY EDUCATION

One of the fundamental strategic goals of the Department of Pathology is to continuously improve the effectiveness of pathology education. We have made great strides during the past six years to use new technologies to strengthen our teaching efforts. The new Pathology web site greatly enhances our ability to provide online Pathology education. Web pages have been created for first and second year 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. Materials are organized by lab section for ease of use by the students. Daily news and announcements are presented during lab weeks so that students have a convenient online reference for assignments and schedules. Our educational efforts are headed in an exciting new direction with the use of internet technology, and we fully expect to continue growing in this important area of Pathology. Please visit our education pages at <http://views.vcu.edu/pat/education/education.html>. Dr. Enrique Gerszten,

Katherine Stevenson and Hattie Wyche can be reached at 828-9746 for more information about Pathology Education.

RESEARCH

Shawn E. Holt, Ph.D., was awarded a two-year V Foundation grant in the amount of \$100,000 to study The Role of Telomerase in Human Cancer Development. While not found in most normal cells, telomerase is expressed in over 90% of advanced human cancers, making it the most prominent cancer marker ever. Because of its association with human cancer, telomerase is an obvious candidate for improved diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. It has been established that, while found in 90% of human cancer, expression of telomerase in normal human cells prevents cellular aging and may protect cells from cancer-associated changes. Dr. Holt's research goal is to use telomerase to prevent cell aging and prevent progression to cancer; and, if there is detectable cancer, find it early using telomerase as a screen and increase the chances for a full, cancer-free recovery. If the cancer has progressed, his goal is to use a novel anti-telomerase adjuvant therapy, together with tumor resection or conventional therapies, to specifically and effectively inhibit tumor growth and prevent recurrence with minimal side-effects.

YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

Please send news and information to:

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