

# THE PATHOLOGY

MCV  
HOSPITALS

WU

FALL 1999

SCOPE

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

During the past year, we have seen a significant increase in extramural research funding to our department. These new grants are the result of a focused departmental effort to expand our research enterprise, improve collaboration, and increase productivity. With direct costs now exceeding one million dollars per year, the department is becoming a recognized national leader in such areas as prostate cancer, telomerase activity in human cell lines, hepatic cell pathogenesis, and molecular pathology, to mention but a few.

Our research laboratories are producing peer-reviewed publications in such prestigious journals as *Cancer*, *Cancer Research*, *Science*, *Chest*, *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, *Clinical Laboratory Management Review*, *Molecular Diagnosis*, and *Prostate*. During the past year, our faculty have published two books, fourteen chapters, 65 articles, 75 abstracts, served on 25 editorial boards, and reviewed 413 manuscripts for scientific journals. This scholarly productivity, the coin of the realm in academic medicine, illustrates tremendous resourcefulness in an environment where protected time for scholarship is a dwindling resource.

The following is a partial list of grant-funded projects that are currently active in our department:

- **MCV Epilepsy Research Center - Program Project Grant**  
-M. Gary Hadfield
- **LCX HIV RNA Quantitative Assays - Clinical Trial**  
-Andrea Ferriera-Gonzalez
- **Tissue and Biological Fluids Banks of HIV Related Malignancies** - R. Tucker Burks
- **Regulation of Human Prostate Epithelial Cell Growth**  
- Joy L. Ware
- **Novel Role of Wilms' Tumor Gene in Prostate Cancer**  
- Joy L. Ware
- **Mechanisms of Prostate Epithelial Cell Transformation**  
- Joy L. Ware
- **Novel Mammalian Two-Hybrid System**  
- Shawn E. Holt
- **Mutational Analysis of the Human Telomerase Protein**  
- Shawn E. Holt
- **Hepatic Oval Cells in Culture and In Vivo**  
-Alphonse E. Sirica
- **Methotrexate/ursodeoxycholic Acid Treatment of Primary Biliary Cirrhosis** - Scott Mills and Melissa Contos

I commend our physicians and scientists for their efforts in securing external grant funding for continued research projects. We expect that this success will continue to build upon itself, and there will be expanding opportunities for individual and collaborative research in both basic and clinical science in the coming years.

- David S. Wilkinson, M.D, Ph.D. - *Professor and Chair*

## Welcome New Residents and Fellows

The Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Resident Training Program welcomed three new PGY-I residents on July 1. They are: **Christine Enos Cesca** (MCV, 1999), **Priya Krishen** (J.J.M. Medical College, India, 1990), and **Zahra Maleki** (Shahid Baheshti University, 1995).

In addition, two new fellows joined the Division of Surgical and Cytopathology: **Christopher Ackley** (University of South Alabama, 1995) and **Jennifer Brainard** (Ohio State University, 1994). We look forward to working with the new members of our housestaff. Two of our former residents will continue their training in the department in one-year fellowships: **Bobby Karageorge** in Clinical Chemistry and Medical Informatics, and **Mary Barcus** in Molecular Diagnostics. A welcoming picnic was held at the Roslyn Center on Saturday, August 21.



Christopher Ackley



Jennifer Brainard



Christine Cesca



Priya Krishen



Zahra Maleki

## Pathology Spring Banquet

The annual Spring Banquet was held on June 17th at the Commonwealth Club. Faculty, residents, and friends gathered to honor graduating and departing members of the department. Dr. Wilkinson paid tribute to Drs. Lyman Fisher and Charles Moncure, who recently retired from the faculty. They were presented with commemorative plaques for their many years of dedicated service to the department and university. Dr. Katherine Berezowski was presented with a commemorative plaque in absentia.

Four departing residents, Mary E. Barcus, Lampros (Bobby) Karageorge, Samantha Wetzler, and Jennifer Wilken, were recognized for completing the Pathology Residency Program. Simon Bergman and Christine Marzich were honored for completion of the Fellowship in Surgical and Cytopathology. Doctoral students Chavaboon Dechsukhum, Verravan Leskulchai, and Brian Watson have or will soon defend their dissertations and were honored for their accomplishments. Jose Abrenio and Venus Azar, Fellows in Forensic Pathology, were recognized by Marcella Fierro for completion of that program.

Margaret Grimes was recognized by the graduating residents as the 1999 recipient of the Saul Kay Award. The Kay award is given each year by the departing residents to a faculty member who demonstrates exemplary skill and enthusiasm in resident teaching. Dr. Grimes was presented with an engraved silver pen.

Samantha Wetzler, fourth year resident, was presented with the first annual Charles Moncure Autopsy Service Award. The Moncure Award recognizes the departing resident who provided outstanding clinical service and teaching excellence in autopsy pathology. The selection is made by the faculty members who participate in the autopsy service rotation. Dr. Wetzler received a plaque and a check in the amount of \$100. Samantha was also the recipient of this year's Fergus O'M. Shiel Award, presented each year to a resident for excellence in teaching medical students. We were delighted that Dr. Angela Brosnan Shiel was on hand to present Dr. Wetzler with a commemorative plaque and a check for \$100.

The names of this year's departmental award winners will be added to the permanent award plaques that hang in the fourth floor of Sanger Hall.



*Drs. Enrique Gerszten and Angela Shiel present the Fergus Shiel Award to Samantha Wetzler*

## FACULTY NOTES:

**W. Greg Miller, Ph.D.**, recently received the Joseph H. Roe Award from the American Association of Clinical Chemistry Capital Section in recognition of contributions in the field of clinical chemistry.

**Margaret M. Grimes, M.D.**, will serve as the Vice Chair of the Program Directors' Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs for 1999-2000.

**Enrique Gerszten, M.D.**, was recognized by the Medical Class of 2002 with an "Excellence In Teaching" certificate for his enthusiasm, organized curriculum, and ability to effectively present ideas and concepts in an interesting and compelling manner.

A History of the American Holocaust, by **Enrique Gerszten, M.D.**, and **Marvin J. Allison, Ph.D.**, was published by Professional Press. The book is a detailed account of their field-work studying the health of pre-Columbian people of Central and South America using tissue samples collected from mummified human remains. Their work in the Paleopathology Laboratory was given extensive coverage in the Health & Science section of the Richmond Times-Dispatch on July 1, 1999 in an article by A.J. Hostetler.

**Melissa Contos, M.D.**, and **A. Scott Mills, M.D.**, have been awarded three separate NIH R01 grants related to methotrexate/ursodeoxycholic acid treatment of primary biliary cirrhosis, immunological and antiviral therapy of hepatitis C, and the banking of normal and diseased liver tissue for research purposes.

## Outreach Initiatives

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During the past six months, the marketing and outreach initiatives for new business development included sales and marketing for our clinical laboratory services and for our Centers of Excellence. We published a new "cookbook" reference manual for our clients that refer Coagulation and Hemostasis assays to MCVH. In conjunction with the release of the new Fragile X assay from the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, we also published a Fragile X Brochure and mailed it to referring pediatricians, neurologists and community hospitals in central Virginia.

Marketing is also working with the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory to publish a Paternity Testing Brochure. Client Services conducted a telephone

marketing campaign, and the Paternity Brochure will be distributed to Child Support Enforcement agencies and family lawyers practicing in central Virginia.

We have been extremely busy responding to major contracts for reference laboratory testing with managed care companies and Virginia state agencies. New outreach customers include: Blueridge Pathology, Mary Washington Perinatal Center, Old Dominion Eye Bank, University Ambulatory Research Center, Libbie Convalescent Center, Richmond Nursing Home, Lucy Corr Village, Gambro Healthcare Downtown, and numerous MCVH clinical trials/research studies. The MCVH marketing team has been actively involved in the formation of a laboratory network to provide clinical laboratory services statewide.

### **CERNER / LIS TRAINING UPDATE**

The Department of Pathology is in the midst of installing a Cerner laboratory information system to replace the CHC system in use since Fall 1988. An implementation team with members drawn from each of the Pathology areas has been hard at work for almost two years. Greg Miller, Bob Mohrbacher, and Carolyn Moore are coordinating the work of the Implementation Team and on-site Cerner personnel. We anticipate a "go live" date in late September, 1999.

The Cerner implementation team has designed a series of classes for laboratory staff. Classes cover clinical pathology registration, ordering, accessioning, resulting and results inquiry, microbiology/virology, and blood bank. Anatomic pathology topics include accessioning and processing, resulting, transcription, verification, and billing. Each area of the laboratory has at least one staff member serving as a trainer. After "go-live", these individuals will serve as resource people in their labs. More than 112 classes are scheduled over an eleven-week period to provide training in the required classes for over 350 staff and faculty. Staff members will not be able to access the live system until they have completed the required training and passed a competency test.

The Pathology Department thanks the entire Implementation Team for their many hours of dedicated, hard work.

### **New Blood Bank Photopheresis Technology**

The Blood Bank's Apheresis Unit recently added photopheresis therapy to its menu of procedures. The process is used to treat cutaneous T-cell leukemia, Graft-versus-host disease, and heart and lung transplant rejection. Graft-versus-host disease is a common and serious complication following bone marrow transplant. The photopheresis process involves collecting white cells from the patient and mixing them with a light-reactive chemotherapeutic agent. The white cells are exposed to UV-A light and given back to the patient. By exposing

the cells to chemotherapy and light, they are rendered unable to replicate, which leads to a decrease in inflammatory effects. The therapy has benefits over other treatments using UV-A light because the chemotherapy is not taken orally and the patient's skin is not exposed to the ultraviolet light. The procedure takes about four hours to complete and is performed as an outpatient procedure on two consecutive days every other week for six to seven weeks. Additional treatments are based upon the patient's response to the treatment.

## Special Studies Laboratory

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The Special Studies Lab recently acquired a Laser Scanning Cytometer. With applications similar to a flow cytometer, the new instrument studies cells on slides rather than in cell suspension. The Laser Scanning Cytometer allows morphologic study of the specimen concurrently with the assessment of light scatter (for cell size) and antigen expression. The instrument is particularly adapted for lymph node aspiration biopsies, fluids, and

other specimens with limited cellular material. Assays include immunophenotyping panels, DNA ploidy, and apoptosis. The Special Studies Lab also is up-to-date on immunohistochemistry with the latest in automated equipment and the newest reagents. Antibodies currently offered for immunohistochemistry include ALK1 (for anaplastic large cell lymphoma), cyclin D1 (for mantle cell lymphoma), and HER2/neu.

Immunohistochemistry can be performed on submitted material with or without interpretation and report. Also offered is the fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH) assay for HER2/neu. Other studies currently performed in this laboratory include muscle enzyme histochemistry and immunofluorescence (on skin and renal biopsies). Electron microscopy is also available.

## Test Directory On The Web

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Did you ever wonder who might perform that esoteric test you need to confirm a diagnosis? What is the turn around time for the test that you ordered? What collection tube do you use for the test? Now those answers are available online. The complete test directory for the MCVH Pathology Laboratories is now available on the departmental web page ([views.vcu.edu/pat](http://views.vcu.edu/pat)). The online version is the same as our printed directory. It conveniently allows our customers, within MCV Hospitals and externally throughout the state and country,

to view our testing services online. As new tests become available we will be able to add them to the directory and maintain a current listing.

To view the directory, go to the Pathology's home page, and select either "Services" under the banner, or the words "Directory" or "Laboratory Services" on the cover of the book (pictured on the right). You will be directed to the "Services" page. Now select "Pathology Directory of Laboratory Services". At this point a notice for

user name and password appears. Select "Directory of Laboratory Services" and at the user name prompt, enter "mcvpath" and enter "testing" at the password prompt, then select "ok". You may now search the directory for the desired test. The user name and password are required by the publisher of the directory in order to prevent copyright infringements. We hope this will provide easier access to our testing capabilities for all of our customers.

*Thanks to the following individuals for their assistance and contributions:*

Joanne Becker, Violet Brown, Virginia Friedman, Margaret Grimes, Ann Harris, Shawn Holt,  
Greg Miller, Debbie Reynolds, Carol Rodgers, Elizabeth Seitz, and Joy Ware.

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

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## Grand Rounds Schedule for Fall 1999

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 speakers this Fall. CME credits are given for these seminars.

Date	Speaker	Title
August 20	David Dail, MD	Update on Interstitial Lung Disease
August 27	Peter Barker, PhD	TBA
September 3	J. Carl Barrett, PhD	Genes Involved in Cancer Progression
September 10	TBA	
September 17	Laura Schmidt, PhD	Inherited Carcinomas of the Kidney
September 24	Carleton Garrett, MD, PhD	Molecular Diagnostics
October 1	Alphonse E. Sirica, PhD	Altered Growth Factor Pathways and Intestinal Metaplasia in Biliary Cancer Development
October 8	Jerry Shay, PhD	Molecular Mechanisms Regulating Cellular Aging and Immortality
October 15	Dena Selby, PhD	Normal Histology of Infants and Children
October 22	Gary Smith, PhD	Growth Factor Pathways in Prostate Cancer
October 29	Kris Shekitka, MD	Stromal Tumors of the GI Tract
November 5	Arti Pandya, MD	Genetics of Deafness
November 12	Lynne Elmore, PhD	TBA
November 19	Robert Hawley, PhD	Bioterrorism: Issues and Concerns
November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Grand Rounds
December 3	Richard McPherson, MD	Monitoring Cardiac Risk Factors
December 10	Richard Kempson, MD	Approach to the Diagnosis of Soft Tissue Tumors
December 17	John Bernard Henry, MD	Informatics/Evidence-based Pathology

### Dr. Lyman Fisher Retires

*Dr. Lyman McArthur Fisher, Professor of Pathology and Director of Hemostasis, retired from the faculty on June 30, 1999 after 39 years of dedicated service as a teacher and practitioner of medicine. Born in Canada, Dr. Fisher earned three advanced degrees from the University of Saskatchewan; an M.A. degree in 1954, a Ph.D. degree in 1957, and an M.D. degree in 1960.*

*He joined the faculty of MCV in 1960 at the academic rank of Assistant Professor. During the ensuing four decades, Dr. Fisher was actively engaged in all aspects of academic medicine. He was a Fulbright Professor, and he served in numerous national and international societies. With an international reputation in the field of Hemostasis, Dr. Fisher published extensively on the subject. During his tenure, Dr. Fisher served as Medical Director of the Blood Bank on two separate occasions. His personal involvement with patients as Medical Director of the Adult Hemophilia Program was extraordinary.*

*Dr. Fisher had a unique and unwavering commitment to his patients, to his students, and to his community. As one of the longest serving faculty members in the School of Medicine, he was an asset to this institution. He has earned this well-deserved period of retirement, and we wish him continued good health and prosperity in his future endeavors.*

## Welcome to New Employees

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the Department of Pathology. Please make them feel at home in their new positions:

**Lynette Billups-Boyd**, Phlebotomy; **Katherine Binns**, Stony Point; **Arlene Chandler**, Anatomic Pathology; **Jamie Chapman**, Hematology; **Geraldine Cooke**, Phlebotomy; **Andrea DeArment**, Toxicology; **Natasha Eley**, Hematology; **Luther Scott**, Phlebotomy; **Cheryl Mayer**, Specimen Processing; **Kimberly Notte**, Transcription; **Deaette Smith**, Molecular Diagnostics; **Robert Spencer**, Blood Bank; **Mary Murdock**, Pediatric Oncology; **Susan Medina**, Transcription; **James Wallace**, LIS; **Li Wang**, Pathology Research; **Teneille Walker**, Hematology; **James Woodson**, Blood Bank.

### Clinical Laboratory Sciences Award Winner

*Rebelita A. Perdido, a Medical Technologist in the Hematology Laboratory, was presented with the 1999 J. Clinton Brown Award by the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The award is given annually to the instructor who best demonstrates outstanding teaching abilities and contributions to the education of CLS students during their clinical rotations. Nominations and the selection of the recipient are made by the graduating class. Congratulations to Ms. Perdido for her continued commitment to excellence in the clinical laboratories.*

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