GROWTH AT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Under the steady and energetic leadership of its new Chief, Dr. Doug Blackall, the Pediatric Pathology Division is undergoing remarkable growth. It has recently added three new full-time faculty members to its already burgeoning ranks. In addition to Doug, arrivals over the past year include Carmen Steigman who is serving as the Director of Autopsies and is developing a perinatal pathology service. Ali Saad oversees neuropathology activities at the Arkansas Children’s Hospital in addition to his activities signing out general surgical pathology. Elena Davis serves as a mainstay on the surgical pathology and autopsy services.

Emily Howard adds her expertise in hematopathology to her surgical pathology skills. She has trained in both pediatric pathology and hematopathology. She provides her clinical colleagues with invaluable assistance, especially with their patients who suffer from hematologic disorders. Emily has been on the faculty longer than any other member of the division with the exception of Doug.

Nesli Cetin was a resident in anatomic and clinical pathology at UAMS before going to NYU to experience a surgical pathology fellowship. She then returned to UAMS to do a year of hematopathology training under the tutelage of Bob Lorsbach within our own department. She will be serving as the Director of the Clinical Hematology laboratory as well as lending her diagnostic skills to the pediatric hematopathology service with Emily.

Jailin Osman is currently a fellow at the NIH. She did a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Ball Memorial Hospital (Muncie, IN) followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Pathology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She has an interest in pediatric tumor pathology and will serve as a welcome addition to our group when she begins in July.

Finally, Rhea Birusingh will arrive in July upon completion of her fellowship training in Pediatric Pathology at the University of Miami. Previously, Rhea was a resident in anatomic and clinical pathology at Danbury Hospital (Danbury, CT). She has developed an interest in genetic diseases and will provide a valuable service to our department in concert with an expanded Division of Genetics that was developed with the Department of Pediatrics and the College of Medicine.
BOSTON “T” PARTY

Members of the UAMS Department of Pathology could be seen riding the “T” (Boston’s colloquial name for its subway system) all over Boston in early March (which is not to suggest that attendance at the meetings suffered). The Department was extensively represented at this year’s United States – Canadian Academy of Pathology annual meeting. Our department ranked in the upper echelon of programs in terms of presented abstracts that had residents listed as first authors! This year, seven of our residents and two fellows attended the meeting to present their work. These trainees made fourteen separate presentations. They also participated in the resident-oriented sessions and helped preside at our booth at the relatively new “Fellowship Fair”.

As has become commonplace, several members of the faculty were also involved in high profile presentations. Dr. Laura Lamps moderated the evening session on Gastrointestinal Pathology. Dr. Kim Hiatt gave a short course entitled, “Dermatopathology and Systemic Disease” in conjunction with Dr. Michael Morgan from the University of South Florida. Dr. Bruce Smoller moderated a Proffered Paper session on dermatopathology and lectured on Merkel cell carcinomas (as well as spending much of his time in committee rooms).

It was not all work for our large contingent. The Department sponsored its annual “Friends and Family” gathering on the Sunday evening of the meeting. All members of the extended family (including alumni, past faculty members and colleagues from other institutions) were invited to participate in a social gathering.

PARTICIPATING TRAINEES

Michelle Cox
“Defective DNA repair in renal cell carcinoma”

“Inter-observer agreement between surgical and renal pathologist on interpretation of renal donor biopsies for transplant suitability”

“Invasive urothelial carcinoma with chordoid features: a report of 12 distinct cases characterized by prominent myxoid stroma and cordlike epithelial architecture”

Siraj El Jamal
“Significance of focal lobular neoplasia in breast core needle biopsy”

Shree Sharma
“The significance of podocyte foot process effacement in primary IgA nephropathy: Clinicopathologic study of 161 cases”

Matt Quick
“The distribution of PAX-2 immunoreactivity in seminal vesicle, ejaculatory duct, prostatic urethra, normal prostate glands, and prostatic adenocarcinoma: potential implications for diagnostic use”

“Renal oncocytomas with atypical features: a Clinicopathologic analysis of thirty-four cases”

Matt Lindberg
“Mitochondrial DNA 4977 basepair deletion occurs more frequently in normal colonic mucosa than in tubular adenoma: its potential role as a tumor suppressor in progression of colon cancer”

Jean Coviello-Malle
“Estrogen and progesterone-receptor positive stroma in pediatric cystic renal dysplasia: an immunohistochemical study of 18 cases”

Dan Phan
“The utility of PAX2 and renal cell carcinoma marker immunohistochemistry in distinguishing papillary renal cell carcinoma from non-renal neoplasms with papillary features”

“Frequent loss of heterozygosity of a DNA repair gene, hOGG1, in inflammatory bowel disease”

Shree Sharma
“The significance of podocyte foot process effacement in primary IgA nephropathy: Clinicopathologic study of 161 cases”

Matt Quick
“The distribution of PAX-2 immunoreactivity in seminal vesicle, ejaculatory duct, prostatic urethra, normal prostate glands, and prostatic adenocarcinoma: potential implications for diagnostic use”

“Renal oncocytomas with atypical features: a Clinicopathologic analysis of thirty-four cases”

AND THE WINNER IS...

This year’s winner of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry Young Investigator Award is Dr. Josh Bornhorst, our Director of Chemistry. The award is given to a
Clinical Chemist who has not yet attained the age of 40 and is based upon their accumulated research efforts. Recent awards have gone to faculty members at the Mayo Clinic and Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center in New York, placing Josh with a very elite group of young investigators!

Josh joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology in April 2006, following completion of a fellowship in Clinical Chemistry at ARUP in Utah. He received a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Colorado. Since his arrival, Josh has completely revamped the Clinical Chemistry laboratory. He has worked closely with Jim Marshall, the Chemistry Supervisor as the lab has become fully automated, with a marked reduction in turnaround times, improved results reporting and an expansion in tests offered.

Josh was also charged with developing a new curriculum for resident education and has established a formal, rigorous program for our trainees. The residents proceed through a carefully constructed syllabus and are intimately involved in test development, quality assurance issues and day-to-day laboratory management.

As is evidenced by his award, Josh’s research efforts have been tireless. In the short time that he has been at UAMS, he has published ten papers in some of the most prestigious journals in the field. His major work centers around alpha 1-antitrypsin deficiency. The Department is honored to count Dr. Bornhorst amongst its faculty!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? By Dr. Danielle Gibson

Mohammad Reza Sheikholeslami moved to Los Angeles after leaving UAMS to complete a hematopathology fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Hospital. Mastering this subspecialty, he moved with his wife, Mojgan, and Children; Shayan (11) and Ryan (3) to San Juan Capistrano in Orange County, California, where he currently works with Quest Diagnostics as a senior hematopathologist. He also focuses on molecular pathology, both hematologic and non-hematologic, including breast prognostic markers. He has been involved in writing journal publications and book chapters, currently one on multiple myeloma.

For relaxation, Reza and his family enjoy living in close proximity to the beach and take advantage of the fantastic weather with swimming, biking and tennis. Recently, Reza and his family traveled back home to Iran and were amazed at the transformation there. This summer they hope to travel to the Czech Republic. Reza can be contacted at Mohammad.R.Sheikholeslami@questdiagnostics.com if you want to catch up.
A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Department of Pathology is pleased to announce Dr. Matt Lindberg as this year’s York-DeBartolo Chief Resident in Pathology. Several years back, the York-DeBartolo family set aside money to provide additional educational opportunities for each year’s Chief Resident, in addition to providing the majority funding for the Hough Endowed Chair in Pathology. Since that time, the Chief Resident has been selected by a vote of the faculty and residents, and has enjoyed the privilege of attending an additional professional meeting above and beyond trips earned through their personal research efforts. Dr. Lindberg is currently a third year resident in anatomic and clinical pathology. He lives in Little Rock with his wife Rani, who is a Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation resident. When they are not working, they like to read large medical textbooks and play with their 60 lb, 5-month-old puppy, Drake.

This year’s outgoing Chief, Dr. Dan Phan, is slated to begin a fellowship in Surgical Pathology at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles in July. He adds to the impressive performance record of this named residency position and we are proud of his contributions.

GOING GREEN- Would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter? If so, email SLThompson@uams.edu with your preferred contact information.