

MOVIN' ON

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES

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Friends and Family

The Department of Pathology will again be hosting its annual "Friends and Family" reception during the USCAP meeting in Boston. The event will take place in the Jefferson Room of the Sheraton Boston Hotel 6:00 – 8:00 PM (39 Dalton Street, Boston). Hearty hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. In past years, more than 50 colleagues have gathered for this mini-reunion. This is an ideal opportunity to meet new faculty and residents and to renew old friendships! Feel free to bring along family members or professional colleagues.

New Hospital At UAMS Now Open



By the time this newsletter is in press, the Department will have undergone the largest move in its history. On January 9 and 10, much of the Department will be shifted to the new hospital that is set to open for patients on January 20th, 2009.

As part of the move, the client services, hematology, coagulation, immunology, and chemistry sections of the clinical laboratories, along with the gross room and frozen section laboratories of the anatomic pathology suites will be entering the new space. The new space is airy, much larger than our current space, and actually contains windows! Much of our laboratory equipment has been upgraded as part of the move process. Office

space for laboratory-based faculty members has been included in the new space.

An additional exciting aspect of the project is that the Department has been able to retain much of the vacated space to allow for essential expansion of the laboratories remaining behind. Thus, the Molecular Diagnostic laboratory, the HLA laboratory, and the Microbiology Laboratory will each see a significant growth and renovation in their floor space. The Blood Bank will be expanding into the adjacent vacated space and will see close to a doubling of its current size. There are plans afoot to double the size of the current histology laboratory and to add a separate immunohistochemistry

laboratory. Down the road, the Dermatopathology Laboratory will see a similar growth. While the cytopathology laboratory is largely unaffected by the current plans, it is poised to see a significant upgrade in all aspects with the pending opening of the new wing of the Cancer Center in 2010. (This new space is already being built). In total, when all of the renovations and moves are completed, the department will have more than doubled its allocation of space within the institution. Such growth has become essential given the enormous period of growth of test volume and influx of faculty. •

RESIDENTS ATTEND FIRST-TIME EVENT

On November 13 and 14, eleven of the UAMS pathology residents along with the resident coordinator, Ms. Renee Gordon, made a trip to Shreveport to participate in the first annual Tri-State Residency Education Day. The inaugural event was sponsored by the Department of Pathology at LSU Shreveport and included a day of lectures by members of the LSU faculty, and visiting speakers, Drs. Jennifer Hunt and John Hart. On the preceding evening, the residents attended a cocktail party that enabled a lively exchange of ideas and experiences amongst the trainees from all three institutions. The residents were excused from their service responsibilities for one and half days, with a skeleton crew of residents and the attending faculty covering the essential departmental services.

The experience was a very positive one in all ways and the residents returned feeling good about the UAMS program and energized by the conference. A subsequent meeting is scheduled in Jackson, MS at the University of Mississippi for next autumn, and then UAMS will host

the third annual event. In addition to providing the UAMS residents with another forum for their didactic education, the interaction with residents from the other programs increases the departmental exposure and should enhance recruiting opportunities for fellows and faculty in future years. •

ANNUAL FALL COURSE

On October 25th, the Department of Pathology hosted its 11th annual continuing medical education



“Update in Surgical Pathology” course. In keeping with recent years,

the course was held in the Stephens Spine Center auditorium on the UAMS campus. This year’s featured speaker was Dr. Jesse McKenney who returned to UAMS as a guest lecturer from his new position at Stanford Medical Center in California. As in recent years, the course was well attended by members of the community of pathologists within Little Rock and from surrounding states. This year, one of our

residents, Dr. Matt Quick, who “won” the annual Resident Research Symposium, also gave a short presentation of his paper. Following a day of lectures and lively discussion, a reception was hosted by our friends at Colonial Wines and Spirits. A good time was had by all!

Next year’s guest speaker is Dr. Linda Ferrell, from University of California at San Francisco. The date is October 24, 2009. The Department of Pathology urges you to watch for the date and plan to attend. The conference provides an opportunity to learn from experts, gain some CME credits and to socialize with your colleagues from around this part of the country (not to mention the annual wine reception held at the day’s end). •

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

As UAMS continues to diversify with the building of its new Cancer Center Tower under the direction of Dr. Peter Emanuel, one of the programs that it is focusing on is the Breast Cancer program. The Department of Pathology is well-situated to accommodate the growth in patient referrals and the increased complexities



required to provide state of the art care for these

patients. Dr. Soheila Korourian has been a central figure within the department for nearly 15 years.

She has worked closely with the clinical members of the breast cancer team. During this time, she has established a reputation within the institution as a champion of patients’ rights and an expert in breast cancer pathology. She is an avid promoter of complete and detailed analysis of all such tumors in order to have patients treated appropriately. All newly diagnosed breast cancer cases are presented in a televised weekly conference. Dr. Korourian presents the pathology section.

Dr. Korourian reviews and is also responsible for the quality assurance of all ancillary tests for breast cancer. Our Department routinely performs immunohistochemistry studies for estrogen, progesterone and her 2 neu. For the past five years we have performed fluorescent in situ hybridization testing

for HER 2/Neu according to ASCO guidelines. Many of our patients are enrolled in national protocols based on these results.

Dr. Korourian has coauthored over 70 review and peer-reviewed articles in experimental pathology, translational research, and clinical papers related to breast cancer. She performs many other functions within the department, serving as a general surgical pathologist and a member of the cytopathology team. She has served as the director of the Cytopathology fellowship program in the past. Should you desire any help with the work-up of breast cancer cases, performing ancillary tests, or establishing diagnostic protocols, Dr. Korourian can be reached through our outreach manager, Ms. Melissa Smith at 501-526-6440 or via email at korouriansoheila@uams.edu.



**WHERE
ARE
THEY
NOW?**

Charles
Farmer

MD is married to his wife of 23 years, Lee, and they live in Pensacola, Florida with

their 3 children, Thomas, William, and Katherine. He is a managing partner in an eight person independent group servicing the Gulf Coast from Baldwin County (AL) to Panama City (FL), where he has worked since completing residency and a cytology fellowship at UAMS in 1993. He is also a clinical professor in connection with Florida State School of Medicine in Tallahassee and hosts medical students occasionally who wish to enrich their curriculum.

In his spare time, Charles enjoys watching his children's sports activities, particularly on the soccer field with his high school senior, whose team was runner-up in the Florida State finals. He also spends time with his family at their home on the beach enjoying water sports, fishing, and golf. Last year, for an adventure, they went white water rafting on the Ocoee River to take a break from touring colleges. He can be contacted at cfarmer@pnspath.com if you would like to touch base. •

To share a personal update about yourself or a colleague, contact doctorsgibson@comcast.net.

**NOT JUST
SKIN DEEP**

The Department of Pathology is very pleased to announce its continued growth of its nationally renowned dermatopathology unit. Under the direction of Dr. Kim Hiatt (who replaced Dr. Smoller as Division Chief in July 2007), the Division is pleased to announce two new members to its division.

Dr. Anne Wilkerson, who completed her fellowship training in dermatopathology at UAMS following a residency at Vanderbilt University, returned to the faculty as an Instructor following a three-year stint in San Luis Obispo, CA. Anne returns accompanied by three dogs and is already providing immense relief to a service that is very busy.

Dr. Steve Cheung will join the Division on 7/1/09. He is currently completing a dermatopathology fellowship at New York University under the tutelage of Hideko Kamino (of "Kamino bodies associated with Spitz nevi" fame). Steve did a residency in Pathology at Johns Hopkins University after completing his MD/PhD program at the University of Virginia. Steve hopes to

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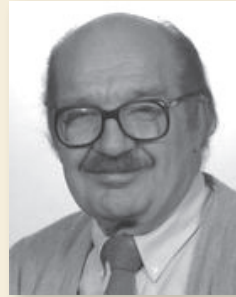
collaborate extensively in the rapidly expanding research program overseen by Dr. John Ansel, the new Chair of Dermatology at UAMS.

The Dermatopathology service is currently reading over 25,000 biopsies per year while conducting a two-year fellowship program that trains one new fellow per year. There are also regular resident rotations for trainees in both pathology and dermatology along with a full slate of conferences and lectures offered by its faculty. Once again, the dermatopathology training program has been nominated as one of the outstanding training programs

at UAMS. (It has already won this award twice in the 8 years of the award's existence).

Of immense pride to the Department are its myriad academic contributions including Dr. Hiatt's USCAP short course to begin this year, Vice Presidency of the Arkansas Skin Foundation and innumerable abstracts presented at the USCAP and the American Society of Dermatopathology annual meetings. Dr. Smoller has been an invited speaker at this year's meetings of the USCAP, International Society of Dermatopathology in Graz, Austria, ASCP and at the University of Genoa, Italy. •

THE END OF AN ERA



On November 15, 2008, Dr. Robert Schaefer retired from active service at the Little Rock VA Hospital. Dr. Schaefer was a mainstay in the anatomic pathology section at the VA for more than 50 years! He was respected and loved by the residents, winning a runner-up award for his residency teaching efforts as recently as 5 years ago! Dr. Schaefer had a long and distinguished career as he quietly practiced his trade through a sea of administrative changes, physical relocations and other upheavals that frequent academic institutions. Through it all, he never lost his smile and diffident demeanor. The department was pleased to host a celebratory event and to wish Dr. Schaefer a long and healthy retirement with his wife, 5 children, and 26 grandchildren!

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