

Events & Activities

2014 Camp Erin Philadelphia: Campaign for Caring

During the months of March and April, HUP's Division of Laboratory Medicine is hosting a supply drive to collect items for Camp Erin, a weekend bereavement camp for children and young adults who have suffered a tragic death in their lives, Camp Erin is sponsored by the Penn Home Care and Hospice Services in conjunction with the Moyer Foundation. Camp Erin is looking for donations for kids' goody bags items, snacks, art supplies and cabin necessities, gift cards, decorative items, percussion instruments, keepsakes, or any other kind of donations. Please contact one of the Camp Erin volunteer coordinators, **Debbie Mincarelli** at deborah.mincarelli@uphs.upenn.edu or at 215-662-7879, if you would like to contribute.

Path and Lab Medicine: A Night at the Ball Park – Lab Week Extension

Phillies vs. Toronto Blue Jays

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Citizens Bank Park, Section 310

5:30 pm Penn Medicine Sponsored Tailgate Party

7:05 pm Game Time

Department Trivia: Did You Know?



At the most recent "Pet A Pooch" event at HUP, a program in partnership with the Pennsylvania SPCA that brings adoptable dogs and kittens to help soothe the stress sometimes felt by doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff, **Nichole Howard**, Staff Assistant for Laboratory Medicine, gave the adorable puppy "Tails" a new home.

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Penn Medicine Pathology & Laboratory Medicine REPORT

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are always welcome!*

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COO Corner

Robert L. Challender, Chief Operating Officer

Dear members of the Penn Medicine Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine community:

What you are reading right now is the first edition of our new quarterly Department newsletter – a tradition we would like to revive again in order to foster both our sense of community and our sense of mission and to provide a chance for all of us to see what you and your colleagues are achieving every day.

Our Department is one of the largest at Penn Medicine and our roughly 1,200 members are spread far and wide across many different locations, from 7 Founders to 3020 Market Street, from Pennsylvania Hospital to the new facilities at Penn Medicine University City, from the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine to Penn Medicine Valley Forge.

Because of this distance, it is sometimes difficult to see what is happening outside of your own lab or facility. This newsletter is intended to bring together our common stories and give you insights into the many different facets of our Department. Your ideas, news items, suggestions, and submissions are always welcome! In fact, the first thing I want to invite you to do is to help us find a name for our new newsletter.

Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/PLMNewsletterName to choose one or add your own idea.

We decided to bring out the first edition of the new Department newsletter as part of our Lab Week celebrations this year. An overview of this year's activities is included in this edition. The work that laboratory professionals perform is an integral and important part of health care and you all are actively involved in diagnosis or in preparing and administering therapies. As you know, many decisions for primary or specialized care will depend on the expertise and advice from clinical labs in some way. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is a central component of health systems and Lab Week is one way of showing our appreciation for the hard work and dedication by the more than 600 laboratory professionals in more than 30 different laboratories across Penn Medicine.

If you want to find out more about what we have accomplished and where the Department is headed, I invite you to attend my first "State of the Department" address that will kick off this year's Lab Week celebrations.

Regards,
--- Bob.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2014 Lab Week is April 21-25

Please join the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in celebrating Medical Laboratory Professionals Week from April 21 to 25, 2014 to show our gratitude and appreciation to all laboratory professionals. We celebrate the hard work and dedication by the more than 600 laboratory professionals in more than 30 different laboratories across Penn Medicine.

HUP Lab Week Activities Calendar

EVERY DAY

- Daily Raffle Prizes (*all Department staff included in drawings*)
- Lab Week Games! (*check your emails for these*)

MONDAY 4/21

- Lab Week gifts and buttons distributed to each section: 8:30 am to 9:30 am (*6 Gates — please send a representative from each section for pickup*)
- Lab week Luncheon: Rhoads Patio, 1 pm to 5 pm* (*Rhoads Patio is accessible via the stairs near the Jazz & Java coffee cart on 2 Founders, down one flight, make a right down the hall towards Rhoads building and exit to the patio area on the right *or rainy day alternative*)

TUESDAY 4/22

- “State of the Department” Kick-off Event with COO Robert Challenger, Medical Alumni Hall, 8:30 am & 2:30 pm (*Please attend one of the two times. Coffee and tea will be served*)
- Soft-pretzel distribution
- Basket Raffle: Ravdin Mezzanine 10:30 am to 2 pm
- Path and Lab Medicine information table: Ravdin Mezzanine 10:30 am to 2 pm

WEDNESDAY 4/23

- Basket Raffle: Ravdin Mezzanine 10:30 am to 2 pm, winners announced at 2 pm!
- Path and Lab Medicine information table in Ravdin Mezzanine 10:30 am to 2 pm
- Dessert Contest (*Any dessert flavors welcome!*) 7 Founders Conference Room 2:30 pm to 5 pm

THURSDAY 4/24

- (*also Take Your Child to Work Day, please see separate schedule*)
- Candy Gram Distribution

FRIDAY 4/25

- Announcement of “Rock Your Pride” door decoration contest winner
- Lunch and Learn: 7 Founders Conference Room, noon to 1 pm and 1 pm to 2 pm: Beckman (*topic TBA, register with Nichole Howard*)
- PLM Happy Hour: City Tap House, 39th & Walnut, 4 pm to 7 pm



MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Incoming Class of New Residents

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine welcomes the eleven new residents who will join us on July 1, 2014:

In the Combined Anatomic Pathology & Clinical Pathology Program

- Dr. Jaleah Hawkins, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
- Dr. Sophia Ma, University of Florida College of Medicine
- Dr. Qiuping Ma, Peking University Health Science Center
- Dr. Rebecca May, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Tatyana Milman, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Sam Sadigh, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- Dr. Laura Taylor, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Dr. Priya Velu, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
- Dr. Annika Windon, Meharry Medical College

In the Anatomic Pathology Program

- Dr. John Wojcik, PGY3 (transfer from MGH AP residency program), The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

In the Combined Anatomic Pathology & Neuropathology Program

- Dr. Aivi Nguyen, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University
- Dr. Angela Viaene, The University of Chicago, Division of the Biological Sciences, Pritzker School of Medicine

The Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. poll for “America’s Top Doctors” in 2014 lists the following Department members as top pathologists in the Philadelphia region: **Adam Bagg, MD, Zubair W. Baloch, MD, John Brooks, MD, David Elder, MD, Franz Fogt, MD, PhD, MBA, Prabodh Gupta, MD, Virginia LiVolsi, MD, and Carolyn Mies, MD.**

Harihar M. Patel, a medical technologist in the Automation Lab, received a Blue Ribbon “Best in Show” award for his submission at the 2014 Penn Medicine annual art exhibition held in memory Dr. Bennett L. Johnson, Jr. The acrylic painting, “Fisher, Farmer, and the Hunter,” represents the dietary needs of different regions in India and is on display in the Penn Tower Bridge.



Fisher, Farmer, and the Hunter



A 2010 digital photograph, “La Superior” by **Alexis Lerro**, Staff Assistant in the Chair’s Office, is also part of this year’s exhibition. The 2014 Bennett Johnson Memorial Exhibition is the largest one to date, with 115 pieces of art lining the walls of the Penn Tower bridge

and continuing into the upper level atrium of the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

Recently, **Lynn Vespasiani, MT(ASCP)**, the PAH supervisor of Phlebotomy and Central Specimen Processing, presented to the PAH Service Directors the improvements to patient service with the opening of the 8th floor of Penn Medicine Washington Square (PMWS). The area was chosen as an example of proactively correcting issues.

PMWS, located at 8th and Walnut Streets, opened in August 2013 and is the newest addition to the Penn Medicine Health System. All 12 floors in the state-of-the-art building are occupied by several practices, including Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Urology and Surgery. Outpatient Phlebotomy, Admissions and Pre-Admission Testing occupy the 8th floor of the building. The three separately managed departments have worked as one to share a vision of patient satisfaction and collaborate on improving the patient experience.

During the past five months, the 8th floor has improved processes for patient flow, changed hours of operation to cater to patients’ needs, and, in response to suggestions from patients, added such diverse items as a water cooler, privacy ropes and changing tables, and set aside a private room for breast feeding. The Laboratory has seen an overall increase of 9% in workload over this short period of time, while inpatient volume has dropped. Working individually with the practices to assist with proper test ordering, the Laboratory continues to see an increase in patient flow.

Thomas McAleer, IS Network Planning Manager, is a co-author of a new study from the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine demonstrating that data collected by automated hematology analyzers during complete blood count (CBC) analysis can help to identify myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) in a routine clinical setting. The study, *Automated screening for myelodysplastic syndromes through analysis of complete blood count and cell population data parameters*, by **Philipp W. Raess**, Gert-Jan M. van de Geijn, Tjin L. Njo, Boudewijn Klop, Dmitry Sukhachev, **Gerald Wertheim**, **Tom McAleer**, **Stephen R. Master**, and **Adam Bagg**, was published on March 13, 2014, in the *American Journal of Hematology*.

Nichole Johnson Rulander, Medical Technologist in the Endocrinology Lab, and **David Cardamone, MS, MT(ASCP)**, Technical Manager in the William Pepper Laboratories at HUP, are co-authors of a case report that describes an endogenous anti-streptavidin antibody interfering with clinical laboratory assays for a patient being treated for thyroid dysfunction. The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine article, *Interference from anti-streptavidin antibody*, by Nichole Johnson Rulander, David Cardamone, **Marilyn Senior**, Peter J. Snyder, and **Stephen R. Master** was published recently in

Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. In the same issue, David Cardamone is also first author of “Eltrombopag and serum of a different hue,” along with **Michael C. Milone**, **Laurel Glaser**, Noelle V. Frey, and **Larry J. Kricka**.

The Good Catch Awards at HUP recognize staff members at all levels of the Department who go the extra mile to identify and correct potential patient safety concerns. The Department members who received this honor during the last quarter are **Regina Halbiger** (Technical Specialist, Auto Lab), **Beverly Ptashkin** (Manager, Special Coagulation), **Amanda Barrett, MD** (Resident), **Kelly Firtion** (Technologist, Auto Lab).



The PPMC Troponin Test Turnaround-Time Team

Members of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at PPMC recently announced the results of a performance improvement project that aimed to improve turnaround times for troponin tests, a cardiac marker used to determine whether a patient complaining of chest pains is suffering a heart attack. The results were reported during the 10th cohort of the Penn Medicine PIIA (Performance Improvement in Action) Training program. Prior to the project’s roll-out, turn-around for troponin test results in under one hour was at 86.5% of the time. After the start of the PIIA program, turnaround increased significantly to 98.6 percent and, since then, the team has met its overall goal of 90 percent TAT within one hour.

Blast from the Past

A 1973 ACCU-STAT Blood Cell Counter from the Clay Adams Company
(photo courtesy of Dr. Larry Kricka and the AACC Clinical Laboratory Analyzer Archive)