

Penn Medicine Pathology & Laboratory Medicine REPORT

*A staff newsletter
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Department of Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine*

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are always welcome!*

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Director's Corner

Kojo S. J. Elenitoba-Johnson, MD

*Peter C. Nowell, M.D., Professor; Founding Director, Center for Personalized
Diagnostics and Director, Division of Molecular and Genomic Pathology*

Dear Members of the Department:

It is my distinct pleasure to speak to you directly to convey my appreciation for the warm welcome my wife Dr. Megan Lim and I have received here at Penn. When Megan and I moved our respective labs from the University of Michigan over the summer, it was a daunting undertaking and one that demanded a lot of logistical and organizational efforts. I want to thank especially Zoe Zampana, Executive Assistant in the Chair's Office; Penny Sevin, Project Manager in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Administration; Amy Paglione, Manager, Human Resources in the Pathology Business Office; and Olga Ortiz, whose invaluable help made our transition into your Department as smooth and painless as possible. We are excited to be part of a superb Department under the forward-thinking leadership of Dr. David Roth.

It is exhilarating to take the helm of our new Division of Molecular and Genomic Pathology. The incredible technological advances and innovations in clinical genomics and bioinformatics have made it possible to refine disease diagnoses and prognoses, as well as define predictive genetic biomarkers for precision therapies that will mark a significant shift toward individualized and targeted health care. We are well-poised to be at the forefront of this development.

Molecular and Genomic Pathology is the sub-specialty of Pathology that investigates the relationship between nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) sequences and disease. The current advent of massively parallel (next generation sequencing) approaches for the large-scale interrogation of genetic variation is an enabling disruptive development that has revolutionized the field of nucleic acid-based diagnostics. Thus, the field of Molecular and Genomic Pathology will continue to play a more prominent role as the foundational basis for diagnosis and management of diseases, ranging from inherited diseases to infectious disease and cancer. In fact, Penn Medicine has long been a national leader in this field. In 1985, the Molecular Pathology Laboratory was founded as one of the first of its kind at a university hospital. Penn was also among the first Molecular Pathology training programs.

I look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead and thank you again for making us feel so welcome!

Sincerely,
Kojo S. J. Elenitoba-Johnson, MD

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Day in the Life of... *Jane Dougherty*

With the day-to-day bustle in each of our labs and offices, it's often easy to forget how large and diverse our Department really is. This new column is intended to take you around to different corners and meet colleagues of the P&LM team you might not yet know. Our first spotlight is on Jane Dougherty, who works at PPMC. I recently spoke with Jane about her work and, although she's remarkably modest, I even got her to talk a little bit about herself.

Jane has worked in our Department at PPMC since February of 1980. That's more than 35 years! In an average day, Jane will do "anything and everything from A to Z." Although she mainly assists Dr. Franz Fogt at PPMC, Jane also supports Michael Atweh, Director of PPMC Laboratory Operations. In addition to her regular everyday work, she updates the monthly QA reports, and sometimes even types the gross descriptions and microscope diagnoses, as well as sends out slides. Despite all the work she does, Jane says that her favorite thing about her job is "interacting with the pathologists and Michael. I have learned so much from them and they have such patience with me." As for the worst part of her day? It's the commute, much like it is for many of our staff.

Of course, Jane doesn't just work. She keeps busy with her family and hobbies. Jane says that her greatest sense of accomplishment comes from her "two fantastic kids and three amazing grandbabies." She also comes from a musical family: "My father played the French horn, my mother a willow flute, my sister the piano, and my brothers and I played the guitar and drums. We never made the Johnny Carson Show but we had a lot of fun!"

Jane loves live music and tries to hit the coffee houses for First Friday events. She also loves reading. As she puts it: "Anything that has print I will read."



Chi-Chi, a nine-year-old rescue pup, has found her "forever home" with Jane Dougherty

She describes herself as an introvert, which is why she didn't want her photo taken. Instead, she wanted to call attention to her rescue pup Chi-Chi. Chi-Chi is nine years old now and, as Jane says, she can't go anywhere without her: "She tries to climb in my handbag in the morning because she wants to go to work.... And you should see her wardrobe! She has the latest fall fashions!"

Jane is passionate about animal rescue and volunteering at Friends of Animals and she says that 98% of her rescue pets will find a home. After she's finished working, Jane is "looking forward to the time when I can devote more energy to helping these beautiful creatures – I would love to see a time when each and every one finds their own special 'forever home'! They just want to be loved and that is what I found so heart-breaking." If you or someone you know is interested in rescuing a pet, Jane is a great person to talk to and she has a lot of pet connections.

Jane is one of the many people who make Penn Medicine a great place to work. Next time you're at PPMC, go up to her office on the 5th floor of Wright-Saunders and say "hi." If you're anything like I am, she'll be able to make you crack a smile and have a laugh. Thanks for all you do, Jane!

— Alexis Lerro

MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

■ The Department is going global: recently a delegation of Department representatives and their Chinese counterparts signed an agreement for a collaborative partnership in telepathology consultation services with HuaYin Laboratories in Guangzhou, China. Guangzhou is the fourth largest city in China. The urban area surrounding it, the Pearl River Delta, is the world's largest megacity in both size and population and home to more people than the countries of Canada, Argentina or Australia.



HuaYin Laboratories Signing Ceremony

HuaYin Labs comprises the largest network of laboratories in the Guangzhou region.

■ The Department partnered with our former colleague Chandra Deal's Warm Hearts & Homes non-profit charity project to arrange a back-to-school charity event in order to collect supply donations for children in need at Families Forward Philadelphia (FFP), the city's largest privately run shelter. Thanks to the Department's amazing volunteers, we were able to fill 100 back-



packs with school supplies and collect \$500 in cash for children from kindergarten to 5th grade at the beginning of the new school year.

◆ PAPAL HONOR ROLL 2015 ◆



Countless colleagues at PAH, HUP, and PPMC rose to the occasion and ensured a smooth and successful weekend during Pope Francis's historic visit to Philadelphia in September. Everyone scheduled to work during this time or involved in the preparations made sure to make the best of this extraordinary situation. "We could do this again!" is how one Department member summed it up. (To honor such a demonstration of good spirits, the Pontiff stopped by the labs a little later to convey his gratitude "in person," as you can see above.)

HUP

Residents

Jaleah Hawkins
Qiuping Ma
Sharon Song

Phlebotomy

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Farah Brown
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Jennifer Collins
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Caridad Vedar
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Bruce Edwards
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Olivia Grabowski
Jennifer Le
Vicky Morrison
Cindy Skotnicki
Vanessa Truszo
Cara White
Lawrence Wong
David Youk

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Colleen Finn
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Ethan Kentzel
Sue Lancieri
Amalia Lopez
Jorge Nieves
Victoria Quiles
Kimberly Riedl
Richard Singer
Pat Spinosi
Jeffrey Sutter
Nick Tanzi
Sandy Thomas
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Robert Adkins
Miriam Baxter
Janet Bryant
Kelli Cannady
Theresa Chan
Carolyn Choice
Kofi Dagadzi
Lisa Davis
Damien Dorsey
Ryan Douglas
Alicia Dowling
Chandra Gandhi
Cindy Goldfarb
Anita Gordon
Tiffany Henry
Ashley Hutchinson
Aurora Jacob
Timothy Johnson
Anderah Johnson
Terence Loughran
Allison Mager
Mary Ann Martynewycz
Francis Mateo
Charlette McRoy
Wagedah Millner
Angela Moore
Charece Oliver
Salima Ouazzine
Gari Palmer
Madhu Patel
Patricia Payne
Roxan Reynolds
Athena Riddick
David Talemal
Diane Talemal
Chanh Thach
Tamika Tillery
Mohamed Toure
Barbara Utley
Jacqueline Wahner
Lisa Walker
Juanita Ward
Andre Williams

Honorable Mention

Peggy Bulley
Sheri Diggs
Kara Geibel
Nichole Howard
Erin Pierce
Nichole Rulander

Department Trivia: Did You Know?

Tom McAleer (2nd from right) and **Mike Kern** (right), Network Planning Manager and Analyst for Lab Information Services, respectively, have a friendly ongoing competition about who receives the most email messages on a weekly basis. They are pictured here with two other members of the Lab IS team, **Steve Krauss** (2nd from left), Network Engineer and Admin, and **Frank Amato** (left), Senior Network Planning Analyst. Can you guess how many times each of their inboxes pings with new messages every week?



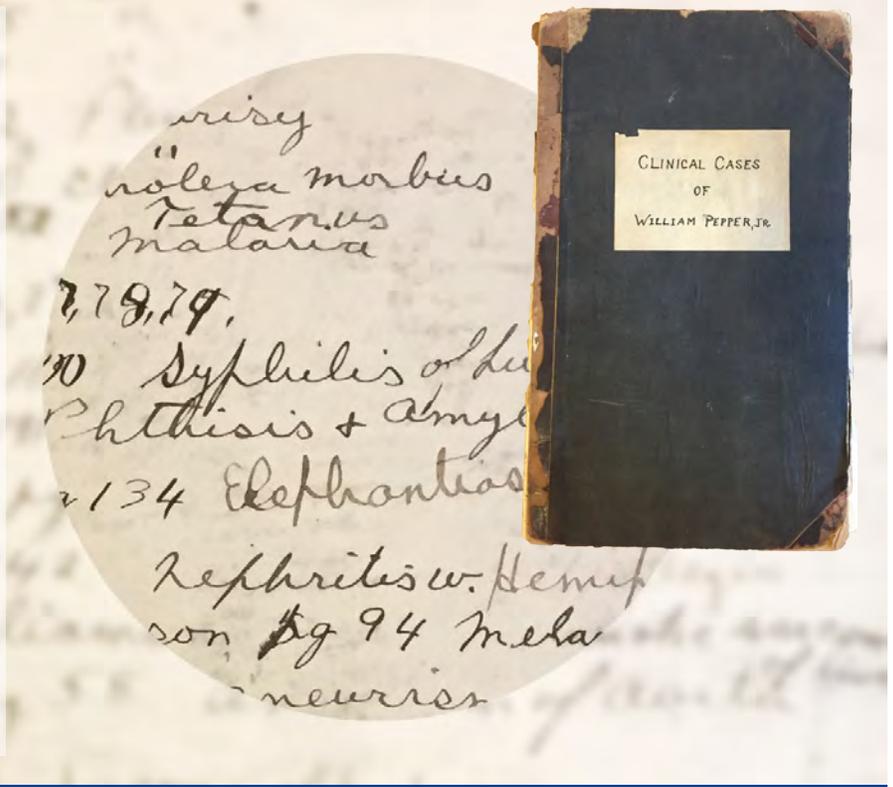
Watch our animated video for the Center for Personalized Diagnostics and learn more about genomic cancer testing at: bit.ly/inside-cpd-video

Blast from the Past

Two antique books, the *Clinical Cases of William Pepper, Jr.* (1897) and the *PostMortem Record/University of Pennsylvania Autopsies* (1875-1889), were recently discovered during renovations in the School of Medicine. Among the cases discussed by Dr. Pepper in his collection are typhoid, pleurisy, cholera morbus, tetanus, malaria, syphilis of liver + pleural effusion, elephantiasis, nephritis, melanotic sarcoma, syphilitic tumor of cerebellum, hemiplegia, brain abscess, lateral sclerosis, and saturnine encephalopathy.

After centuries of storage, these books are in dire need of restoration. To support the Pepper book restoration project, please consider making a gift or donation at: bit.ly/pepper-book-restoration

(Images courtesy of Dr. Irving Nachamkin)



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