

Penn Medicine Pathology & Laboratory Medicine REPORT

*A quarterly newsletter
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Department of Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine*

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Contact the editors or email:
Nichole.Howard@uphs.upenn.edu

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
 Penn Medicine



Director's Corner

Irving Nachamkin, DrPH, MPH, D(ABMM), FAAM, FIDSA
Professor and Director, Division of Laboratory Medicine

Dear Members of the Pathology and Laboratory
Medicine Community:

April is an exciting time of year for all who work in
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. We get to enjoy
longer daylight, warmer temperatures, and celebrate our
own during Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, aka
Lab Week. Lab Week this year occurs April 19-25 and is
a time to acknowledge the important contributions made

by laboratory professionals and pathologists to health care in this country.

Lab Week has been celebrated since 1975 when it was first organized by the
American Society for Medical Technology, now called the American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). Today, 14 different national professional
organizations sponsor and organize activities for Lab Week.

Every day, our laboratory staff and pathologists work in various teams with
clinical colleagues to help diagnose and manage treatments of patients seen in our
now four hospital (perhaps soon to be five) system. A recent example that demon-
strates the critical role of laboratory professionals in meeting medical challenges is
the Ebola outbreak, both in West Africa and in US hospitals. We needed to rapidly
develop the infrastructure for taking care of individuals returning to the States
who were suspected of having or who had actually contracted the disease.

Countless hours were spent by our pathology faculty, department
administration, laboratory technologists and support staff to develop the testing
policies, procedures, processes, simulations, and the special treatment laboratory
(STL) for the evaluation of patients with suspected Ebola infections admitted to
the hospital's special treatment areas.

No doubt, our contributions to this program ultimately led to HUP
becoming one of a number of centers designated by the CDC as an Ebola treat-
ment center. While the Ebola outbreak is not yet over, fortunately there has been
a dramatic decrease in the number of cases in West Africa and we are hopeful that
by this time next year, the Ebola outbreak will have ended.

This is just one reason why "some heroes wear lab coats" and why we
celebrate Lab Week. This year, there will be a number of fun events for all to
participate in at various times during the week. Special thanks to our labora-
tory activities committee for organizing these events! Of particular note is our

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three-day basket raffle held on the Ravdin Mezzanine with proceeds benefiting two local Philadelphia charitable organizations: People's Emergency Center and MANNA. A summary for both HUP and PAH Lab Week activities is listed below.

In addition to the daily diagnostic activities, we should also remember that many individuals in our department are at the forefront of developing new diagnostics and therapies that help

showcase PLM staff as leaders within the health system. Maintaining our visibility as key players in healthcare is crucial to the profession, so please continue to foster team work, get involved with UPHS activities outside the department, and many thanks for the great work that you do.

Irving Nachamkin, DrPH, MPH, D(ABMM), FAAM, FIDSA

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Laboratory Professionals Week Schedule at HUP and Pennsylvania Hospital

2015 Lab Week is April 19 to 25

We celebrate the hard work and dedication by the more than 600 laboratory professionals in more than 30 different laboratories across Penn Medicine. Honor yourself and your colleagues for being a vital part of the lab community!



HUP Lab Week Activities Calendar

EVERY DAY

Lab Week Games and Contests! (check your emails for these)

MONDAY 4/20

- **Lab Week gifts and buttons**, 8:30 am to 9:30 am, 6 Gates (Please send a representative from each section for pick-up.)
- **Lab Week Picnic**, 1 pm to 5 pm, Miller Plaza (Giant Pyramid)
Rainy day alternative: Friday 4/24, Biomedical Research Building (BRB II/III) reception area
- **PECO Tower Crown Lights Lab Week 2015 Message**
Evening after 5 pm

TUESDAY 4/21

- **"State of the Department" Kick-off Event** with Chair Dr. David Roth, 9:30 am to 10 am & 3 pm to 3:30 pm
6 Founders Conference Room
- **Basket Raffle**, 10:30 am to 2 pm
Ravdin Mezzanine, Path and Lab Medicine information table
- **CLSI Lunch and Learn**, noon to 1 pm
7 Founders Conference Room (register with Nichole Howard)

WEDNESDAY 4/22

- **Basket Raffle**, 10:30 am to 2 pm
Ravdin Mezzanine, Path and Lab Medicine information table
- **Roche Lunch and Learn**, noon, 12:45 pm, and 1:15 pm (30-minute sessions), 7 Founders, Conference Room (register with Nichole Howard)
- **Kendrion Lunch and Learn**, noon and 1 pm (30-minute sessions), 3 White Conference Room (register with Robin Brown)
- **Dessert Contest**, 3:30 pm to 5 pm
7 Founders Conference Room

THURSDAY 4/23

- **Candy Gram Distribution**
- **Basket Raffle**, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Ravdin Mezzanine, Path and Lab Medicine information table
Raffle winners announced at 3 pm!
- **Beckman Breakfast and Learn**, 7:30 am and 8 am
7 Founders Conference Room (register with Nichole Howard)
- **Beckman Lunch and Learn**, 11:45 am and 12:30 pm
7 Founders Conference Room (register with Nichole Howard)

FRIDAY 4/24

- **"Decorate Your Door Challenge,"** 10 am to noon, HUP
Theme: "Not All Heroes Wear Capes, Some Wear Coats"
Judges from the Department: Dr. David Roth, Chair, and Bob Challender, Chief Operating Officer
Judges from UPHS: Carolyn Jackson, HUP Chief Operating Officer, and John Kirby, Associate Executive Director of HUP Operations
- **PL & M Happy Hour**, 4:30 pm to 7 pm
City Tap House
39th & Walnut Streets
Hors d'oeuvres and beverage specials



PAH Lab Week Activities Summary

In order to bring awareness to PAH employees and the community, the members of the 2015 PAH Lab Week Committee have organized a week of "Super Hero" themed events. PAH Lab "fun facts" will be printed on table tents and placed in the cafeteria, along with an informational poster of who we are and what we do. During Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, high school students from Penn Charter High School will have the opportunity to tour our facilities and speak with staff about the different career opportunities within the laboratory. On March 27, the lab hosted a bake sale, proceeds of which will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Each sub-department will host activities and games in which all lab employees can partake. Our Chemistry Lab is creating a Periodic Table of Laboratory "Super Heroes" to be put on display. PAH will have a fun-filled week of good food, exciting games, and laboratory awareness in celebration of all of our great employees! At the end of the week, we will conclude our celebrations with a potluck lunch and prize/basket raffles.

MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Artworks by **Danielle Sharpe**, Anatomic Pathology, were selected to be part of the 2015 Penn Medicine art exhibition held in memory of Dr. Bennett L. Johnson, Jr., the former Chief Medical Officer of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania who was also known for his artistic talents. More than 300 works of art were submitted to the 5th annual “Celebration of Art and Life” exhibition dedicated to Dr. Johnson and 145 works were selected for display. The exhibition showcases individual creative expression by Penn Medicine faculty, staff, students and patients and is also intended to help create a sense of well-being.



“The Yellow Jacket” (left) and “Flower Tip” (right) by Danielle Sharpe.

■ Sponsored by the Harrison Fellowship at Pennsylvania Hospital, third-year pathology resident **Dr. Kimberly Williams** recently completed a month of Anatomic Pathology rotation in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where she worked at Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE—an NGO hospital managed by the Philadelphia area-based charity organization Hope Worldwide—and the Phnom Penh Institute of Pathology. Dr. Williams signed out a spectrum of cases sent from throughout the country of 14 million people, including entities that are rarely seen in the US. She also participated in educating and training one of Cambodia’s first pathology residents, Dr. Socheat Eam.



Phnom Penh Institute of Pathology (above) and Dr. Williams with Dr. Socheat Eam (left).



Walkway to the helipad on the roof of the new PAC.

■ Recently, the **Department Integration Team** received an all-access, behind-the-curtains tour of the new \$144M Pavilion for Advanced Care (PAC) at PPMC. The six-story, 178,000-square-foot facility combines advanced features aimed at improving patient and family comfort in order to provide the best in critical care. The Department played a crucial role in the new pavilion. **The PPMC Blood Bank** and **Lab Medicine** upgraded their facilities and identified critical issues in order to make proper adjustments to their workflow to meet the needs of the new patient population. Alyson Cole, Assistant Executive Director of PPMC, showed the group many of the building’s modern technologies and design choices in the service of patient care, including a state-of-the-art trauma resuscitation area and the “Corridor of Life” critical care treatment area. The integration team was very impressed by the myriad improvements, ranging from the soothing patterns for the windows of the recovery suites to the oversized helipad on the rooftop.

Blast from the Past



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week originated in 1975 as National Medical Laboratory Week (or NMLW). This year marks the 40th anniversary of “Lab Week” in honor of the laboratory professional community’s ability and dedication to saving lives.

Today, 14 professional organizations are sponsors of the event: AABB, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Association of Genetic Technologists, American Medical Technologists, American Society of Cytopathology, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, American Society for Clinical Pathology, American Society for Cytotechnology, American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, American Society for Microbiology, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Clinical Laboratory Management Association, College of American Pathologists, National Society for Histotechnology

(Image courtesy of the Colleen Delcamp Collection)

Upcoming Events & Activities

Path and Lab Medicine Night at the Ballpark

(Lab Week Extension)

Phillies vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Citizens Bank Park, Section 201

4:30 pm Department Sponsored Tailgate Party

7:05 pm Game Time

The Department of Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine is on Facebook:
visit us at

[www.facebook.com/
PennPathologyandLabMedicine](http://www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine)

Department Trivia: Did You Know?

Perelman School of Medicine PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

HOME DEPARTMENT EDUCATION RESEARCH CLINICAL SERVICES PATIENT CARE

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NEWS
NIH Award to Develop Synthetic DNA Vaccines to Fight HIV
The NIAID has awarded \$16 million to a collaborative group led by Dr. David Weiner to develop the next generation of HIV vaccines.
[READ MORE](#)

BREAKING
Dr. Carl June is Co-Recipient of the 2015 Paul Ehrlich Prize
[READ MORE](#)

Diagnostics at Penn Labs
Access HUP Test Menu

INFO
Making Gene Therapy a Reality
A recent WHY? Newsworks radio report highlights the promise of gene therapy after "more than three decades of trial and error."
[READ MORE](#)

NEWS
Genes and Development Study Describes Function of an Enzyme Critical to...

INFO
The T-Cell Warriors

INFO
Precision Medicine Initiative

BLOG
State of the Department
New combination will include a Center for Advanced Cellular Therapeutics
The launch of our new website provides a good moment to reflect on what has happened over the last year and where we are going as a Department.
[READ MORE](#)

Want to keep in touch with what's

The Department recently relaunched its academic website for the Perelman School of Medicine.
Visit pathology.med.upenn.edu to find out more.

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Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Administration

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

6 Gates Building

3400 Spruce Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

pathology.med.upenn.edu