

# Penn Medicine Pathology & Laboratory Medicine REPORT

*A staff newsletter  
published by the Penn Medicine  
Department of Pathology  
and Laboratory Medicine*

## CONTENTS

- Director's Column
- In the Spotlight:  
Art, Observation and  
Mental Illness
- Milestones and Achievements
- Department Trivia:  
Did You Know?
- Blast from the Past

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Pat Abbott, Michael Atweh,  
Helen Carpenter, Robert Challender,  
William Hunt, Deborah Mincarelli,  
Hamid Moattari, Dr. David Roth,  
Daniel Wild

## EDITORS

Joshua Edwards, Nichole Howard,  
Daniel Wild

*Ideas, news, suggestions and submissions  
are always welcome!*

*Contact the editors or email:*

*Nichole.Howard@uphs.upenn.edu*



## Director's Column

**Megan S. Lim, MD, PhD**

*Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Director, Division of Hematopathology*

Dear Members of the Department,

I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome we have received from members of the Department. The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is a remarkable place to work in, and we are truly appreciative of our great colleagues and of the friends we have already made here at Penn.

In the last year we have made great strides to establish our new Division of Hematopathology. We have been extremely fortunate to recruit key individuals, including Joshua Edwards (Technical Manager), Darrin Jengehino (Technical Specialist), Alexa Koike (Administrative Coordinator), and Suanne Gardiner (Senior Secretary), all of whom have provided tremendous support for the operational aspects of the Division. The Hematopathology service has been reorganized to enhance delivery of high-quality patient care, educating our residents and fellows, and supporting the scholarly activities of the faculty. With the integration of the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory we are also fortunate to have recruited Jill Johns as our first Technical Director. In collaboration with Anne Crivaro (Technical Manager), Jill will be spearheading our plans for implementing new software and 10-color analysis in the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory. We welcome, too, our new faculty members who have recently joined our Division, Drs. John Astle and Gabriel Caponetti. Amidst the organizational restructuring, we are very excited about the construction of our hematopathology suite on 7 Gates to be completed by July 2017.

Hematopathology is a complex and challenging subspecialty. The combined services at CHOP and HUP are impressive: we process over 2400 bone marrow biopsies, 650 in-house lymph nodes and other tissue specimens, 1400 extramural consult cases, and several hundred cases submitted in consultation by pathologists and/or oncologists from the United States and abroad each year.

We work in close cooperation with several different laboratories, including the gross room, surgical pathology, cytopathology, molecular pathology, cytogenetics and the Center for Personalized Diagnostics. In this sense, hematopathology truly serves as a bridge between clinical pathology and anatomic pathology. For these reasons, I envision our Division to function as the fulcrum that brings together the many facets of pathology and I look forward to our collaboration over the years to come.

Sincerely,  
Megan S. Lim, MD, PhD

## Art, Observation, and Mental Illness



While he was in medical school, **Salvatore F. Priore, MD, PhD**, a PGY-2 Resident in the Anatomic Pathology Program, developed a two-week MS-I class “Art, Observation, and Mental Illness,” at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry to hone exceptional observational skills. The class was intended to heighten medical students’ perception by training them in the observation of pieces of art and

apply these skills to real-life patients. On the basis of the courses he led at his alma mater, Salvatore recently offered a pilot session for first-year medical students in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania during the Psychiatry portion of the “Brain and Behavior” module this spring.

About a dozen students gathered at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) for a two and a half hour session to gauge interest for a longer two-week course that will be held at the museum in September, in collaboration with Drs. Benoit Dubé and Horace Delisser in the medical school and with education staff at the PMA. The goal of the class is to cultivate key values in medicine, such as altruism, empathy, and compassion by using reflective, reflexive, and interpretive practices. The artwork serves as a “patient” on whom the students practice their observational skills. The museum setting also allows students to take the time to refine this practice in ways that are not always possible in the hospital.

As Salvatore notes, “artwork, like patients, can stir very strong emotions in the observer. In the group setting, as each student shares, they gain an appreciation of how other people view the same situation and achieve insight into how their own emotions can radically affect their interpretation of events. Students begin to understand — and become more comfortable with — the grey areas in medicine, a difficult practice in a field where people are normally rewarded for knowing the right answers or getting the highest score on multiple-choice tests.”

The class also offers a direct clinical tie-in by incorporating mental illness into the curriculum. Art is a helpful medium because depictions

of mental illness improve students’ empathy and understanding about how patients with mental illness are viewed and treated in society. Artworks also serve as a reminder that physicians must be active in shaping how such perceptions will change in the future. Moreover, understanding how art can be a therapeutic modality for a patient suffering from mental illness improves the ability of future physicians to provide compassionate care for their patients. It also provides them with coping skills and activities to improve their functionality and treatment success.

In the full course, Salvatore plans to choose paintings that fit under thematic umbrellas that are specifically addressed on the mental status exam, such as appearance and judgment, thus providing practical clinical correlates in the pieces that students observe and that can be translated back directly to their exam of actual patients. Salvatore hopes that he can expand this new class offering in the future to include more diverse offerings that will appeal to a large cross-section of medical students.



*The famous 1890 painting Breaking Home Ties by Thomas Hovenden (1840 – 1895) is one of the artworks used in Salvatore’s class in which medical students are trained to enhance their observational skills. (Image reproduced by permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art.)*

## Milestones & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Pennsylvania Hospital School of Medical Laboratory Science graduated its 69th class this summer: **Stephanie Bacho** (Gwynedd Mercy University), **Selina Dao** (University of the Sciences), **Kyler Gauger** (West Chester University), **Devin Glose** (East Stroudsburg University), **Michelle Nguyen, PhD** (Penn State University), **Jessica O’Donnell** (West Chester University), **Rutwa Otia** (Sardar Patel University), **Courtney Prozeralik** (University of the Sciences), and **Edward Vo** (Penn State Abington). Eight of the graduates have accepted jobs at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: Stephanie, Selina and Kyler accepted positions in Transfusion Medicine, Michelle and Edward in Tissue Typing, Courtney in Microbiology, Jessica in Molecular Pathology, and Rutwa in the Autolab. All nine of the graduates are part of the UPHS scholarship/work loan program; three of the students graduated with a 4.0 (awesome achievement, Stephanie, Michelle and Courtney!) In



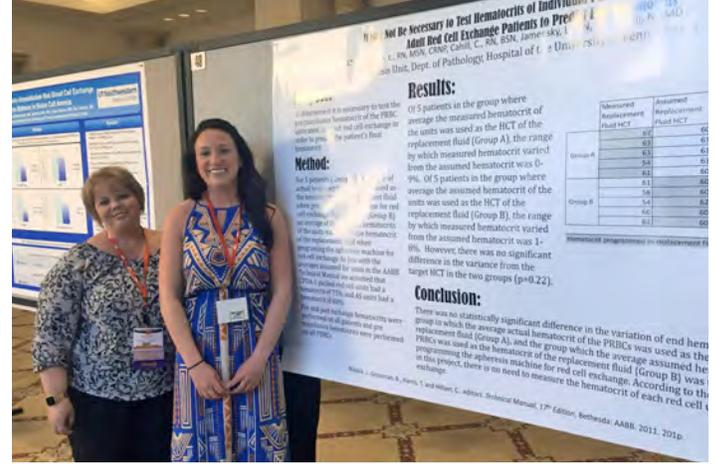
In addition to the UPHS scholarship, Michelle also won scholarships from the ASCLS-PA, the Alpha Mu Tau Society and the ASCP. Stephanie won the Gwynedd Mercy Female Athlete of the Year and was inducted to Alpha Eta, the National Honor Society for Health Professions. Our best wishes go out to all the graduates!



**C**ongratulations to **Amanda Bennett**, Point-of-Care Testing Coordinator at Pennsylvania Hospital, for completing the “Penn Medicine Future Program”! This mentoring program prepares emerging healthcare leaders to expand their skills and build a career towards management. Amanda’s “stretch project” for the program was to improve the overall proficiency percentage of Pennsylvania Hospital Lab employees using PennChart 2. To implement this change, she worked with the Department supervisors and facilitated training classes for staff. Amanda graduated from the School of Medical Laboratory Science at PAH in 2010 and worked at HUP in the Molecular Pathology Lab until 2014 when she moved to Pennsylvania Hospital. Amanda is the vice president of the Keystone Chapter of the Point-of-Care Coordinators and is actively working on her Master’s Degree in Public Health.

**R**esidents, fellows, faculty members and staff of the Apheresis Unit recently attended the annual American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) Conference in Palm Springs, Calif. **Leah L. Irwin, RN, MSN, CRNP**, Nurse Manager for the Apheresis, Infusion and Donor Services, was actively involved in a number of capacities at the conference, co-authoring a poster and an abstract presentation, as well as leading a continuing-education class for the Qualification in Apheresis exam on “Donor and Patient Care During Apheresis” and a roundtable discussion with experts on vascular access. The abstract presented, “More Efficient Exchange of Sickle Red Blood Cells can be Achieved by Exchanging the Densest Red Blood Cells” (authors Thibodeaux SR, Jamansky L, Schell K, Irwin L, O’Doherty U), on an experiment in improving red cell exchange efficiency will be published in the *Journal of Clinical Apheresis*. The poster presentation, “It May Not Be Necessary to Test Hematocrits of Individual Packed Red Cell Units Used in Adult Red Cell Exchange Patients to Predict End Hematocrits” (authors Irwin L, Cahill C, Jamensky L, Aquilino N), a qual-

ity project to determine if measuring the hematocrit of each unit used in a red cell exchange would benefit the patient by better predicting the end hematocrit of the patient after red cell exchange as opposed to the current practice using an assumed hematocrit. The study, also to be published in the *Journal of Clinical Apheresis*, found no difference in using the assumed hematocrit of the units versus the measured hematocrit.



Leah Irwin, left, and co-author Caitlin Q. Cahill, RN, BSN, a member of the HUP nursing staff, presenting their abstract.

**T**he **Blood Bank** in the Division of Transfusion Medicine and Therapeutic Pathology collaborated with the PeriOp Quality and Safety Committee and a process improvement advisor to pilot a new transportation process for blood products between the Blood Bank and the OR with the overall goal of reducing blood wastage during surgical procedures and a specific aim to reduce wastage in the OR to less than 20 units of blood products per month. The result during the four-month pilot showed that the goal was achieved, and far exceeded it with only 10 units wasted in November and 7 units wasted in December. Initially, PeriOp did not have either reliable data on blood wastage or metrics on the cost implications to the hospital, but once data compiled from the Blood Bank, PeriOp Quality, and from Anesthesia was analyzed, the need for a process improvement became clear. The reduction of unused blood products and a timely return to the blood bank for preservation have become a process improvement initiative over the last few years. Because of the success of this specific pilot, the blood-transport process improvement project was recently adopted for day-to-day operations.

**T**he **Blood Bank** in the Division of Transfusion Medicine and Therapeutic Pathology collaborated with the PeriOp Quality and Safety Committee and a process improvement advisor to pilot a new transportation process for blood products between the Blood Bank and the OR with the overall goal of reducing blood wastage during surgical procedures and a specific aim to reduce wastage in the OR to less than 20 units of blood products per month. The result during the four-month pilot showed that the goal was achieved, and far exceeded it with only 10 units wasted in November and 7 units wasted in December. Initially, PeriOp did not have either reliable data on blood wastage or metrics on the cost implications to the hospital, but once data compiled from the Blood Bank, PeriOp Quality, and from Anesthesia was analyzed, the need for a process improvement became clear. The reduction of unused blood products and a timely return to the blood bank for preservation have become a process improvement initiative over the last few years. Because of the success of this specific pilot, the blood-transport process improvement project was recently adopted for day-to-day operations.

## DEPARTMENT TRIVIA: *Did You Know?*

This year’s Lab Week basket raffle raised more than \$7,500 for two local charities. MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance), a charity that provides nourishment and nutritional counseling to individuals in the greater Philadelphia area who are coping with a life-threatening illness, received \$3,780. A check for \$3,780 also went to the Wissahickon Grief Reach Fund, a fund that supports families in need of bereavement services. In the five years since we began our tradition of the Lab Week basket raffle, the Department has raised more than \$30,000 with all proceeds donated to MANNA, the Wissahickon Grief Reach Fund, and the Peoples Emergency Center, a West Philadelphia social service agency for homeless women, teenagers, and their children.

This year’s Lab Week at PAH was also a resounding success. Members of the **PAH Lab Week Committee** organized a number of events for



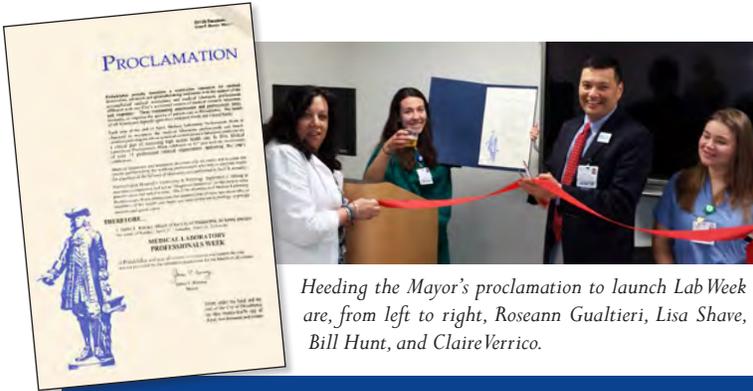
Thank you to the members of the **PLM Activities Committee**: Vania Aikawa, Wael Bahar, Robin Brown, Peggy Bulley, Lamar Chandler, Dan Danoski, Colleen Delcamp, Sylvia Dossick, Jenna Fetters, Kara Eller, Joyce Gonzales, Kelly Graf, Catherine Hardy, Nichole Howard, Andy Huynh, Jeanne Keller, Aimee Lucanuan, Sarah Leonard, Cara McLaughlin, Kaitlin Novelli, Rich Panak, Laura Pritchard, Amy Reiprish, Shelley Roberts, Nichole Rulander, Brittany Schneider, Paige Stanley, Emma Staatz, Leslie Trammell, Daniel Wild, Liya Wu, and QB Xiong.

*Department Trivia* **continued from page 3**

the week, including lab tours for Penn Charter High School students, a Phillies Hot Dog Day, and a “Guess the Cell -- Super Scope Sleuth” game with a contest to identify different types of 2D cells created out of Play-Doh. Winners (with perfect scores plus extra credit!) were **Sue Taylor** and **Christina Howald**.

Other highlights were a 50/50 basket raffle for lab week and two charities, raising \$120 for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and \$130 for the Just Fight Foundation, a foundation that provides training in emergency preparedness and life-saving techniques. The PAH Lab Week Committee also received an official proclamation from the Mayor’s Office, in which Mayor James F. Kenney proclaimed Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in Philadelphia and “urged all citizens to recognize and support the vital service provided by the laboratory practitioner for the benefit of all citizens.”

*Thank you to all the members of the PAH Lab Week Committee: Amanda Bennett, Travis Bicher, Amanda Dilchus, Danielle Iannelli, Yan Liu, Gabriela Peterson, Irene Randisi, Kim Riedl, Lisa Shave, Nicholas Tanzi, Claire Verrico, as well as Jean Buchenhorst and William Hunt, ex officio.*



*Heeding the Mayor’s proclamation to launch Lab Week are, from left to right, Roseann Gualtieri, Lisa Shave, Bill Hunt, and Claire Verrico.*

**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](http://pathology.med.upenn.edu)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST



**Carol Ann Imperatrice**, Lead Technologist in the Microbiology Lab on 4 Gates, recently dug into her archive of memorabilia over the decades and found this gem — a real collector’s item because it is the “unauthorized” 1986 Lab Week T-shirt created by Department members to celebrate what was then called “National Laboratory Week.” Carol has been with the Department for 40 years, so when you run into her be sure to ask her what her favorite memories of Lab Week from the years past are!

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is on Facebook. Visit us at:  
[www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine](http://www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine)  
Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/pennpathlabmed](https://twitter.com/pennpathlabmed)

© 2016 DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE