

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:
Pathology Helps to Engage Kids

Milestones and Achievements

Blast from the Past

Department Trivia:
Did You Know?

EDITORS

Daniel Wild, *Editor in Chief*
Joshua Edwards, *Managing Editor*
Nichole Howard, *Managing Editor*

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

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

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

Director's Column

Daniel S. Herman, MD, PhD

*Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Director, Endocrine Laboratory*



Dear Members of the Department,

It has been a pleasure and an adventure to join the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Penn Medicine and I thank all of you for your warm welcomes. I want to use this opportunity to share with you my excitement about our Department's initiative to realize the potential of Pathology Informatics to improve how we care for our patients.

Every day, we create massive quantities of patient results and interpretations. To make even better use of these daily efforts, we are now building informatics tools to transform how we process, integrate, interpret, and display this information. Working with our partners in the Penn Medicine Laboratory Information System, Data Analytics Center, and Predictive Healthcare teams, we will develop flexible operational reports to interrogate and improve our processes and real-time dashboards to monitor and detect deviations in test volume, turn-around-time, and quality.

In parallel, we are also investing in computational tools and expertise to improve how we interpret our test results by leveraging longitudinal and multiple concurrent tests to create more personalized patient test interpretations, to refine our tests' diagnostic accuracy and utility, and to detect cryptic testing errors. Moving forward, as we continue to implement cutting-edge systems for diagnostic testing and laboratory automation, from specimen processing to digital pathology, we will couple each of these projects with informatics applications to enable us to further improve test quality and to focus our time on the most challenging patients and tests.

For me, these initiatives are the culmination of a many-year odyssey. I began this journey in a research laboratory in which I helped to develop molecular biology and bioinformatics methods for targeted next-generation DNA sequencing and applied these tools to find pathogenic mutations in patients with inherited cardiomyopathies. Next, to translate such complex research methods to clinical practice, I trained in Clinical Pathology and learned how to implement robust bench and computational procedures. Throughout my training, I have tried to make the best use of available laboratory data for our patients and now, together, we have the opportunity to reach this goal. I look forward to working with each of you as we leverage data and analytics transform our practice of pathology.

Pathology Helps to Engage Kids



Alexander S. R. Macnow, MD, a PGY-3 Resident in the Combined Anatomic Pathology & Clinical Pathology Program, recently participated in an outreach program for elementary school students from a public school in West Philadelphia as part of the Health Science Exploration (HSE) Program. HSE sends medical students to a local

Philadelphia school to teach biology and health lessons to 3rd and 4th graders throughout the school year.

Dr. Macnow's session was intended to help the students develop their understanding of human biology by allowing them to engage interactively and by demonstrating how healthy habits and diseases can affect organs. Dr. Macnow brought along a collection of pathology specimens, including a few lungs (normal, black "smoker's" lung, emphysema, cancer), some hearts (normal, heart failure/dilated, hypertensive/hypertrophy), livers (normal, fatty, cirrhosis) and a normal brain.



All the students were highly engaged and, while perhaps a bit grossed out at times, were very curious and asked a ton of insightful questions. They were particularly "wowed" by the smoker's lungs and the intact brain. As one student put it to another during the demonstration, he wished that "every teacher could be as cool as Dr. Macnow."

Let's hope so, since Dr. Macnow plans to undertake a career in medical education and teaching. Arrangements to hold another event for next semester's cohort of students are already underway.

Milestones & ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to the School of Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Graduating Class of 2017 and their placement into the laboratories! Pictured in the front row are, seated from left to right: **Carolyn Webster** (HUP Blood Bank), **Sierra Miller** (HUP Microbiology), **Erin Henry** (HUP Immunology), and **Alexandra Pavliukova** (interviews in progress). Middle row, from left to right: **Dr. Ming Zhang** (PAH instructor), **Weichao Guo** (Sentara Healthcare, VA), **Carmelo Jacinto** (HUP Microbiology), **Dr. Ihab Lamzabi** (PAH instructor), **Marcia Marchese** (PAH instructor), and **Dr. Michael Husson** (PAH instructor). Back row from left to right: **Bill Hunt** (PAH instructor), **Zachery Kendra** (HUP Immunology), **Sam Pasco** (Graduate school, Trinity College, Ireland), **Marek Mioduszewski** (HUP Toxicology), and **Jean Buchenhorst** (PAH instructor and Program Director). Thank you to all the instructors, in the laboratory and in the lectures -- the MLS program couldn't exist without you!

Leslie Trammell, Senior Secretary for Clinical Microbiology, recently received a HUP CARE's Grant for her support of the Grace Dance Theater Community Outreach. The CAREs Grants were established to offer institutional support to these individuals and programs in the form of grants that can be used for the purchase of supplies and other resources needed to perform this important work in the community. Leslie will be receiving funding to introduce movement and dance-aerobic classes to the children and families of the West Philadelphia community as a way to increase health, encourage community relationships, and develop social skills. By partnering with the West Philadelphia Community Center or the Community Education Center, she will offer these classes through the already-established and prominent Grace Dance Theater that mainly caters to artistic expression with "an African-American flair."



Brian Hoffman, PA in Surgical Pathology, was this year's recipient of the Residents Award, which is given annually to one technologist or PA in AP or CP to recognize his or her outstanding dedication to teaching and improving resident training in his or her area of expertise. Brian Hoffman was cited as an all-around "wonderful PA" in surgical pathology, who is "kind, patient, insightful, and always ready to go above and beyond to help the team." All of the residents appreciate his teaching and mentorship.



Lab Week at PAH

To celebrate this year's Laboratory Professionals Week at Pennsylvania Hospital, the PAH Lab Week Committee, Gabriela Peterson (Blood Bank Lab), Yan Liu (Cytology Lab), Antonio Esparza (Hematology), student volunteers from the MLS School, Jean Buchenhorst (MLS School Program Director), Danielle Iannelli (Heme/Onc Lab), Coral Holly (Microbiology Lab), Vicky Quiles (Central Processing), Emine Karamete (Chemistry Lab), and Claire Verrico from POCT, the Lab Week Committee Chair, worked together to plan fun and collaborative lab-wide events.

Lab Week began with a Hot Dog Lunch. On Tuesday, the blood bank laboratory sponsored a "Scavenger Hunt", where each lab participated as a team, photo-documented specific locations, and performed fun tasks in order to complete the items on the scavenger hunt list. On Wednesday, the Microbiology lab joined in the festivities with their "Floor is Lava" game where "seeing-eye lab techs" attempted to guide their blindfolded coworkers to step only on the blue tiles through a section of the hallway. Additionally, Chemistry had everyone guessing with the "What's the Volume?" game. Here the laboratorians submitted their best total volume estimates after examining a jar filled with a variety of specimen tubes. Other fun lab sponsored games throughout the week included Hematology/Oncology's "Hand in the Box" game and Hematology's "Blood Bowl" miniature bowling game.

To raise awareness about the profession of laboratory sciences, various members of staff and their personal biographies were featured on table tents in the cafeteria to highlight worker individuality and professional commitment. An informational poster was also displayed in the subbasement hallway to emphasize the work performed in the laboratory. Furthermore, tours were offered to the hospital's Student Volunteers in order to showcase career options in the world of laboratory science.

A final "Wacky Lab Hat Contest" capped the festivities. A grand total of \$770 was raised in ticket sales and a previous week's bake sale. This allowed the lab to donate half of the 50/50 and bake-sale money towards the purchase of toiletry and linen items for *Home for the Brave*, a 30-bed housing program for homeless veterans in Camden. This, along with a charitable contribution from

Central Processing's Richard Singer, brought the final donation to \$280! A wonderful end to a fun-filled week highlights the importance of our dedicated laboratory professionals, their admirable enthusiasm, their creativity in teamwork and their generosity amidst a celebratory week! — *Gabriela Peterson*

Congratulations to one of the four winners of the #GroundsForTheFuture social media contest to build excitement for the New Patient Pavilion as chosen by Penn Medicine leadership – who else but the members of the **Molecular Pathology Lab!** They were among the many who "mugged" for the camera and toasted the ceremonial groundbreaking for the pavilion by tagging #GroundsForTheFuture on social media. The \$1.5B hospital project is Penn Medicine's biggest building project ever. The 17-story and 1.5 million-square-foot pavilion is expected to be completed by 2021 and will set a new standard for improved healthcare delivery for generations to come by employing innovative facility solutions.



William Hunt, MBA, MLS(ASCP)CM, Administrative Director of Laboratory Medicine at Pennsylvania Hospital, is the 2017 honoree of the Bio-Rad Scientific Assembly Professional Achievement Award for Laboratory Administration / Quality / Accreditation / Industry / Consulting by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). The ASCLS Professional Achievement Award



Award recipient William "Bill" Hunt with the President of the ASCLS Suzanne Campbell, PhD.

recognizes outstanding professional achievement and leadership service of an individual ASCLS member within the recipient's chosen area of academic, scientific or vocational interest at the national level, as determined by the members of the ASCLS Scientific Assembly. This year's Achievement Award was presented at the Awards Ceremony of the ASCLS Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Exposition in San Diego.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Can you guess what's going on here? We found this still frame from 2001 in our video vault... Bonus points for identifying who's in the picture.



DEPARTMENT TRIVIA:

Did You Know?

For this year's HUP Lab Week Basket Raffle, the Department raised more than \$8,000 for two local charities, the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition (MANNA) and the Wissahickon Grief Reach Fund. Alas, the donated money included one counterfeit \$20 bill. Who would use a fake Jackson to contribute to a good cause? Most likely it was an accident and the person didn't know the bill was bogus. While a \$20 note is the most

frequently encountered counterfeit bill in the United States, fake \$100 notes are the ones most widely circulated overseas. (If you suspect a note is counterfeit, the U.S. Department of the Treasury advises reporting it to local police or the U.S. Secret Service.)



Connect with us on:
[facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine](https://www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine)
twitter.com/pennpathlabmed
[instagram.com/pennpathlabmed](https://www.instagram.com/pennpathlabmed)

© 2017 DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Administration

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
6 Gates Building
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
<http://pathology.med.upenn.edu>