



Director's Corner

Dear Members of the Division of Precision and Computational Diagnostics (PCD),

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our division's newsletter! I would like to express my gratitude to Jackie Roth, Laura Pritchard and Suanne Gardiner for their help in launching our first issue. This past year has gone by very quickly and we have accomplished a great deal spanning across our clinical, academic and educational missions. We have welcomed new staff and faculty (including myself) to the Penn community. I personally have enjoyed working in the department of PLM and enjoy the many attributes of living in Philadelphia!

We have also had social events in which we have learned more about one another in a social setting and look forward to future events with recommendations for more fun activities. We hope to update all members about divisional events in this forum on a bi-monthly basis. Please feel free to provide ideas for fun activities and updates in your various sections to assist with populating our newsletter. Once again, it has been a wonderful year working with all members of the PCD and I am looking forward to many more.

Sincerely,
Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, M.D.

First PCD – DGD Retreat

On July 21, 2016, the PCD participated in the first PENN-CHOP Retreat on Genomic Diagnostics. In addition to members of the PCD, attendees included the CHOP Division of Genomic Diagnostics (DGD), HUP Genetics Department, and HUP Pathology. The event was well attended, with approximately 60 people in the audience.

The retreat was led by division chairs Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD (PCD) and Nancy Spinner, PhD (DGD). Other speakers included Jennifer

Morrisette, PhD, Vivianna Van Deerlin, MD, PhD, Christopher Watt, MD, PhD, Robert Babak Faryabi, PhD, Arupa Ganguly, PhD, Malek Kamoun, MD, PhD, Laura Conlin, PhD, Fengqi Chang, PhD, Dimitri Monos, PhD, Avni Santani, PhD, and Mahdi Sarmady, PhD. Topics discussed included current clinical assay menus, areas of research and development, and educational programs. The PCD would like to thank all participants for such a successful event and we look forward to future collaborative genomic efforts.



PCD Members Find Zen



PCD members Vania Aikawa, MD, Jennifer Morrissette, PhD, and Jackie Roth, PhD, traveled to the American Cytogenetics Conference in Sunriver, Oregon in June. At the conference, Vania & Jennifer delivered a talk on

“Cytogenetic Studies Supporting the Development of New Immunotherapy for B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.” Jennifer also spoke on “It’s Not You, It’s Me: Somatic and Germline Mutations Detected Through Routine Clinical Testing.” When they weren’t indoors learning about cytogenetic diagnostics, Vania, Jen, and Jackie joined together in an early bird yoga practice overlooking the misty Sunriver in Oregon.

First Annual PCD Party

Members of the PCD gathered for the first PCD party this past Spring. As a newly formed division, attendees and their families were able to mingle while dining on delicious food! Winners of the ice breaker games included Kojo, Joe Grubb, Caren Gentile and Dave Surrey. The evening winded down with campfire s’mores which both the children and adults enjoyed.



The event was held at the home of Peter and Vivianna Van Deerlin. Thank you to everyone who made this event such a success! If you were unable to attend the party, or are new to the division, please see Emma Staatz or Laura Pritchard for a party favor water bottle.

Kojo Speaks at AMP Reception

PCD Division Director Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD spoke at the Association for Molecular Pathology Learning and Networking Reception in Philadelphia on July 30, 2016. Kojo shared with the audience his research on “Novel Insights of Pathogenesis from Genomic Sequencing of Cutaneous T-cell Lymphomas.” Former PCD member Robert Wilson, MD, PhD, also spoke on “Bayesian Analysis in Molecular Pathology.” In addition to attending the presentation sessions, attendees enjoyed a reception while networking with AMP colleagues.



PCD Gang & Families



Van Deerlin Gets Fit for Charity

Vivianna Van Deerlin, MD, PhD, has been a member of CrossFit Mount Laurel (CFMTL) for three years. Through regular participation in its intense program of conditioning and weightlifting, she has gained physical strength and significantly improved her level of overall fitness. By participating in CFMTL she has also indirectly donated to local charities. The Community Connections program at CFMTL raises money for charities and brings the community closer together through Facebook check-ins. Starting back in October 2015, CFMTL donates 50 cents per check-in for up to a \$500 donation to a local charity that impacts the lives of one or more members. The August 2016 charity is the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation – three CFMTL members are involved with this organization.



Squashing It After Hours

In his spare time, our Division Director, Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD, joined Karthik Ganapathy of the CPD to play squash at the Berwyn Squash and Fitness center in the Philly suburbs. In many regards, going in to the glass door and playing a squash game is akin to coming in to work at the CPD - it's all about being precise and in control while using spaces as well as you can.



Play Ball

PCD members spent an evening at the Ballpark cheering on the hometown Philadelphia Phillies against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Although the Phillies lost, everyone had a great time showing their "Phillies spirit."



Do you have comments, suggestions, or content for the newsletter? Please contact Jackie Roth or Laura Pritchard; jacquelyn.roth@uphs.upenn.edu or laura.pritchard@uphs.upenn.edu

News & Newsworthy

On July 12, 2016, the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) announced the results of its leadership elections. PCD division director **Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD was elected President**; President-Elect 2017, President 2018 and Past-President 2019. He will be quite busy! Additionally, Rachel L. Sargent, MD (HUP hematopathology) was elected as a Hematopathology Nominating Committee Representative.

Congratulations to Kojo and Rachel! The Press Release can be found at:

<https://www.amp.org/documents/2016ElectionResults.pdf>.

Welcome New Members!



Natalie Opsitnick is a new laboratory technician at the CPD, where she is eager to take her official place at the bench. Originally from

Delaware, Natalie came to Philly in 1999 to attend Drexel University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering in 2004. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking with her rescue pup, attempting to learn guitar, and sewing.



Jessica O'Donnell graduated from West Chester University in 2015 with a BS in General Biology. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she decided to complete Pennsylvania Hospital's 10-month Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program to obtain the MLS (ASCP) Certification. Soon after Jessica completed the program she was hired in the Molecular Pathology Lab and is thrilled to be working at one of the nation's finest institutions alongside so many brilliant individuals.



Craig Soderquist, MD is a graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology followed by a fellowship in Hematopathology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a fellow in Molecular Pathology.



Jason Rosenbaum, MD is excited to join the division of Precision and Computational Diagnostics as a new faculty member. He recently completed his Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI. Growing up in California, Jason wanted to be a cowboy, but there are not very many cowboy positions open. Jason enjoys spending his free time with his wife and sons, who do not necessarily want to be cowboys. Jason is looking forward to working with the faculty, staff, and trainees at the University of Pennsylvania.

Contributors

Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD

Karthik Ganapathy

Jess O'Donnell

Natalie Opsitnick

Jason Rosenbaum, MD

Craig Soderquist, MD

Emma Staatz

Vivianna Van Deerlin, MD, PhD

Jacquelyn Roth, PhD

Laura Pritchard

Suanne Gardiner - The PCD newsletter staff would like to thank Suanne for her assistance with assembling the current issue - we could not have done it without her!