



Penn Medicine

Division of Precision & Computational Diagnostics

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Director's Corner

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

Welcome to the fifth issue of our Divisional Newsletter. The last few months have been filled with numerous intra- and extra-divisional professional and extracurricular activities. Many thanks and congratulations to the Division and Department for successful transition into PennChart which required exquisite coordination of all our staff. Many congratulations to Caren Gentile, Jennifer Smith and Vivianna Van Deerlin, co-authors on a seminal paper published as a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine (http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1705221?query=featured_home) describing a pilot trial at the University of Pennsylvania (Transplanting Hepatitis C Kidneys into Negative Kidney Recipients [THINKER]). This landmark study showcased the critical contribution of our Division to life-saving procedures in patients needing transplants. Congratulations are in order to Shrey Sukhadia for transitioning into a desirable position out of state in furthering his career as a bioinformatician. His contributions to the CPD are very much appreciated and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We also celebrated our annual Division party hosted in the home of Drs. Vivianna and Peter Van Deerlin. The event was attended by faculty, staff and their families and was a great forum to interact outside of the workplace. Many thanks to Laura Pritchard, Jackie Roth, Joe Milano, Caren Gentile, Emma Staatz, Chris Leid and Vivianna Van Deerlin for putting on a spectacular party.

We continue to grow and are delighted to welcome Carmela Paolillo our new post-doctoral fellow in the Center for Personalized Diagnostics and Dao Luong, Medical Technologist in the Molecular Pathology lab.

We anticipate a very active and productive summer with interesting projects and milestones achieved. Please continue to offer ideas for activities that bring to light the diverse and far-reaching impact of our Division to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Penn Medicine.

Sincerely,

Kojo S. J. Elenitoba-Johnson, M.D.

Rosenbaum Named Fellowship Associate Director

Jason Rosenbaum, MD has been named Associate Director of the Penn Molecular Genetic Pathology (MGP) fellowship program. The Penn MGP program has been ACGME accredited since 2002 under the leadership of Vivianna Van Deerlin. Since 2002, the program has trained 17 MGP fellows, including this year's fellow, Craig Soderquist. The position of Associate Director was created to provide assistance to the Program Director with administration of the program and continued development of the curriculum. Jason, who is MGP trained himself, brings to the position a strong background in genomics and great enthusiasm for education and teaching. Vivianna and Jason will work together with Emma Staatz, the program coordinator, to oversee all aspects of the MGP program, including new fellow recruitment.



Annual PCD Party

Saturday April 29th members of the PCD gathered with their families to celebrate another great year in the division. They spent an afternoon playing games, getting to know one another, enjoying great food, and driving electric cars! Everyone had a blast – as evidenced by these photos!





THANK YOU to the numerous PCD members who helped make this event such a huge success!

Hosts: Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson and Vivianna and Peter Van Deerlin

Photographer: Tori Gawel

PCD Social Committee: Caren Gentile, Christopher Leid, Joe Milano, Laura Pritchard, Jackie Roth, and Emma Staats

PCD Members: If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event as well as other social events, please email Laura Pritchard (laura.pritchard@uphs.upenn.edu) to sign-up.

News & Newsworthy

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAB WEEK



Welcome New Members!

Upon Graduation from CCP, Dao Luong accepted an internship at Wistar Institute where she learned basic molecular skills. After completing her internship, she absolutely fell in love with working in the lab and she enrolled at Thomas Jefferson University. She worked full time in the molecular lab at Temple Hospital after graduating with a Medical Laboratory Science bachelor's degree. She also works at Hahnemann University Hospital's clinical Hematology lab part-time. After spending two years at Temple and Hahnemann Hospitals, she began working at Penn Medicine in the Molecular Pathology lab. She loves trying new foods, dining at different restaurants, cooking, traveling and exploring new cultures.



CONGRATULATIONS CRAIG!



The PCD would like to congratulate Craig Soderquist, MD, our Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow who has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons

of Columbia University. Congratulations Craig. We will miss you!

Contributors

Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD, Tori Gawel, Dao Luong, Vivianna Van Deerlin, MD, PhD, Carmela Paolillo, PhD, Jason Rosenbaum, MD, Craig Soderquist, MD, Jacquelyn Roth, PhD, and Laura Pritchard



Carmela Paolillo, PhD, is very pleased to become a new member of the Center of Personalized Diagnostics as a Postdoctoral fellow. Carmela received her doctoral degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Catholic

University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy. She came to Philadelphia in 2014 as a PhD exchange student at Thomas Jefferson University, where she completed her first year of postdoctoral fellowship in Cancer Genomics. She enjoys cooking, traveling and brings the will to learn across the globe.

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