Welcome to the twelfth issue of our Divisional Newsletter. We are excited to welcome two new members to our division. Christina Moon, BS, joined the Cytogenetics team as a technologist, and Ashley Njaka, MS, joined the Cytogenetics team as a technologist. We are excited to have them join the PCD. Although they aren’t new to most of us, we also wanted to welcome Priya Velu, MD, PhD, and Salvatore Priore, MD, PhD, to the PCD as our fellows for the year.

In other news, hearty congratulations are extended to our very own faculty member Chris Watt, MD, PhD, who was recently promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. His exuberant personality and passion for teaching makes him a pleasure to work with and an exceptional faculty member. We are grateful for his deep commitment to this university, his colleagues, and our students, and we are proud of his outstanding achievements. Congratulations Chris!

Despite the interruptions imposed by the weather, members of the PCD and other divisions were able to get together for baseball featuring the Philadelphia Phillies versus San Diego Padres. We thank Jason Rosenbaum & his son, Latvia Bunch, Ailene & Sid Carlton, Emily Collins, and Steve Jacot who made time to attend this game and interact with members of our division.

Although the summer months are seen as a time to relax, this has not stopped our divisions efforts to thrive and grow. Our staff and faculty are continually proving that they are dedicated to their work and our mission to provide the highest quality of clinical care. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and savor the last bits of summer while you still can.

Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD

Christina Moon, BS
Christina is a Cytogenetic Technologist at the Center for Personalized Diagnostics & Cytogenetics.

Ashley Njaka, MS
Ashley is a Cytogenetic Technologist at the Center for Personalized Diagnostics & Cytogenetics.

Salvatore Priore, MD, PhD
Sal is a Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Priya Velu, MD, PhD
Priya is a Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Fayabi received Concern Foundation’s Conquer Cancer Now Award to study the mechanisms of epigenetic dysregulation in triple-negative breast cancer. Fayabi Lab will elucidate the mechanisms of chromatin folding reorganization in breast cancer cells using cutting edge chromatin conformation assays. In this project, they will investigate how Notch transcription factor binding to chromatin facilitates long range enhancer repositioning in triple-negative cells. Since the role of transcription factors in creating chromatin structure is still enigmatic, this study presents an important conceptual advancement in our understanding of both Notch and gene regulation.
THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK!

Congratulations Amanda Oran on the safe arrival of your newest family member. From all of us at the PCD we are wishing you all the best and hope this is a wonderful time filled with lots of joy and happiness. Happy parenting and welcome to your newest role as a mother.

THE FUTURE OF ROAD TRIPS

Tesla drivers gathering at a Tesla Supercharger location. License plates include “KICKGAS” and “WATTS UP”. Photo courtesy of Viviana Van Deerlin.

Viviana and Peter Van Deerlin were quoted in a very interesting article in Conde Nast Traveler that discusses what the road trip will look like in 2030. “Even if we aren’t planning to meet up with other Tesla drivers, it invariably happens that we spend some time chatting with other drivers when we plug in at a Supercharger on a road trip or when finding a plug at our destination. Back when we drove combustion cars, conversations like this never happened at gas stations,” say Pennsylvania-based physicians Viviana and Peter Van Deerlin, who own three Teslas—a Model S, a 2010 Roadster, and a Model 3. “But when we pull up to a Supercharger, it’s common that other Tesla owners get out of their car to greet us and chat, sometimes we even grab a meal together. Sometimes we stop to Supercharge even when we don’t need to, just to meet other owners.”

Link to full article: https://www.cntraveler.com/story/what-the-road-trip-looks-like-in-2030

AWARDS

Salvatore Priore won the Leonard Berwick Resident Teaching Award. This award is given to a senior resident whose teaching has effectively fused basic scientific principles with clinical medicine.

PCD PHILLIES GAME

Due to unforeseen weather conditions the regularly scheduled Phillies vs. Padres game got canceled. The game was rescheduled to Sunday evening, making the day a double hitter. Unfortunately, only about half of the members invited were able to attend. With that said, that did not stop this group from having a good time and showing their support for our hometown Phillies.

CONFERENCES

NGS SUMMIT, WASHINGTON, DC

Jennifer Morrissette, PhD delivered the Chairperson’s remarks and gave a presentation at the Next Generation Summit on August 21st, “Mutational Profiles in AML: Correlations With Cytogenetics and Mutational Shift,” that featured work from the Center for Personalized Diagnostics by Robyn Sussman, PhD and Priya Velu, MD PhD.

BIOMARKERS & IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

Jennifer Morrissette, PhD attended the Biomarkers & Immuno-Oncology World Congress Conference in June. She was recognized as one of the distinguished speakers. She also acted as one of the chair members for the conference.

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