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

Welcome to the ninth issue of our Divisional Newsletter. The last quarter was filled with a significant number of activities, events and inclusion of new Divisional personnel. We are excited to be joined by Amanda Rosen who complements our staff in the CPD, Tolga Ayazseven who will be working with Ashkan Bigdeli in our Bioinformatics team, and Donald Bohn as the Molecular Pathology Administrative Assistant and Molecular Pathology MCP Fellowship Coordinator. With mixed feelings, we celebrate the elevation of Laura Pritchard to the office of the Chair as the new executive assistant. Laura will be terribly missed, but now we do have direct access to the Chair’s office!

Our next generation sequencing translocation panel introduced last summer is gaining increasing utilization and yielding results that benefit our patients. This test detects several translocations that are clinically relevant in lung cancer, thyroid cancer and solid tumors. The test is revealing several novel translocations with clinical relevance across the board in multiple cancers.

Our division continues to thrive and grow based on the activities of our members. We are proud to continue a collegial tradition while offering the highest quality of clinical care.

The groundhog has predicted an additional 6 weeks of winter so we are readily embracing the concept of spring. Please continue to offer ideas for activities that demonstrate the impact of the PCD to patient care at HUP.

Best wishes to all!
Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD

NEW YEAR, NEW DESIGN
Please welcome Priya Velu, MD, PhD, to the Newsletter staff. Priya is currently a Post Doctoral Fellow with an interest and experience in graphic design. Thank you Priya for an amazing newsletter design - we can’t wait to see what the upcoming issues will look like!

CONTRIBUTORS
AMANDA ROSEN, BS
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JACKIE ROTH, PHD
JOE MILANO, MBA
LAURA PRITCHARD
TOLGA AYZSEVEN, BS
VANIA AIAKWA, MD
Induction of Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD as President of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP)

AMP 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Present and former members of Penn Medicine and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia convened at the Salt Lake Hilton after the AMP Welcome Reception.

Save the Date for your next chance to mix and mingle at the PCD Annual Party! April 21, 2018
AMP 2017 PRESENTATIONS

ASHKAN BIGDELI, MS
1 - Evaluation of Copy Number Variation Detection Methods for Amplicon Sequencing Assays
2 - Clinical Next Generation Sequencing Leveraging Unique Molecular Barcodes in Somatic Mutation Calling Absent a Matched-Normal

AMANDA ORAN, PHD
1 - Comparison of ALK, RET, and ROS1 Gene Fusion Detection by NGS, FISH, and IHC in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
2 - Validation of a low-input, amplicon-based dual-strand assay to detect DNA variants in lymphomas by NGS

PAUL HESS, MD, PHD
Discordance among biomarkers for anti-PD1 therapy response: tumor mutational burden and anti-PD-L1 staining

PRIYA VELU, MD, PHD
Calculation of Mutational Burden in a Clinical Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) Panel for Solid Tumors

CARMELA PAOLILLO, PHD
Detection of MET Exon14 skipping in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) via RNA-based anchored multiplexed PCR and Next-Generation Sequencing

CRAIG SODERQUIST, MD
Next Generation Sequencing Studies in Early Myeloid Neoplasia

CHRIS ORR, PHD
"Unburdening" Variant Review for High Tumor Mutational Burden (TMB) Cases in a Clinical NGS Assay

JOE MILANO, MBA
Time-Resource Analysis for Right-Sizing an NGS Laboratory: Exercising Restraint, Building Responsibly

VIVIANNA VAN DERLEEN, MD, PHD
INVITED SEMINAR: Genetics of ALS Spectrum Disorders: Implications for Molecular Diagnosis and Genetic Counseling

ROBYN SUSSMAN, PHD
Evaluation of Intraoperative Sampling for Genomic Analysis of CNS Tumors by NGS
**WELCOME**

**AMANDA ROSEN**  
Amanda is a Clinical Genomics Technician at the Center for Personalized Diagnostics. She has a BS in Forensic Science from University of New Haven. Amanda previously worked as a Technologist at GeneDx, a Technical Specialist in the Division of Genomic Diagnostics at The Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, and a Molecular Technologist for The National Molecular Lab at the American Red Cross. She is currently in the middle of wedding planning and getting ready to move into a larger place with her fiancée.

**TOLGA AYAZSEVEN**  
Tolga is a Bioinformatics Technician at the Center for Personalized Diagnostics. He received a BS in Bioengineering from Istanbul Technical University and Montana State University. Tolga is currently enrolled in the Professional Science Masters in Bioinformatics at Temple University, and will graduate in May 2018. Previously, he worked at Fox Chase Cancer Center as a Bioinformatics Researcher for almost a year. On his own time, he enjoys free diving, spearfishing, fishing and driving.

**DONALD BOHN**  
Don is the new Administrative Assistant and Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship Coordinator for Molecular Pathology. In his spare time, he enjoys watching movies, hanging out with his two cats (Eva and Sully), traveling, and soon fostering his Penn working dog.

**FAREWELL**

**LAURA PRITCHARD**  
Laura will be transitioning from her position as Senior Secretary at Cytogenetics and the CPD to that of Executive Assistant for the Office of the Chair of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. We will all miss her terribly!

"Laura, thank you for all you have done for the Division. I wish you the best in your new position. We will miss you, but look forward to continue working with you in your new position. Congratulations and best of luck." - Viviana Van Deelrin

"Thank you for bringing so much joy and excitement to our Division in the past two years. I’ll miss you and your contagious laugh. Good luck!" - Vania Aikawa

"I wish Laura.
- F. Pants

"In a short period of time, Laura stepped into her role and proved herself indispensable. She performed many duties, some thankless, with a smile and a great attitude. She’s also shown me that I’m not nearly as self-sufficient as I thought I was; if you see me wandering the halls aimlessly, you know why! I wish Laura the best of luck in the future. This promotion is well-deserved!" - Joe Milano