

# PCD NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE: WELCOME | AWARDS | NOTABLE EVENTS

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



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

Welcome to the sixteenth issue of our Divisional Newsletter. We are excited to welcome three new members to our division. Linette Johnson, BS, joined the Molecular Pathology team as a technologist; Scott Weidamoyer joined the Molecular Pathology team as the new administrative assistant; and Jason Limbo, BS, joined the CPD team as a technologist. We offer a bitter sweet goodbye to our Molecular Genetic Pathology fellows, Priya Velu, MD, PhD, and Salvatore Priore, MD, PhD, who were an absolute pleasure to have with us the past year. We wish them the best as they start on their new journeys.

Make sure to take a look at the photos from this years Annual Spring Party. A large thank you goes out to the Van Deerlin family for continually opening their home to the members of the PCD and their families. It was a perfect day to be outside while enjoying one another's company. One of the highlights of my night included two intense ping pong match against Akshay Chitturi and Safoora Dehimi.

Additional items highlighted in this issue include celebration of National Administrative Professional's day, signing of the Penn Pavilion beam and lab week. Lab week is a good reminder to express our gratitude to all of the laboratory professionals in our midst. I am proud to work with such dedicated and talented individuals who genuinely embody Penn's core values.

With summer upon us there are new terrains to explore and goals to achieve. Lets take this time to reflect and reach new limits.

**Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, MD**

## GOODBYE FELLOWS



Priya Velu M.D., Ph.D. and Salvatore Priore M.D., Ph.D. accept their Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellow certificates at the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Fellowship and Residency Graduation Ceremony.

Priya Velu M.D., Ph.D. will be moving to Manhattan, where she will join Weill Cornell Medicine and New York Presbyterian Hospital as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Attending in molecular pathology. Sal Priore M.D., Ph.D. will be starting a post-doctoral fellowship in July. He will also continue to have an active role in the PCD through an instructorship position. At the ceremony Sal was the winner of the William Pepper Fellowship Award. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of a resident or fellow in the Clinical Pathology Program, specifically acknowledging contributions to clinical service, teaching and research.

## WELCOME

**Linette Johnson, BS**

Linette is a Medical Technologist for the Molecular Pathology Laboratory



Linette received her B.S. in Biology from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, now known as Stockton University. She comes to the organization with 10 years of experience in Molecular Biology ranging from Q.C./Q.A. to Technologist. Basketball is her favorite sport. She played in college and has had the opportunity to work as a trainer and coach at the high school and collegiate level. She was a part of the girls' basketball program at Camden Catholic high school in Cherry Hill, NJ for 4 years and then was afforded an opportunity to join the staff at Rutgers University-Camden in Camden, NJ as an assistant coach and in charge of Player Development for 2 years.

**Scott Weidamoyer**

Scott is the Administrative Assistant for Molecular Pathology



Scott was born and raised in Ambler and lived 15 years in Tucson Arizona. While in Tucson, he watched Nick Foles as QB for the Arizona Wildcats. (His "I knew him when" moment!)

Scott moved back to the home that he grew up in and cherishes the time that he spends with his family. On weekends he spends time in Wildwood Crest renovating a 100-year-old Victorian home, and making sure to spend a few hours each weekend relaxing on the beach.

**Jason Limbo, BS**

Jason is a Clinical Genomics Lab Technician at the Center for Personalized Diagnostics

Jason received a BS in Biotechnology and minor in Biochemistry from Rutgers University. He went on to obtain a graduate certificate in health information technology from Columbia University in 2013.



Jason's past experience includes both sides of clinical industry at Medical Diagnostics Laboratories in Hamilton, NJ and academic research in the Genomics Core Facility at Drexel University. Prior to coming to the CPD, he was a technical specialist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Originally from New Jersey, he has since moved to Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Jason enjoys cooking, reading, TV shows like Game of Thrones, and watching Marvel movies like Avengers Endgame. He also is an avid runner having completed Broad Street Runs in recent years and is looking forward to Penn's 5K for the IOA.

# NOTABLE EVENTS

## CONGRATULATIONS

The William Gerald Award honors a pathologist for his or her innovative research that has provided novel insights in cancer biology, whose career trajectory suggests the potential for outstanding contributions in the years to come, or who is making major research contributions in tumor pathology. The 2019 Gerald Award was presented at the annual MSKCC Pathology Department translational research symposium in March. Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson's keynote Gerald award lecture was on the topic of mass spectrometry as a driver of discovery of novel insights in lymphoma pathogenesis.



## PCD PARTY

This spring the PCD gathered for their fourth annual Divisional Party, hosted by Kojo Elenitoba Johnson and Viviana and Peter Van Deerlin (see photos on the next page). We would like to thank everyone who came out for a great afternoon and especially the social committee who planned this wonderful event: Caren Gentile, Cody Hardesty, Chris Leid, Joe Milano, Jackie Roth, and Gary Tang!

## HOLI CELEBRATION

On March 20th Cytogenetics celebrated Holi. Holi is popularly known as the Indian "festival of colors". The festival signifies the arrival of spring, the end of winter, the blossoming of love, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships.



## LAB WEEK



Lab week continues to show us how much we are all appreciated. In this years Bingo contest there was one winner from PCD. Congratulations Pushpa, we hope you enjoyed your gift card to Wawa!

As usual the PCD got creative with their baskets and supported a good cause.

## MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK!

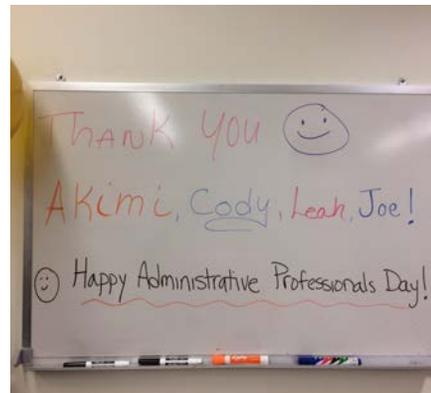
### BINGO, GUESS THE NUMBER & RAFFLE WINNERS

**BINGO WINNERS**  
Lynda Vespasiani  
Sarita Agrest  
Nicola Eder  
Pushpa Singh



## ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

Several members of the PCD showed their appreciation for the administrative professionals. Besides a very welcoming board there were snacks and refreshments to say thank you.



# NOTABLE EVENTS



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## SIGNING THE BEAM

Members of the PCD made their mark by signing the Pavilion beam.



## HAPPY HOURS



As the weather gets nicer members of the PCD find themselves hanging out after work.

## WANTED: NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

We are in search of some volunteers to help out with the Divisional Newsletter. If you have any interest in writing or design and want to an outlet to express your talents please email Jackie Roth: [Jacquelyn.Roth@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Jacquelyn.Roth@uphs.upenn.edu)

## MORE THAN PINK WALK

Jackie Roth joined the Penn Medicine team at the first ever Susan G. Komen Philadelphia MORE THAN PINK WALK (formerly the Race for the Cure). The walk works towards strengthening the pillars of research, community, care and action; pillars on which we build a world free from the threat of breast cancer.



## USCAP



Jason Rosenbaum, MD & Salvatore Priore, MD, PhD attended this years USCAP conference in National Harbor, Maryland .

Poster Presentations:

1. The Effects of Hypomethylating Agents on Mutational Profiles in Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndromes
2. Clinical, educational, and Financial Impact of a Standardized Workflow for Salvaging Quality and Quantity Not Sufficient (QNS) Samples in an Academic NGS Laboratory

## EDITORS

Cody HARDESTY, BS  
Jackie ROTH, PhD  
Priya VELU, MD PhD

## CONTRIBUTORS

KOJO ELENITOBA-JOHNSON, MD | VIVIANNA VAN DEERLIN, MD, PHD | JOE MILANO, MBA | GARY TANG, BA | CAREN GENTILE, MS | CHRISTOPHER LEID, BS | PUSHPA SINGH, BS | HONORE STRAUER, BS | LINETTE JOHNSON, BS | SCOTT WEIDAMOYER | JASON LIMBO, BS | SALVATORE PRIORE, MD, PhD