

# Penn Medicine Pathology & Laboratory Medicine REPORT

*A quarterly staff newsletter  
published by the Penn Medicine  
Department of Pathology  
and Laboratory Medicine*

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## Guest's Corner

**Guest column by Deborah A. Driscoll, MD**

*Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Luigi Mastroianni,  
Jr. Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor of Genetics, Professor  
of Pediatrics*

Penn has been a leader in the care of women and families for more than two centuries. There are more than 9,000 babies born at Penn Medicine each year, and Penn Medicine physicians are nationally recognized leaders in women's health care.

I've been the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for ten years now, and one significant reason we are able to provide outstanding patient-centered care is the fact that women's health depends a lot on the contributions of Pathology, with whom we work closely to make sure that women who come to Penn for their obstetric and gynecologic care benefit from the latest technological expertise and research advances.

Our interdepartmental collaboration is extensive, ranging from multidisciplinary conferences to developing new test modalities and methodologies together. Given this close relationship between our departments, I want to convey my gratitude to the team of cytopathologists, cytotechnologists, surgical pathologists, histotechnologists, molecular pathologists, and everyone at 3020 Market Street who have been instrumental in putting into place ThinPrep Pap screening, HPV high risk testing and genotyping, uniform terminology with incorporation of ASCCP guidelines, cytohistologic correlations, as well as the recent ThinPrep Imaging System for all Pap smears at UPHS to enhance the sensitivity of Pap screening for cervical cancer and precancerous disease.

Because of this recent transition to the new imaging system, I wanted to find out more how your Department staff fits in here. Here is what I learned about the work of your cytotechnologists and how they support our clinical service: cytotechnologists examine cells removed from different body sites to determine if cancer or any other diseases are present. For our gynecologic samples, the cytopathology team at 3020 processes and images the specimens using the imaging system, which scans every cell and cell cluster on a slide. The digitized images are then evaluated using a computer algorithm, and areas suspected of having abnormal cells are identified for further focused review by a cytotechnologist. Using a special microscope, these areas are identified on each individual slide as the cytotechnologist evaluates them under the microscope. This dual review screening leads to improved sensitivity and specificity compared to manual screening alone and helps reduce false negative test results that might arise due to interpretative

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error. The new streamlined imaging system guarantees better care for our patients and improved provider satisfaction.

The great physician William Osler, who once taught clinical medicine at Penn, said in 1902: Our ambitions are to “track to their sources the causes of disease, to correlate the vast stores of knowledge, that they may be quickly available for the prevention and cure of disease.” This is still true today — we cor-

relate our knowledge to track the causes of disease. Pathology labs are essential in this endeavor, so thank you for all that you do for us!

Sincerely,



Deborah Driscoll, MD

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### The Department welcomes our new colleagues

#### At the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: In the Combined Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology Residency Program

- Paul Hess, MD, PhD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- Alexander Macnow, MD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- Taylor McAnaney, MD, Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine
- Anders Meyer, MD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
- Salvatore Priore, MD, PhD, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Sharon Song, MD, Drexel University College of Medicine

#### In the Anatomic Pathology Residency Program

- Stefan Prokop, MD, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

#### In the Clinical Pathology Residency Program

- Yang Li, MD, PhD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

#### In the Residency Program at Pennsylvania Hospital:

- Rashmi Manur, MD, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences
- Edward James, DO, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

#### The School of Medical Laboratory Science at Pennsylvania Hospital graduated nine students and future colleagues this year:

- Fathma Abdalla, University of the Sciences, HUP Microbiology
- Jenni Asterino, Penn State University, HUP Microbiology

- Coral Holly, University of the Sciences
- Karen Gassmann, Penn State University, Radnor Laboratory
- Victoria Gawel, Penn State University
- Kelly King, Temple University, HUP Special Coagulation
- Kimiben Patel (Microbiology degree, MS in biotechnology in Gujarat, India, completed coursework at the University of Cincinnati), HUP Autolab
- Ryan Stetz (BS, Wilkes University, MS in biology, Bloomsburg University), HUP Microbiology
- Christine Thompson, University of the Sciences, HUP Blood Bank

Of the 2015 graduates, **Jennifer Asterino, Karen Gassmann, Tori Gawel, Kelly King, and Kimi Patel** were among the 299 medical laboratory students who received the 2015 American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) National Student Honor Award, which recognizes lab students in their fourth or final clinical year of study, and is based on academic achievement, leadership ability, community activities, professional goals, and endorsements from faculty and community leaders.



*School of Medical Laboratory Science Class of 2015*

## MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS



■ **Peg Bulley, BSMT (ASCP), MS**, Technical Manager, Quality Systems & Compliance (far right in picture), is one of the recipients of the 2015 Excellence and Innovation in Patient Safety Award. The

award was created by the HUP/CPUP Patient Safety Steering Committee to recognize exceptional employees for their contribution to patient safety. Peg received the award with the co-facilitator Robyn Strauss, Clinical Nurse Specialist VI in the

Heart & Vascular ICU, and eight other nurses, for their “Founders 5 Lab Mislabeled” project.

■ The Research Business Office reports that the Department is ranked No. 1 in the nation in NIH research dollars among Pathology departments this year. Our total NIH portfolio, according to the NIH Reporter tool, is now \$53.6 million. That means our individual Department research enterprise funding is greater than the NIH funding given to over 50% of entire Schools of Medicine in the US. Support for this massive portfolio comes from the dedicated team of hardworking staff members **Amy Paglione, Robert Muraglia, Carl Jamison, Lauren Counterman, Michelle Ludwig, Gina Panella, Luellen Fletcher, and Jessica Monkoski.**





■ This spring, three of our Pathology and Laboratory Medicine colleagues went to Capitol Hill to attend the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) legislative symposium in Washington, D.C. This symposium originated in 1989 and gives laboratory professionals the opportunity to

learn about and speak to the legislative and regulatory issues impacting the profession. Pictured above from left to right: **Andy Huynh**, Microbiology, HUP; **Stephanie Noblit**, Toxicology, HUP; and **Jean Buchenhorst**, Program Director at Pennsylvania Hospital's School of Medical Laboratory Science.

■ HUP Blood Bank Supervisor **Raeann Thomas, BSMT BB (ASCP)**, was a featured speaker at a recent Technical Advisory Committee at the American Red Cross. Her presentation on "Differences in Method Sensitivity in Antibody Detection" was attended by area hospital Blood Bank Supervisors and their staff.



■ Director Ross Kauffman (above right), winner of the Academy Award for best feature documentary in 2005, recently stopped by the **Apheresis Unit** to film a follow-up to his 2012 "Fire with Fire" short documentary about the first pediatric patient to receive T-cell therapy for advanced leukemia. His new explanatory video on the Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) cellular therapy developed at Penn to fight cancer can be viewed on the Department website's video page.

■ **Brian Ragsdale**, Phlebotomist at HUP, and **Andy Huynh**, Microbiology Technologist at HUP, were winners in a recent "Helping People All the Time" raffle. To qualify for the raffle, employees need to be nominated for significant contributions in service to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, with accomplishments that may include but are not limited to actions in one or more of the HUP's professional service standards: Teamwork & Collaboration, Diversity, Service Excellence, Integrity, Professionalism, Tradition. Congratulations to both!

■ Recently, a group of twelve employees from the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) came to HUP to witness our labs' standards in action. The CLSI develops clinical laboratory testing standards for excellence in laboratory



*Glen Fine, CEO of CLSI, back at HUP for LabWeek. (Image courtesy of CLSI)*

medicine standards based on input from and consensus among industry, government, and health care professionals. The group included representatives from CLSI's marketing, customer service, finance, and communication departments, many of whom had never visited a laboratory before. The visit was also a kind of homecoming for the CEO of CLSI, Glen Fine, MS, MBA, who once worked as a technologist in the **Toxicology section** of the Division of Lab Medicine. The team received a high-level tour of HUP's **Automation Laboratory, Central Receiving and Processing**, and the **Microbiology** areas. The tour provided the CLSI team with the opportunity to see how the lab is influential in the management of each patient's clinical outcomes first-hand. Dr. Paul Edelstein, Dr. Kevin Alby, **Deborah Mincarelli**, **Leslie Trammell**, and **Nichole Howard** all contributed to ensure that the CLSI team had an informative and productive visit.

■ As Penn Medicine continues to flourish and expand, our Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine is growing as well. Recently, the newly appointed Chair of the Department of Pathology at **Lancaster General Health (LGH)** invited our Department's leadership team to visit their department. During the visit, the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine team explored the LGH facilities and fostered the burgeoning relationship between the two institutions. **Beth Haldeman** and **Lexie Lerro** were instrumental in the coordination of this productive visit.



■ **Mary Sell**, Technical Specialist in Transfusion Medicine, is co-author of an important paper on stem-cell transplant donations: Reshef R, Huffman AP, Gao A, Luskin MR, Frey NV, Gill SI, Hexner EO, Kambayashi T, Loren AW, Luger SM, Mangan JK, Nasta SD, Richman PL, Sell M, Stadtmayer EA, Vonderheide RH, Mick R, Porter DL. High Graft CD8 Cell Dose Predicts Improved Survival and Enables Better Donor Selection in Allogeneic Stem-Cell Transplantation With Reduced-Intensity Conditioning. *J Clin Oncol*, 2015 Jun 8. [Epub ahead of print] doi: 10.1200/JCO.2014.60.1203

## Department Trivia: Did You Know?



For this year's Lab Week raffle, 15 HUP labs donated gift baskets, and we raised more than \$6,600—a nearly 20 percent increase in the amount raised last year! All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Philadelphia charities MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance) and PEC (the People's Emergency Center). Above: Linda Nace, Finance and Administration Officer, was the winner of the "Micro Craft Brew" basket from Microbiology.

## Blast from the Past



In honor of the Perelman School of Medicine's 250th birthday this year, we look back two-and-a-half centuries to one of the school's founders, John Morgan, who, in his famous 1765 *Discourse Upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America*, notes how essential the field of pathology is for medical knowledge. "Pathology," he writes, "traces out the seat of diseases, examines their causes and effects, shews their differences, explains their symptoms, and all the different phenomena... In short, it forms a system of precepts in the art of healing."

*(Image courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Archives)*

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is on Facebook: visit us at [www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine](https://www.facebook.com/PennPathologyandLabMedicine)

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