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# Pathology News

JUNE 7, 2019

## Chair's Blog

Dear Colleagues:

The beginning of summer is always a time for renewal and realignment in our department. A new group of trainees (residents and fellows) are soon to arrive, and it will give us again the opportunity to teach pathology from the beginning to new young people who are very interested in entering in our fantastic field. This is a field that now has expanded and amplified in scope, depth and precision at an enormous rate over the last decade. As we try to bring in the new methodologies knowledge related to Pathology into a structure required for teaching, we also have the opportunity of expanding knowledge for ourselves in these new and exciting areas.

In a counterpoint to those who are starting their education, there is Graduation Ceremony for the residents and fellows who are finishing their training with us. I hope all of you can make it there, on June 8. Many of our residents stay on with us to pursue a fellowship training. Others are moving to fellowship training elsewhere, or moving on to professional appointments. To all of them, I express my gratitude for trusting us with their education. Our department will always be available to them to help them with any future needs, wherever that may happen to be.

Looking into the months that passed in this year, the department continues to provide an outstanding educational, research and diagnostic service. We now cover more hospitals than we did last year, and, to be honest, I do not have a precise number to cover all hospitals that are now incorporated into UPMC. In the coming months and subsequent years we hope to strengthen the bonds with our colleagues of pathology I appreciate the correspondence and the development of bonds between people that we know and people who practice the same things that we do, as opportunities develop. It feels like a long time, but it has only been a year since a team of us visited the Pinnacle network of hospitals. We still have to develop relations with the hospitals of the Susquehanna complex and the new hospitals that have been added across the borders with the adjacent states. Notable in the last few months is also the NIH funding of the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center (PLRC). The funding, successfully obtained under the leadership of our colleague Paul Monga, was jointly supported by the departments of Pathology and Medicine.

We have some challenges lying ahead. Our practice plan (UPP) is working towards restructuring the salary compensation models for all departments. Our department is intimately engaged in this effort and the process is still under development, with multiple complicated parameters and issues involved. Working with the leadership of our department in the weeks to come, I hope to be able to arrive at a model that satisfies everybody and meets their needs and expectations.

I wish all of you and your families a joyous summer

Sincerely,

George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.



“One benefit  
of Summer  
was that each  
day we had  
more light to  
read by.”

[Jeannette Walls](#)  
[The Glass Castle](#)

University and UPMC  
closed Thursday, July  
4 in celebration of  
**Independence Day.**  
Closed Monday,  
September 2 in  
observation of  
**Labor Day.**

# Grants Administration

## J-1 Visa LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT CHANGE

As you may know, Federal regulations indicate that J-1 program sponsors must confirm that exchange visitors are proficient enough in English to 1) Participate successfully in their exchange program, *and* 2) Be able to function on a day-to-day basis.

Starting August 1, 2019, academic departments can submit one of the documents listed below as evidence of sufficient English language proficiency for incoming J-1 scholars:

Official scores from an accepted English Language Proficiency Assessment: English3, Duolingo, TOEFL, or IELTS.

Official documentation that the individual completed a degree program (Bachelor's or Master's) at an academic institution where the language of instruction was English. Acceptable documentation includes a transcript or diploma certifying completion of a degree at an institution where the sole language of instruction is English or official certification of completion of an English language program within the previous two years where proficiency attained is clearly indicated.

- \* The Interview Assessment Report performed by you (the visitor's mentor) WILL NO LONGER be accepted.
- \* Individuals from a country where the native language is English do not have to present any documentation.

## J-1 SCHOLAR AND INTERN FINANCIAL SUPPORT UPDATE

The Office of International Services has increased the minimum amount of funding a J-1 Scholar or Intern must show in order to demonstrate adequate financial support for their time at Pitt.

The minimum funding amounts for academic year 2019-2020 are as follows:

J-1 Scholar or Intern: \$25,000\* per year

J-2 Dependent(s): \$5,304 per year, for each dependent

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

**Mary Lou Benedetti, MHR/IR**  
**(412-683-7576)**

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY

**Mahamuda Kader, Ph.D.**, Research Instructor, will join the laboratory of Dr. Jianhua Luo July 1, 2019. Dr. Kader has worked in the Department of Pathology as a postdoctoral fellow and research associate. She will work on immune-therapeutics against human cancers that are positive for the fusion genes.

**Ling Lin, M.D., Ph.D.**, will join the laboratory of Dr. Xiaosong Wang at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center July 1, 2019 as a Research Instructor. Dr. Lin is a molecular biologist who will work on integrative genomics initiatives aimed at discovering driving genetic aberrations in breast and ovarian cancers and develop novel therapeutics and predictive biomarkers.

**Virginia Miller, M.D.** will join the Department of Pathology at Shadyside Hospital July 1, 2019 as an Assistant Professor. She is completing a Bone and Soft Tissue Fellowship at UPMC June 30, 2019.

**Erika M. Moore, M.D.** Will join the Department of Pathology in the Division of Hematopathology July 8, 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Moore did a fellowship in Hematopathology at UPMC finishing it in 2015. She then went to Cleveland Medical Center as an attending physician.

**Tung Phan, M.D., Ph.D.** Will join the Department of Pathology in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of the Section of Laboratory Medicine September 1, 2019. Dr. Phan will finish a CPEP Clinical Microbiology Fellowship at Indiana University School of Medicine in June 30, 2019. He will primarily work in the virology lab and transition the laboratory to current molecular methodologies.

**Tirthadipa Pradhan-Sundd, Ph.D.** joined the Department as a Research Instructor in Dr. Monga's lab August 1, 2018. She will work on elucidating the role of adherens junction protein and  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  catenin in hepatocyte polarity and cholestatic liver disease.

**Bryan Rea, M.D.** Will join the Department of Pathology in the Division of Hematopathology August 1, 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Rae did a fellowship in surgical pathology at the University of Pennsylvania from 2017-2018. He then went on to do a fellowship in Hematopathology at UPMC which will he finish June 30, 2019.

**Jansen Seheult, M.D.** will join the Division of Transfusion Medicine July 1, 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Seheult's clinical responsibilities will involve medical coverage of the Centralized Transfusion Service Hospitals.

**Qingyong Xu, Ph.D.**, will join the Tissue Typing laboratory as Assistant Director and Assistant Professor July 1, 2019. Dr. Xu is currently at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in London, Ontario, Canada.



## Departing and Retiring Faculty

Dr. Stephanie Bissel, Division of Neuropathology, resigned October 10, 2018  
 Dr. Aaron Berg, Anatomic Pathology, resigned May 31, 2019  
 Dr. Alexandra Collin de l'Hortet, resigned, April 12, 2019  
 Dr. Lydia Contis, Division of Hematopathology, retired November 1, 2018  
 Dr. David Dabbs, Pathology at Magee Womens' Hospital, retired February 28, 2019  
 Dr. Sarah Gibson, Division of Hematopathology, resigned November 30, 2018  
 Dr. Ronald Hamilton, retired, April 30, 2019  
 Dr. Rahman Hariri, retired, June 30, 2019  
 Dr. William LaFramboise, resigned, August 31, 2018  
 Dr. John Ozolek, resigned, July 9, 2018  
 Dr. Jianmin Tian, resigned, June 30, 2018  
 Dr. Tuna Topton, resigned, May 15, 2019  
 Dr. Mladen Yovchev, resigned, July 13, 2018

### FOR ACCESS TO WEB PAGE FOR ECU LOG-ON

*ECU data for the academic year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 for collection now. Please be sure your info is entered via our Department's web page link.*

For faculty with a UPMC network ID, please use this link. Accessing this link off of the UPMC network will bring up a login prompt: <https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUAdmin/auth/index.cfm>

For faculty without a UPMC ID, please use this link: <https://epssecure.upmc.com/ECUTrack/index.cfm>

These links are also available on the Department of Pathology webpage under links at: <http://path.upmc.edu/links.htm>.

From the home page select which ECU activity is to be logged, and whether the activity is for medical or graduate students. Then fill in all fields on the form with an option for a free-text note at the end.

Confirmation will be given and the activity will be entered into the database for submission at the end of the academic term.

For questions or feedback, please contact Thomas Harper at ISD ([harperth@upmc.edu](mailto:harperth@upmc.edu)). Thank you.

**Promotions:** Beth Clark, M.D., promoted to Associate Professor  
 Peter Lucas, M.D., Ph.D., promoted to Professor with tenure  
 Jennifer Picarsic, M.D., promoted to Associate Professor



## Faculty Highlights

**Amanda Clark PhD** received a prestigious DoD grant

Title: Distant inflammation drives emergence from metastatic dormancy

Award: DoD Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Level 1

Agency: Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA

Transfusion medicine division initiated an industry sponsored clinical trial in April "Randomized, double-blinded, controlled, parallel group, non-inferiority, phase III study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the INTERCEPT Blood System for red blood cells in patients undergoing complex cardiac surgery procedures (the ReCePI study)". **Alesia Kaplan, MD PI and Darrel Triulzi, MD Co-PI.**

### Charleen Chu, M.D., Ph.D.

- Patent filed: RK Mallampalli, B Chen, CT Chu, Y Liu. Chemical inhibition of the E3 ligase subunit FBXO7 confers neuroprotection and anti-inflammatory activity by stabilizing mitochondria. Pub. No.: WO/2019/005685 International Application No.: PCT/US2018/039327. Publication Date: 03.01.2019
- Grant funded: Anthony Otero (Sponsor: Charleen Chu). F31 NS108504. PINK1 regulates cytoplasmic dynein and mitochondrial transport

### Anette Duensing, M.D.

- Sarcoma Foundation of America (2019 SFA 08-19), Principal Investigator "Dissecting DNA damage and repair pathways in leiomyosarcomas: Improving therapy by understanding biology"
- Collaborative CMU Small Undergraduate Research Grants for Katherine Kim and Emily Parks (spring and fall semesters 2019)
- Klionsky Fellowship (Dept. of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine) for Catherine Liu 1<sup>st</sup> year med student, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

### Joseph Newsome, DVM

NIH Review Panel- TRND7 Contracts- CRO Support for NCATS Medicinal Chemistry for Lead Optimization  
 Dr. Newsome invited reviewer, May 14, 2019

### Jeffrey Nine, M.D.

- Received Pitt SOM Excellence in Education Award for Lecturer from the Class of 2020
- Delivered Opening Remarks at the Pitt SOM Class of 2020 Pinning Ceremony May 3rd on Humanism in Medicine



### Liron Pantanowitz, M.D.

Received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Pathology Informatics

**Miguel Reyes-Mugica, M.D.**

Recipient of the Sabine Kholer Award, 22<sup>nd</sup> Joint meeting of the International Society of Dermatopathology. Arlington, VA, 28 February 2019.

PI: "Nathan Carlsen NCM Fundraiser": <https://www.givetochildrens.org/butterflies-2?tab=0&frsid=1070>

A generous family from California, whose child, Nathan Carlsen, suffered a lethal form of melanocytic neoplastic proliferation called "neurocutaneous melanocytosis", established a fund raising campaign coordinated by the Children's Hospital Foundation. The campaign is trying to raise funds to support the efforts carried out by the research laboratory of Dr. Miguel Reyes-Múgica, Professor and Chief of Pathology at the Children's Hospital. The Carlsens also donated tissues from Nathan to Dr. Reyes' lab. He and his team, including Drs. Cláudia Salgado and Dipanjan Basu, have been working on non-surgical therapies for this disease, the rarest form and most highly lethal complication associated with congenital nevi. The Carlsen family has also supported a bake sale initiated by a one of Nathan's classmates, and the funds obtained will also be directed to these research efforts [https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/05/17/sunday-bake-sale-to-raise-money-for-brain-cancer-cure-after-palo-alto-students-death?fbclid=IwAR1tGA4aDsiV\\_A3Y6K\\_HcNUcUP\\_F50QGyYhdTuR5QZRnZe47oL3\\_UU43Hj4](https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/05/17/sunday-bake-sale-to-raise-money-for-brain-cancer-cure-after-palo-alto-students-death?fbclid=IwAR1tGA4aDsiV_A3Y6K_HcNUcUP_F50QGyYhdTuR5QZRnZe47oL3_UU43Hj4).

We thank the generosity of the Carlsen family, whose generosity in the middle of tragedy, is nothing short of heroic.

**Adriana Zeevi to receive the 2019 Paul I. Terasaki Clinical Science Award**

Adriana Zeevi, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Surgery and Immunology, with the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, has been awarded the 2019 Paul I. Terasaki Clinical Science Award – one of the most prestigious American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) Award.

The Paul I. Terasaki Clinical Science Award was established in 2003 to honor an individual, group, or institution in recognition of significant accomplishments and/or contributions to the fields of clinical transplantation, histocompatibility, and immunogenetics. This award was made possible by a grant from the Paul I. Terasaki Foundation.

Dr. Zeevi will accept her award at this year's ASHI 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, being held here in Pittsburgh, PA, in September 24, 2019

## SURP AND CMP GRADUATE PROGRAM

From the desk of Dr. Wendy M. Mars ....

### CMP and Related News of Note:

The numbers are in! This year there will be 18 NEW students matriculating to the IBGP in the fall (one more than last year) and 15 NEW students to the MSTP so we are ACTIVELY seeking mentors who wish to host a graduate student in their lab next year. The best way to assure that the incoming students know you are interested is to contact Amanda Bytzura (bytzuraam@upmc.edu) or me (wmars@pitt.edu). Also, students will peruse the project site as well so be sure you have your projects registered and updates on the SOM web site:

<https://somgrad.wufoo.com/forms/update-faculty-information/>

Since last fall, 5 students have formally graduated (1 from the MSTP and 4 from the IBGP) and seven formally joined (all from the IBGP), making our current number of CMP students 22; however, this summer another two students will be leaving us. On the other hand, we anticipate 2 new students from the MSTP parent program will be joining CMP by September 1, so CMP continues to remain one of the strongest graduate programs within the University School of Medicine. Notably, all of the students who have or are graduating and not going back to medical school have obtained fantastic job positions in either industry (1), Pharma (1), or academics (4; 1 at USCF, 1 at Penn, 2 at Harvard/Mass Gen).

The Pathology Research Seminar and Retreat was held this year on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 from 12-7:00 PM. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Patricia D'Amore from Massachusetts Eye and Ear, The Charles L. Schepens Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Pathology who spoke on "Novel Roles for Endomucin, and Endothelial-Specific Mucin in Inflammation and Angiogenesis. As a reminder, ECU credits were offered for Dr. D'Amore's talk so be sure that you signed in that day in order to receive credit and also, please remember to send your yearly reviews on the full series to Chris Szalkuski (szalkuskict@upmc.edu) so we can maintain our ECU credit status. The poster session (refreshments included!) was held at the University Club and the winners were:

#### Graduate students:

First place: Miranda Culley (mentor: Steve Chan)

Second place: Daniel Zuppo (mentor: Michael Tsang)

Third place: a tie between Sam Herron (mentor: Hun-way Hwang), Kyle Sylakowski (mentor: Alan Wells), Patrick Wilkinson (mentor: Andy Duncan)

#### Post-graduate trainees (basic):

First place: Amanda Clark (mentor: Alan Wells)

Second place: Evan Delgado (mentor: Andy Duncan)

Third place: Timothy Perkins (mentor: Tim Oury)

#### Post-graduate trainees (clinical):

First place: Lauren Skvarca (mentor: Carl Hubel)

Second place: Anne Shepler (mentor: Julia Kofler)



Dr. Paul Monga also sponsored some extra special awards this year! Congratulations to the following:

CATER award winner:

Martin Haschak (mentor: Bryan Brown)

PLRC award winner:

Kelly Koral (mentor: George Michalopoulos)

Many thanks to all who helped by serving on the retreat committee, but especially to Andy Duncan, who spearheaded the *People's Choice awards* (SURP student Brittany Rodriguez was the raffle winner) and suggested we create "swag" for Pathology (the magnets!); Aaron Bell, Nicole Martucci, and Sam Herron who worked so hard to make the poster session so successful; Chris Szalkuski who helped make arrangements for the key-note address (including lunch); Marylou Benedetti, Frances Ward, and Nancy Barca, who helped with registration at the poster session; Amanda Bytzura, our CMP administrator, who was the overall organizer behind the scenes who worked so hard to make it all go smoothly; and last but not least, our Department Chair, George K. Michalopoulos, who graciously sponsors the retreat.

The CMP arm of the School of Medicine Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SOM-SURP) will run from May 20 until July 26 this year. We have a total of 5 students participating from across the country, who were awarded a stipend plus housing, including 1 who will receive funding from an ASIP-sponsored program (SROPP). The SOM-SURP is a highly competitive program. This year there were 528 applicants to the 7 overall SURP programs (up by 25% in general!), with 285 (~54%, similar to 53% from last year) indicating a specific interest in CMP SURP.

SURP isn't the only summer training program in the Pathology Department! This summer we will have several other students working with Pathology faculty. Notably, in addition to several other undergraduates working with our faculty outside of the SURP program, there will be four first year medical students working on summer research projects and funded through the Klionsky Pathology fellowship, including 1 from Drexel! This continues to be one of the strongest recruiting programs we have for the discipline of Pathology. Kudos to Marie DeFrances for organizing a spectacular weekly learning experience for these first-year students with clinical members of the Pathology Department!

If you are interested in having issues brought before the CMP committee, please share them with our CMP administrator, Amanda Bytzura ([bytzuraam@upmc.edu](mailto:bytzuraam@upmc.edu)), or me ([wmars@pitt.edu](mailto:wmars@pitt.edu)). Also, please continue to make me aware of any outstanding faculty members who are not currently members of CMP but who would be eligible and have a possible interest in joining our program.

Thanks so much!

**Wendy M. Mars, Ph.D.**

Director, Pathology SURP and CMP graduate



## RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

From the desk of Dr. Marie DeFrances

### Medical Students

The Pathology Medical Student Interest Group (PMSIG) wrapped up another successful year. The PMSIG received funding from both ICPI and ASCP to support this year's initiatives such as hosting a lunch-and-learn session with various pathologists and holding a "Movie Night" to show the film "Concussion" which focusses on the career of pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu, a former UPMC Neuropathology Fellow.

Residents Terri Jones and John Skaugen served as our department's Pathology Resident- Medical Student Liaisons this academic year. They participated in the SOM MS-3 career night, the medical student research fair, and many other important medical student related-activities during the year. Residents Dan Geisler and John Skaugen are the Liaisons for this coming academic year.

### PittMed Professionalism Accolade

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Marie C. DeFrances, MD, PhD**  
Professor, Department of Pathology

"Dr. DeFrances' Board Review sessions were incredible. Her passion and enthusiasm for teaching medical students was absolutely phenomenal. I felt that she treated us not like "students" but rather, colleagues. Her professionalism and excitement really spoke to me and made pathology so much fun! I do believe its an incredible field, but that's only thanks to her. Keep those board reviews coming!"

*-- submitted by a UPSOM student  
Spring 2019: Tissues*



[www.omed.pitt.edu/PAIR](http://www.omed.pitt.edu/PAIR)

## Residency Program:

### New PGY-1 Class – July 2019

Eight new residents have been recruited.

*Raniah Alamri, MD – King Saud University College of Medicine*

*Vandana Baloda, MD – Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research*

*Shaymaa Hegazy, MD – Menoufia University*

*Gaurav Kattel, MD – B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences*

*Jeffrey Kleinberger, MD, PhD – University of Maryland School of Medicine*

*Hae-Sun La, MD – St. George's University*

*Aofei Li, MD – Tsinghua University School of Medicine*

*Shikha Malhotra, MD – B.J. Medical College, Pune*



One new resident has transferred into our program as a PGY4.

*Vanya Jaitly, MD – G.S.V.M Medical College; University of Texas Health Science Center – AP/CP residency (3 yrs)*

## Fellowship Program:

### Fellows – July 2019

Eight fellows have been recruited from outside programs together with six internal candidates.

*Dayne Ashman, MD (GU) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Nicholas Barasch, MD (Heme) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Shweta Bhavsar, MD (Heme) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Vincent Cracolici, MD (H&N) – The University of Chicago Medical Center – AP/CP residency*

*Ian Harrold, MD (BB) – Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center – CP residency*

*Mohsin Jamal, MD (MGP) – Henry Ford Hospital – AP/CP residency*

*Jaswinder Kaur, MD (TP) – University of Mississippi – AP/CP residency*

*Sigfred Lajara, MD (Cyto) – Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center – AP/CP residency*

*Daniel Marker, MD, PhD (NP) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Thomas Pearce, MD, PhD (NP) – UPMC – AP residency*

*Claudia Salgado, MD, PhD (Ped) – UPMC – AP residency*

*Swati Satturwar, MD (H&N) – Pitt County Memorial Hospital, East Carolina University – AP/CP residency*

*Hammad Tashkandi, MD (MGP) – University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center – AP/CP residency*

*Tatiana Villatoro, MD (SP) – Thomas Jefferson University – AP/CP residency*

## Clinical Instructors – July 2019

Five clinical instructors have also been recruited.

*Lama Farchoukh Farhat, MD (GI) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Sarah Hugar, MD (GYN/Breast) – UPMC – AP/CP residency*

*Mustafa Yousif, MD (GYN/Breast)–Wake Forest University–AP/CP residency*

*Susan Shyu, MD (GI) – University of Maryland Medical Center – AP/CP residency*

*Tianna Wang, MD (GYN/Breast) – Loma Linda Medical Center – AP/CP residency*

## PIRRT – July 2019

*Dimitrios Korentzelos, MD – University of Patras*

*Pioneering Advances in Molecular Pathology – Basic and Applied*

# Pathologist Investigator Residency Research Training Program



The PIRRT program allows Pathology residents and fellows at the University of Pittsburgh to construct individualized research training experiences with the goal of “fast-tracking” to combined diagnostic and independent research faculty positions. Trainees are generally admitted as first year residents, electing to take their research year after PGY1 or PGY2, or before continuing on to diagnostic fellowship training at UPMC. Following integrated PIRRT research and residency training, our alumni have been highly successful in transitioning directly to faculty positions pursuing combined investigational and diagnostic careers.

Please join us in welcoming our newest PIRRT trainee Dimitrios Korentzelos, and congratulating current and former PIRRT fellows on their accomplishments over the past year!

Charleen T. Chu and Tim Oury  
PIRRT Co-Directors



## ***Dimitrios Korentzelos, MD***

Dimitrios was born in Greece and obtained his M.D. from the School of Health Sciences in the University of Patras. While in medical school, he developed an early interest in Pathology as well as Cancer Biology. After finishing a year of pathology training in Greece, he pursued a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center focusing on prostate cancer under the mentorship of Timothy C. Thompson, PhD. His main area of interest was the development of resistance mechanisms to androgen receptor inhibition therapy as well as the emergence of treatment-induced neuroendocrine prostate cancer.

Through the collaboration with a genitourinary pathologist, Patricia Troncoso, MD, his passion for Pathology was fueled even further and in 2018 he started his Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dimitrios plans to conduct his PIRRT research in the lab of Alan Wells, MD, DMSc. His current research focus is on metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer immunotherapy in an effort to link the underlying biology to the disease and develop novel therapeutic approaches. Dimitrios plans on pursuing fellowships in Genitourinary Pathology and Molecular Genetic Pathology. Outside of the lab/hospital, he enjoys playing tennis at Highland Park, watching films and reading literature.

***Updates on current PIRRT trainees:***

**Lauren Skvarca, MD, PhD**

Lauren is completing her PIRRT research year at Magee Womens Research Institute under the co-mentorship of Carl Hubel Ph.D. and Janet Catov Ph.D. Her main project focused on using digital pathology to evaluate novel immunohistochemical markers of placental vascular alteration in preeclampsia. She was excited to present her work as a poster presentation at the Pathology Informatics Summit, for which she received a travel award from the Association of Pathology Informatics, in May 2019. Upon returning to residency training as a PGY2, she will apply for subspecialty/fellowship training in perinatal pathology.

**Tanner Freeman, MD, PhD**

Tanner is currently finishing his first year back in the residency program after his PIRRT research year.

**Tom Pearce, MD, PhD**

Tom completed his residency training and is currently finishing up his first year in the Neuropathology fellowship.

***Updates on PIRRT alumni:***

**Rebecca J. Leeman-Neill, MD, PhD.**

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology, Columbia University Medical Center

Rebecca was recently awarded a Career Development Award from the Department of Defense (Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program) as well as a Pilot Project Award through the NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan, both on topics pertaining to environmental exposures, B cell genomic instability, and lymphomagenesis.

Publication of a review article: Leeman-Neill, RJ and Bhagat, G. BCL6 as a therapeutic target for lymphoma. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*, 2018 Feb; 22(2):143-152.

Oral Presentation at Society for Hematopathology / European Association for Haematopathology Workshop: "A pediatric patient with acute leukemia of ambiguous lineage and a *NUP98-NSD1* rearrangement."

Abstract at American Society for Hematology Annual Meeting: Leeman-Neill, et al. "Molecular Characterization of Post-Transplant Plasmablastic Lymphomas Implicates *RAS*, *TP53*, and *NOTCH* Mutations and *MYC* Deregulation in Disease Pathogenesis"

**Jason Cheng-Hsuan Chiang, MD, PhD**

Assistant Member of Pathology, Neurobiology & Brain Tumor Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Jason's research lab focuses on defining and refining classification of pediatric central nervous system tumors by next-generation sequencing, methylome, and proteome analyses.

Jason is the central pathology reviewer and co-investigator of five clinical trials on pediatric high-grade and low-grade gliomas using novel drug/radiation regimes and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells.

Jason is a member of the Program Committee of Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists.

Partnering with St. Jude's Global Pediatric Medicine initiative, Jason is helping to establish regional pediatric neuropathology referral centers in Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. He has been invited to Panama and will visit Taiwan, Guatemala, and Singapore in the next few months.

He continues to receive domestic and international pediatric neuropathology cases for expert opinion.

## Jason Cheng-Hsuan Chiang, MD, PhD continued

### Selected publications:

- Chiang J, Dalton J, Upadhyaya SA, Patay Z, Qaddoumi I, Li X, Segura AD, Sharma S, Ismail A, Shurtleff SA, Raimondi SC. (2019) Chromosome arm 1q gain is an adverse prognostic factor in localized and diffuse leptomeningeal glioneuronal tumors with *BRAF* gene fusion and 1p deletion. *Acta Neuropathol.* 137(1):179-181.
- Chiang J, Harreld JH, Tanaka R, Li X, Wen J, Zhang C, Boué DR, Rauch TM, Boyd JT, Chen J, Corbo JC, Bouldin TW, Elton SW, Liu LL, Schofield D, Lee SC, Bouffard JP, Georges-cu MM, Dossani RH, Aguiar MA, Sances RA, Saad AG, Boop FA, Qaddoumi I, Ellison DW. (2019) Septal Dysembryoplastic Neuroepithelial Tumor: A Comprehensive Clinical, Imaging, Histopathologic, and Molecular Analysis. *Neuro Oncol.* 2019 Feb 6. doi: 10.1093/neuonc/noz037. [Epub ahead of print]
- Liu APY, Harreld JH, Jacola LM, Gero M, Acharya S, Ghazwani Y, Wu S, Li X, Klimo P Jr, Gajjar A, Chiang J\*, Qaddoumi I\*. (2018) Tectal glioma as a distinct diagnostic entity: a comprehensive clinical, imaging, histologic, and molecular analysis. *Acta Neuropathol Commun.* 6(1):101. \*Co-corresponding authors

## Julia Kofler, MD.

Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh

Co-director and Neuropathology Core Leader of the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's disease research center (ADRC)

Chair, Program Committee, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists, 2017-2019

Member of National Alzheimer Coordinating Center (NACC) Scientific Review Committee, 2016-2020

Principal Investigator (MPI) on NIMH R01 "Synaptic Resilience to Psychosis in Alzheimer's Disease"

Principal Investigator on new grants from the Pittsburgh Foundation and Chuck Noll Foundation to establish the "University of Pittsburgh Brain Bank for Contact Sports Participants"

## Ed Plowey, MD, PhD.

Director of Translational Neuropathology, Biogen, Cambridge, MA.

Formerly Assistant Professor of Pathology, Stanford Bio-X.

## Craig Horbinski, MD, PhD.

Associate Professor of Pathology and Neurosurgery, Northwestern University

Continues to work on NINDS R01, titled "Tissue Factor as a key determinant of IDH1 mutant versus IDH1 wild-type glioma thrombosis and malignancy."

Biospecimen Core Leader on an \$11.5 million NCI P50 brain tumor SPORE at Northwestern that received a perfect score at study section.

Director of the Mouse Histology and Phenotyping Laboratory, which provides research histology support for both cancer and non-cancer projects to all of Northwestern University.

Published 14 papers in 2018, focused on gliomas.

Keynote speaker at the 2019 Canadian Association of Pathologists Annual Meeting, as well as the 2019 UB/Rochester/SUNY Upstate MD-PhD Tri-institutional Research Day

Faculty, Trainees and Students:

We would like to thank you all for your outstanding participation in the 2019 Department of Pathology Retreat. The event was a huge success, and we were certainly impressed with the scientific quality of all oral and poster presentations! We wanted to take the time to announce the winners of the Poster Session, which was held at the University Club.

**Graduate students:**

First place: Miranda Culley (mentor: Steve Chan)

Second place: Daniel Zuppo (mentor: Michael Tsang)

Third place: a tie between Sam Herron (mentor: Hun-way Hwang), Kyle Sylakowski (mentor: Alan Wells),

Patrick Wilkinson (mentor: Andy Duncan)

**Post-graduate trainees (basic):**

First place: Amanda Clark (mentor: Alan Wells)

Second place: Evan Delgado (mentor: Andy Duncan)

Third place: Timothy Perkins (mentor: Tim Oury)

**Post-graduate trainees (clinical):**

First place: Lauren Skvarca (mentor: Carl Hubel)

Second place: Anne Shepler (mentor: Julia Kofler)

Third place: a tie between Thomas Pearce (mentor: Geoffrey Murdoch) and Oscar Lopez-Nunez (mentor: Rita Alaggio)

**And the People's Choice Award goes to:**

Karis Kosar (mentor: Kari Nejak-Bowen)

Dr. Paul Monga also sponsored some extra special awards this year! Congratulations to the following:

**CATER award winner:**

Martin Haschak (mentor: Bryan Brown)

**PLRC award winner:**

Kelly Koral (mentor: George Michalopoulos)

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you all again for your help in making the event such an enormous success!

Wendy Mars, Ph.D.



## PUBLICATIONS

Guo, L., Cui, C., Zhang, K., Wang, J., Wang, Y., Lu, Y., Chen, K., Yuan, J., Xiao, G., Tang, B., Sun, Y., Wu, C. Kindlin-2 links mechano-environment to proline synthesis and tumor growth. *Nat. Commun.* 2019 Feb 19;10(1):845.

Guo, L., Wang, X., Yuan, J., Zhu, M., XU, R.-H., Fu, X., Wu, C., and Wu, Y. TSA restores hair follicle-inductive capacity of skin-derived precursors, *Sci. Rep.* 2019 Feb 27;9(1):2867

Sun, Y., Ding, Y., Guo, C., Liu, C., Ma, P., Ma, S., Wang, Z., Liu, J., Qian, T., Ma, L., Deng, Y., Wu, C.  $\alpha$ -parvin 1 promotes breast cancer progression and metastasis through interaction with G3BP2 and regulation of TWIST1 signaling. *Oncogene*. 2019 Feb 25. doi: 10.1038/s41388-019-0762-1. [Epub ahead of print]

Guo, L. and Wu, C. Mechano-regulation of proline metabolism and cancer progression by kindlin-2. *Mol Cell Oncology*. Published online: 12 Apr 2019, DOI: [10.1080/23723556.2019.1596003](https://doi.org/10.1080/23723556.2019.1596003)

Peng Liu, George Tseng, Zijie Wang, Yuchen Huang, and P. Randhawa. Diagnosis of T-cell Mediated Kidney Rejection in Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded Tissues Using RNA-Seq Based Machine Learning Algorithms. *Human Pathology*, 2018, 84 283-290.

H. Hirsch and Parmjeet Randhawa: BK Polyomavirus in solid organ transplantation- Guidelines from the American Society of Transplantation Infectious Diseases Community of Practice. *Clin Transplant*. 2019 Mar 12: e13528 [Epub ahead of print}.

Randhawa PS. Clinical correlates of Polyomavirus BK infection in glomeruli. *Kid Int.* 94: 1024, 2018.

Randhawa P., Roufousse C. The expanding spectrum of antibody mediated rejection: should we include cases where no donor-specific anti-HLA antibody is detected? *Am J Transplant*. 2018 Sep 11. doi: 10.1111/ajt.15114. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available. PMID:30203616

JAALAS 18-000092 Review: Compassion Fatigue, Euthanasia Stress and Management in Laboratory Animal Research. JT Newsome, EA Clemmons, DC Fitzhugh, TL Gluckman, MA Creamer-Hente, LJ. Tambrallo, T Wilder-Kofie in press Scheduled publication May 2019 issue 58-3.

Wilkinson PD, Delgado ER, Alencastro F, Leek MP, Roy N, Weirich MP, Stahl EC, Otero PA, Chen MI, Brown WK, Duncan AW. The Polyploid State Restricts Hepatocyte Proliferation and Liver Regeneration in Mice. *Hepatology*. 2019;69(3):1242-58. PubMed PMID: 30244478

Wilkinson PD, Alencastro F, Delgado ER, Leek MP, Weirich MP, Otero PA, Roy N, Brown WK, Oertel M, Duncan AW. Polyploid Hepatocytes Facilitate Adaptation and Regeneration to Chronic Liver Injury. *American Journal of Pathology*. 2019. In press. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2019.02.008

## PUBLICATIONS

**Kaplan A**, Sevcik J, Kiss J. Use of low titer A plasma in three AB patients for therapeutic plasma exchange. *Journal of Clinical Apheresis* 2018 Nov 23. doi: 10.1002/jca.21656. [Epub ahead of print]

Seheult J, Triulzi D, **Kaplan A**. Targeted Prospective HCV “Lookback” Program: Is it an efficient and effective use of resources? *Transfusion* 2018;58(8):2084-2085.

Kapur RP, **Reyes-Mugica M**. Intestinal Neuronal Dysplasia Type B: An Updated Review of a Problematic Diagnosis. *Arch Pathol Lab Med*. 2019 Feb;143(2):235-243.

Mirizio E, Marathi A, Hershey N, Ross C, Schollaert K, Salgado C, Reyes-Mugica M, Torok KS. Identifying the Signature Immune Phenotypes Present in Pediatric Localized Scleroderma. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2019 Mar;139(3):715-718.

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Berkhite L, Witchel SF, Yatsenko SA, Schneck F, **Reyes-Múgica M**. Early bilateral gonadoblastoma associated with 45/46XY mosaicism: the spectrum of undifferentiated gonadal tissue and gonadoblastoma in the first months of life. *Pediatr Dev Pathol* 2019 Jan 15:1093526618824469. doi: 10.1177/1093526618824469. [Epub ahead of print]

Veras LV, Arnold MA, Avansino J, Bove K, Cowles RA, Durham M, Goldstein AM, Krishnan C, Langer JC, Levitt M, Monforte-Munoz H, Rabah R, **Reyes-Múgica M**, Rollins MD, Kapur R, Gosain A. Synoptic Reporting for Surgery and Pathology in Hirschsprung Disease. *J Pediatr Surg* doi: 10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2019.03.010. [Epub ahead of print]

Kesch C, J Radtke JP, Wintsche A, Wiesenfarth M, Luttje M, Gasch C, Dieffenbacher S, Pecqueux C, Teber D, Hatiboglu G, Nyarangi-Dix J, Simpfendorfer T, Schönberg G, Dimitrakopoulou-Strauss A, Freitag M, **Duensing A**, Grulich C, Jäger D, Götz M, Grabe N, Schweiger MR, Pahernik S, Perner S, Herpel E, Roth W, Wiczorek K, Maier-Hein K, Debus J, Haberkorn U, Giesel F, Galle J, Hadaschik B, Schlemmer HP, Hohenfellner M, Bonekamp D, Sültmann H, Duensing S. Correlation between genomic index lesions and mpMRI and 68Ga-PSMA- PET/CT imaging features in primary prostate cancer. *Sci. Rep.* 2018; 8:16708.

Tapia-Laliena MA, Korzeniewsk N, Peña-Llopis S, Scholl C, Fröhling S, Hohenfellner M, **Duensing A\***, **Duensing S\***. Cullin 5 is a novel candidate tumor suppressor in renal cell carcinoma involved in the maintenance of genome stability. *Oncogenesis* 2019; 8:4. (\*co-senior authors).

## PUBLICATIONS

M Yang, Y Wang, G Liang, Z Xu, **CT Chu**, H Wei. (2018) Alzheimer's presenilin-1 mutation render neurons vulnerable to propofol neurotoxicity by calcium dysregulation and impaired autophagy. *J Alzheimers Dis* **67**: 137-147. PMID: 30636740; PMCID:PMC6367936

KZQ Wang\*, E Steer\*, PA Otero\*, NW Bateman, MH Cheng, AL Scott, C Wu, I Bahar, YT Shih, YP Hsueh & **CT Chu**. (2018) PINK1 interacts with VCP/p97 and activates PKA to promote NSFL1C/p47 phosphorylation and dendritic arborization in neurons. *eNeuro*, **5**: ENEURO.0466-18.2018, 1-16.\*co-first authors, equal contributions. PMCID:PMC6377406. **F1000 Recommended**: Zu-Hang Sheng & Xiu-Tang Cheng: Faculty of 1000 Neuroscience and Neurological Disorders, 7 Jul 2017. <https://f1000.com/prime/734664398#eval793559765>

M Verma, Z Wills & **CT Chu**. (2018) Excitatory dendritic mitochondrial calcium toxicity: Implications for Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases. *Front Neurosci* **12**: 523 (12 pages). PMID:30116173; PMCID:PMC6083050; DOI:10.3389/fnins.2018.00523

**CT Chu**. (2018) Autophagy in neurological diseases: An update. *Neurobiol Dis* **in press**.

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## PRESENTATIONS

### George K. Michalopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

- Invited speaker at Thomas Jefferson University, March 13, 2019, "Multiple Facets of Liver Regeneration"
- Invited speaker at the 4th International Conference on Alcohol and Cancer, Newport, RI. "Mechanisms by Which Chronic Liver Toxicity Leads to Liver Cancer"

### Sarah Wheeler, Ph.D.

- invited speaker at the AACC Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry, April 25-27, 2019 Dallas, TX "A Trip to the Islets of Langerhans: Pancreatic endocrine and adrenal" and "Let's Talk Hormones Endocrine Disorders: Thyroid and Parathyroid"
- invitation to give an oral presentation at the The Epigenome Across the Lifespan Conference May 3, 2019

### CME Credit Update

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education for the Health Sciences CME transcripts can be obtained via the Internet at [ccehs.upmc.edu](http://ccehs.upmc.edu). Click on link “Credit Transcripts” enter the required information (last name, last five digits of social security number). The transcript reflects the American Medical Association Category 1 credits or the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) which have been entered into the Center’s database. Credits from other institutions can be entered using the option “add/modify” credit information. For questions about the Continuing Medical Education Credits, please contact 412.647.8232.

### Educational Credit Unit Update

Just a reminder that the Educational Credit Units (ECUs) are being collected from every faculty member who has been involved with teaching activities of the medical or graduate school programs from **July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**. Please see the web-page that has been designed for this purpose and enter teaching activities as they happen. (see directions for access to page on Page 5) Please be sure to update your teaching data as the School of Medicine will be asking for the information in July. If you have any questions please contact Chris Szalkuski at 412-648-1040 or [szalkuskict@upmc.edu](mailto:szalkuskict@upmc.edu).

### Publication Notification Process Update

This is a reminder the Dean has requested a Notification of Publication form for each manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The notification ensures compliance with human and animal research policies, technology transfer/patent guidelines and the requirements for citation of grant support. It also allows for newsworthy publications to be passed onto the University media. Please submit preprint information via the website at: <https://pnf.hs.pitt.edu> . If you have any questions, please contact Chris Szalkuski at [szalkuskict@upmc.edu](mailto:szalkuskict@upmc.edu).

*Please send newsworthy items as they happen to Chris Szalkuski at [Szalkuskict@upmc.edu](mailto:szalkuskict@upmc.edu).*

*Thank you.*

