NEWS FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

The Department of Pathology has been moving forward with a number of creative efforts all designed to prepare for the arrival of a new Chairperson this spring. We have been saving money on reagents in immunohistochemistry, experimenting with purchasing “tech only” lab services in cytogenetics, piloting new schedules in surgical pathology and producing slides from the lab earlier in the morning to permit previewing of cases by our residents.

The elimination of Merit Hospital coverage has provided more time for the preparation of a new weekly resident “Kodachrome” conference and several research projects. We have restarted neuromuscular technical processing and purchased a new digital scanner that will be employed for several quality and safety initiatives. A huge effort has gone into the department’s premier “white hat” project, the College of American Pathologist “UMMC See, Test and Treat” program. Finally, we have opened a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) clinic at the Pavillion Suite K that will make our cytopathologists more efficient and enhance procedural pathology resident teaching. It is a great time to be a pathologist at UMMC.

All the best to you and yours,
Bob Brodell, M.D.
Professor and Interim Chair
UMMC Department of Pathology
FROM THE EDITORS

On behalf of the faculty and staff in the Department of Pathology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, we are excited to share with you our winter edition of the Pathology Connection Newsletter. In this issue, we are introducing a number of new services, a record number of abstract submissions to USCAP and our pathologists’ area(s) of expertise in support of the three pillars of UMMC: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, and HEALTH CARE.

We would like to thank our colleagues in other departments at the medical center for their support and collegiality. It is our aim to provide the medical center and this beautiful state with excellent service in a timely fashion.

Welcome New Faculty

The Department of Pathology welcomes back Dr. Veena Shenoy effective January 3. With more than 20 years of experience in Anatomic Pathology, Dr. Shenoy has served in a number of administrative roles, including chief of pathology at the VA Medical Center, director of surgical pathology and director of quality and safety at UMMC.

Pathologists answer abstract submissions call

For more than 100 years, the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) has been the premier administrator of continuing medical education for pathologists. This year, UMMC pathologists and residents submitted abstracts in record numbers.

Department of Pathology faculty and residents have been very busy preparing for the upcoming USCAP annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas scheduled March 4-10. Fourteen platform and poster presentations have been accepted for presentation at this highly competitive international meeting, the highest number of abstracts the department has ever submitted or had accepted at this meeting.
UMMC toxicology service update

Dr. Patrick Kyle, director of clinical chemistry and toxicology, recently published the first issue of the “Mississippi Toxicology Bulletin” a toxicology newsletter sent to emergency rooms across the state informing ER clinicians about current trends in drug abuse. The first issue included discussion on adulterated heroin, adulterated cocaine, synthetic cannabinoids, and top drugs seized by law enforcement. Follow this link to review the Mississippi Toxicology Bulletin.

\MS Toxicology Bulletin V1 (2).pdf

The UMMC Analytical Toxicology Lab is staffed 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. each weekday. A technologist is on call for after-hours emergencies. For more information about analyses, call the laboratory at (601)-984-1614.

UMMC neuromuscular laboratory update

Pathology faculty are excited about establishing a state-of-the-art neuromuscular laboratory in the department. The lab now has a dedicated technician with excellent training in handling and staining muscle and nerve specimens. Dr. Ali G. Saad and Latarsha Brown had one week of high-intensity training with emphasis on the latest techniques in handling and staining muscle and nerve specimens in Orlando, Florida.

Our full-service neuromuscular laboratory is directed by Dr. Ali G. Saad, who is board-certified in neuropathology. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mondays – Fridays with on-call service after hours.
The College of American Pathologists (CAP) is the leading organization for board-certified pathologists. The CAP Foundation is the charitable annex to the CAP, which awards grant funding to champion pathologist-led endeavors as a way to increase community access to health care through outreach events like the “CAP: See, Test and Treat” program. Dr. Stephen Raab, pathologist and clinical researcher, is the awardee and lead pathologist for this effort.

The UMMC department of pathology and a host of other departments partnered with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) to sponsor the “CAP: See, Test and Treat” program on Jan. 28 in the UMMC Cancer Institute clinics at the Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center. The program engaged participants with three different cancer screens: skin, cervical, and breast. The screens included same-day results and a plan for follow-up care. The department of pathology care team included of a myriad of volunteer clinical professionals from UMMC, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Care, the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Central Mississippi Steel Magnolias Chapter, and the Mississippi State Department of Health – Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, among others. Participants also were able to indulge in exercise demonstrations and nutrition education.

Dr. Israh Akhtar, associate professor of cytopathology and fellowship program director, received the “Best Teacher of Anatomic Pathology” award from UMMC pathology residents for academic year 2015-16. She was an invited speaker at the International Conference by Cytopathology and Histology in August 2016, in Las Vegas, where she presented “Practical Approach to Effusion”. Akhtar also presented a workshop, “Diagnostically Challenging Core Biopsy and Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology: How Much Can We Offer?” at the American Society of Cytopathology (ASCP) conference last Nov 4 in New Orleans.
UMMC pathology residency program update

With a strong pool of qualified applicants, the pathology residency program has recently completed its interviews for pathology residency positions for the 2017-18 academic year.

The program is pleased to announce the following accomplishments of our residents:

Hillary Brooke Sims, M.D. will complete a cytopathology fellowship at UMMC beginning July 1.

Melissa J. Brents, M.D. has accepted a position with the Diagnostic Tissue/Cytology Group in Meridian beginning July 1.

Katherine C. Tumminello, M.D. will complete a cytopathology fellowship at UMMC for 2017-18 and will then complete a fellowship in dermatopathology at ProPath in Dallas for 2018-19.

Azniv Azar, M.D. has accepted a combined surgical pathology fellowship in breast and gynecology at the University of Massachusetts for 2018-19.

David C. Marbury M.D. has accepted a surgical pathology fellowship at the University of Illinois-Chicago for 2018-19.

KUDOS

After only six months, pathology slide librarian Isora Chaviano has helped to organize pathology slides and has developed a systematic process for requesting and returning slides. Depending on the number of slides requested, an appropriate slide request form is required. The slides then are pulled and a detailed “place-holder” card is required to be completed with the case number, date and initials of the requestor. The “place-holder” card then takes the place of the requested slides until they are returned. Chaviano also maintains a control spreadsheet in Excel labeled by each requestor. Each requestor worksheet is detailed with the number of slides pulled, case number and location where the slides were sent. With Chaviano’s systematic process, she is able to easily track what slide cases have been requested and to easily update when the slides are to be returned.

Chaviano also managed to spruce up the walls with adorning flowers.
History anecdotes by
Dr. Julius Cruse and Dr. Robert E. Lewis

The case of the invisible medical school budget

In the early 1930s, Dr. Billy Guyton was serving as dean of medicine, and professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of Mississippi, in addition to his ENT practice in Oxford. He, like other university administrators, awaited the Mississippi State Legislature’s approval of their bare-bones budget allocation for the two-year medical school. As usual, Guyton served without pay. Once the state legislators adjourned their fiscal session and returned to their hometowns, Guyton received no word of his budget request for the medical school. It was discovered that the frenzied legislative session had ended without Guyton’s budget request even being considered.

For anyone other than Guyton, that would have ended the matter, not only for the year, but for the future of the two-year medical school and the future UMMC as well. But that wasn’t the Guyton way. He cancelled all appointments for the weekend and personally telephoned every member of the legislature, polling them to approve the medical school budget and receive their unanimous support (Telephoning in those days was an arduous task, in contrast to instantaneous telecommunications today). Thus, Guyton saved the fledgling two-year school to serve later as the nucleus for the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This was not the first time he saved the school…but more to come in the future.

UMMC pathology philanthropic opportunities

Department of Pathology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center is committed to excellence in anatomic and clinical pathology services, medical student, pathology resident, fellow, and graduate student education, and basic science research. Previously, state funds and practice funds were available to help support our needs for pathology and laboratory equipment, instruments, supplies, and to cover the travel and continuing education expenses for our trainees and faculty. Unfortunately, the available funds have decreased while the cost of equipment, travel, and education continues to rise. As the state’s only academic medical center, the Department of Pathology plays a vital role in helping us reach our goal of a healthier Mississippi.

By giving to the Department of Pathology, you are supporting an area of great need and positively impacting the education and training of our faculty and students. There are ways for you to give whether you are just beginning your career, nearing retirement, or somewhere in between. You may choose to make a one-time cash gift, annual gifts, or you may consider making a gift through your estate. For cash gifts, make checks payable to UMMC and in the memo line, write “Department of Pathology” and forward to the UMMC Development Office at 2500 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39216. You may also give online by visiting www.umc.edu/give and clicking the option “Donate Online” found in the list on the left side of the page; under Select a Category, choose “School of Medicine Options; under “Select a Fund,” choose Department of Pathology Fund.

For information on other ways to give, such as a bequest in your will, beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy or retirement account, or charitable trusts, contact Natalie S. Hutto, JD, CPA, Director of Gift Planning in the UMMC Office of Development, at (601) 984-2306 or at nhutto@umc.edu.

2. Adams, K., Lam, J., Intravascular Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma Presenting As Abnormal Uterine Bleeding. CAP 2015, Nashville


7. Lakshmi Vemavarapu, MD, Israh Akhtar, MD Cytology as a primary diagnostic modality for detection of liver lesions; A 3.5 year retrospective review in a tertiary care center. ASC, 63rd Annual Meeting, Chicago Nov 13-16;2015


22. Maria F. Gonzalez, MD; Thomas McGill, MD; Mitchell S. Wachtel, MD; Viviane Mamlok, MD. An Unusual Presentation of an Adrenal Teratoma. Archives of pathology and laboratory medicine 134(9): 1380.

23. Maria F. Gonzalez, MD; Katherine Rinard, MD; Allan Haynes, MD; Mitchell S. Wachtel, MD; Irfan Warraich, MD. Schistosoma mansoni infection mimicking bladder cancer. Archives of pathology and laboratory medicine 135(9): 1120.

24. Maria F. Gonzalez, MD; Mitchell S. Wachtel, MD; Irfan Warraich, MD. Primary anal melanoma mimicking long lasting hemorrhoids. Archives of pathology and laboratory medicine 135(9):1102.

25. Maria F. Gonzalez, MD; Adam Johnson, MD; Jochassin Cordero, M.D; Mitchell S. Wachtel, MD.Metastatic carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma of the parotid gland to the thyroid. Archives of pathology and laboratory medicine 135(9): 1220.


30. Vladislav I, Lam J, Mixed-phenotype Acute Leukemia Presenting As T Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma In Lymph Nodes And Acute Myeloid Leukemia In Blood And Bone Marrow: Case Report. Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Volume 140, Issue 9, September 2016.

32. Nath V, Lam JT, Myeloid/Natural Killer Cell Precursor Leukemia with Cytoplasmic Granules. Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Volume 139, Issue 10, October 2015.


Books:


Book Chapters:


Platform Presentations:

Poster Presentations:

2. El Jamal SM, Abulsayen H, Bishop B, Kelley D, Fraig M, Saad AG, Hassan M. “MEF2B-Mediated Activation of NOX-1 Pathway Contributes to the Lymphomagenesis of DLBCL of the Germinal Center Type”. United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Annual Meeting, San Antonio March 4-10, 2017


Blog Post


Departmental announcements

Best Wishes to pathology residents Dr. David Marbury and Dr. Jaswinder (Jazz) Kaur on their respective wedding announcement.

Marbury and Catherine Lowe are engaged.

Kaur and Mayur Chalia are newlyweds.

Congratulations to Kathy Vanlandingham of the Immunohistochemistry Lab on the birth of her granddaughter, Ellie Blake Riddell. The 7 lbs, 9oz., 20-inch long child was born on January 5.

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Chastain on the birth of her daughter, Charlie Virginia Anderson. The 7lbs, 14oz, 19 ½-inch long child, who shares a birthday with her grandmother, was born on January 15.