NEWS FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

Excerpts from the pathology resident’s graduation speech

This has been quite a year of change. The residents hung in there as we changed faculty schedules and the schedule of processing and instituted Epic Beaker. Somehow it seems that younger people adapt easily while those of us over the age of 50 find it harder to do so. In fact, I’m not sure I would have made it without a resident showing me the “completed” button in QA or reminding me that a special stain is ordered in Case Builder.

As I graduate from my job as interim chair, my message to the graduating residents of 2017 - I dare say my Last Lecture - is based on a simple premise:

You are not a pathologist, you are a doctor! You will not just bear witness, but will rather be an essential partner to your patients. You will accompany strangers through the most painful, joyful, confusing, reassuring and, sometimes, tragic moments of their lives. For this honor, I ask you to do a few things… Unfortunately, they are not simple things:

1. Be available…does everyone in this room have my cell phone number? It is amazing how few people call, but you will find that when they do call, they NEED YOU!

2. Do what you say you are going to do.

3. Make good, smart choices, but don’t be afraid to sometimes blindly choose a path with heart and courage. Push yourself in new directions: it will enrich your life and help you to understand your limits. What you do matters, and how you do it matters.

4. Speaking of limits, be a team player - trust others around you to make up for your limitations and they will soon trust you.

5. Be as knowledgeable as Dr. Lewin, as thoughtful as Dr. Neill, as organized and mothering as Dr. Manucha, as creative and energetic as Dr. Bajestani, as kind as Dr. Akhtar, as curious as Dr. Saad, as personable and helpful as Dr. Asfour, as warm and caring as Dr. Chastain, as mission driven and thoughtful as Dr. Stempak, as devoted to education as Dr. Daley, as brilliant in multiple subjects as Dr. El Jamaal, as good an academic mentor as Dr. Geisinger, as dedicated as Dr. Gonzalez, as good at communication and teamwork as Dr. Grunes, as organized and thoughtful as Dr. Gryzbicki, as calm and committed as Dr. Mannam, as inspiring as Dr. Raab, as dedicated and hard-working as Dr. Subramony, as brilliant a diagnostician as Dr. Torres, as supportive as Dr. Woodliff and Ashley Illingworth, as scientific in approaching life and work as Dr. Dennis and Dr. Hobart, as professional as Dr. Kyle, as helpful and smart as Dr. Lam, as logical and meticulous as Dr. Shenoy, as accountable and supportive as Jesus Monico, and as inquisitive and creative as Dr. Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Gomez, Dr. Gonzalez-Fernandez, Dr. Liu, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Zhou.

Of course, as I am about to graduate, I need to thank my team: Angelina Knott, Robin Suggs, Theresa Hebler, Pat Johnson, Delois Felder, Kathy Shields, Kelvin Grant and Mirna Vargas. As Frank Zappa once said, “information is not knowledge and knowledge is not wisdom.” When you are out in the world, don’t be afraid to ask yourself, “what would Dr. Lewin have done in this situation? How would Dr. Daley approach teaching this course?”

So, as we graduate from our current positions, we are not fading away into the sunset, we are beginning to learn, teach, help our patients and make discoveries in our work. Go get ‘em residents!

All the best to you and yours,

Bob Brodell, M.D.
Professor and Interim Chair, UMMC Department of Pathology
The University of Mississippi Medical Center Department of Pathology's MISSION IS CLEAR:

1. Develop and enhance the clinical skills of our medical students, residents and fellows encompassing the latest in technological advances across all pathology specialties.

2. Strengthen patient-centered care provided by UMMC clinicians and clinicians throughout Mississippi with pathologist engagement in a team-coordinated approach for efficient quality and value-based patient-care outcomes.

3. Produce and achieve fundamental research that advances knowledge and the future treatment of diseases.

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 summer edition of the Pathology Connection Newsletter. In this issue, we are announcing academic promotions and awards, section updates 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 Dr. Kristen Adams, who joined the faculty July 3. Dr. Adams completed her pathology residency here at UMMC, and a fellowship in placenta and perinatal pathology in 2016. Along with the surgical pathology service, Dr. Adams will work on the autopsy service with Dr. Charu Subramony and Dr. Ali Saad.

Medical education excellence in pathology

Dr. Bill Daley, Pathology Medical Course Director, is this year's recipient of the Regions Bank TEACH prize. The Regions Bank TEACH (Toward Educational Advancement in Care and Health) Prize was implemented in 2013 and recognizes our teaching faculty’s highest teaching qualities.
See, Test, and Treat (STT) Cancer Screening Program

With strong support from UMMC administration and the College of American Pathology Foundation, Dr. Stephen Raab and Dr. Kim Geisinger, professors of pathology at UMMC, lead the organization of the first STT program in the UMMC Cancer Institute clinics at the Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center. The program included free Pap tests, mammograms and skin exams (for melanoma) for women in the local area. The cervical screening included the procurement of Pap test samples by nurse practitioners; the samples were couriered to the cytology lab where specimens were processed, imaged, screened (by cytotechnologists who volunteered to work on Saturday) and interpreted the same day. Cytologic interpretations were sent back to the clinics and discussed with the patients individually. This portion was coordinated by Dr. Dianne Grunes, assistant professor of pathology. She directed four senior pathology residents who educated women participants about cervical disease and diagnosis and explained the results of their Pap tests.

A major highlight of this session was the discovery in a Pap test of an invasive squamous cell carcinoma. This participant was informed that day of her diagnosis. She was scheduled for a biopsy the following Monday morning (less than 48 hours later) and it was interpreted early the next morning. The woman started therapy soon thereafter with combined radiation and chemotherapy and is doing well clinically. She was so impressed that she is now travelling throughout Mississippi and presenting the importance of cervical screening to groups of women, many of whom are associated with churches. This story has made national news and the patient, Dr. Raab and Dr. Geisinger have been invited to speak at the CAP’s national leadership meeting on pathologists as patient advocates this December.

UMMC pathology faculty academic promotions and tenure appointments

Pathology leadership extends much deserved congratulations to the following faculty members who received promotions and tenure appointments in the Department of Pathology. Their hard work and dedication to service, education, and research continue to enhance and create learning opportunities for pathology students, residents and fellows.

- **Israh Akhtar**, M.D., Fellowship Program Director
  - Promoted to Professor

- **Ayman Asfour**, M.D., Residency Program Director
  - Promoted to Professor

- **Xiu Liu**, M.D., Ph.D., Research
  - Promoted to Professor

- **Junming Wang**, Ph.D., Research
  - Promoted to Professor

- **Xinchun Zhou**, M.D., Ph.D., Research
  - Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure
**Cytopathology News: Fine needle aspiration (FNA) clinic**

The Division of Cytopathology now has clinic space in the University Physicians Pavilion. By partnering closely with dermatology, the division created an on-site FNA clinic to decrease the need of pathologists to travel to increasingly disperse off-campus locations and allow pathologists to better cover the main hospital. After a six-month pilot program, the division faculty are proud to promote this service more widely in an effort to grow the clinic.

FNA remains an important and minimally invasive diagnostic procedure for palpable masses in a cost-effective manner.

While this procedure may be done at the bedside, a standardized clinic setting provides an optimal situation for the patient. Cytotechnologists are present to assist in specimen preparation, set-up time is minimized, patient wait time is minimized, and additional pathologists can be called upon for assistance in difficult cases.

Physicians who have a patient with a palpable mass they would like evaluated may call the division at ext. 4-1550 to coordinate. In many cases, the patient can be seen immediately. Otherwise, an appointment can be scheduled for later in the day or at a date convenient to all parties. A clinic order for “non Gyn cytology,” a call back number, and patient stickers will be needed. No additional registration is required. A preliminary result will be called back upon completion of the procedure and a final report will be in the Epic computer system within two to three business days.

The division offers services in suite K of University Physicians Pavilion. Patient “passports” to aid in communication are available upon request. These passports have a checklist of the required information and a map for the patient with instructions and a phone number.

For more information about FNA, scheduling patients or patient passports, call the division at ext. 4-1550.

Israh Akhtar, MD. Professor, Co-Director of FNA clinic. (o) 601-984-42971 (e): iakhtar@umc.edu
Dianne Grunes, MD. Assistant Professor, Co-Director of FNA Clinic. (o) 601-984-1536 (e): dgrunes@umc.edu
Kim Geisinger, MD. Professor, Director of Cytology. (o) 601-815-9281 (e): kgeisinger@umc.edu

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**Introducing Epic Beaker (AP)**

The Department of Anatomic Pathology (AP) implemented Epic Beaker on April 3. Epic Beaker is the laboratory information system that supports common workflows for clinical pathology (CP) and anatomic pathology (AP). This new application replaces CoPath and includes a barcode tracking system that follows specimens from the point of collection to pathologist sign-out.
UMMC Pathology hosts its first research symposium

Academic research is an inherent utility in making discoveries and building knowledge. Organized by Dr. Christian Gomez (chair), Dr. Junming Wang (co-chair), and Dr. Anas Bernieh (co-chair), the Department of Pathology hosted its first Pathology Research Day on May 4.

Participants included campus-wide leaders, faculty, fellows, residents, graduate students, administrators, and staff. The symposium hosted 12 talks from Department of Pathology faculty, graduate students and residents. More than 50 posters representing numerous academic departments were presented at the poster session.

**Poster award finalists:** Graduate students Kathryn Hellman Lin Wang and Nasir Butt and residents Dr. Kristen Adams, Dr. Anas Bernieh, and Dr. Katie Tumminello

**Poster session winners:** First-place $500 award winner, Dr. Kristen Adams; second-place $250 award winner, Kathryn Hellman

Special thanks to Genentech and Fisher Scientific for their generous sponsorship.
UMMC blood bank knows quality

Hospital administrators recently presented blood bank personnel with the Quality Award for their work in the following case. On March 8, a patient was admitted to surgery and began bleeding profusely. It took nine hours for the surgeons to complete the surgery and stop the bleeding, during which the patient lost an estimated 40 liters of blood. The patient received 70 units of red blood cells, 28 units of fresh frozen plasma, 3 units of platelets and 10 units of cryoprecipitate, which effectively replaced the patient’s blood volume eight times. This case has a happy ending: the patient was discharged home on March 27 and is doing very well.

UMMC’s Blood Bank technologists provided the products for this patient in the same manner they do for other patients. The products were screened for antibodies, typed, cross-matched and labelled prior to issue. Replacement products were ordered from Mississippi Blood Services several times to ensure that blood would be available later during the night. The technologists did all this while issuing products for a heart transplant and a liver transplant, which were taking place simultaneously.

The technologists performed so well that their supervisor was not informed of the case until the next morning: “By the way, we had a big case last night.” Cindy Milton, lead technologist, was proud of her staff for following exacting protocols and for working tirelessly to ensure the best possible outcome. Blood transfusion services are a critical part of laboratory medicine; issuing the wrong blood can result in death, but the right products can extend life. Kudos to blood bank technologists, Cindy Milton and Dr. Asfour for the outstanding work they do every day.

UMMC pathology philanthropic opportunities

The 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 the department needs for pathology and laboratory equipment, instruments and supplies and to cover the travel and continuing education expenses for trainees and faculty. Unfortunately, the available funds have decreased while the cost of equipment, travel and education continues to rise. As part of the state’s only academic medical center, the Department of Pathology plays a vital role in helping UMMC reach its goal of a healthier Mississippi.

By giving to the Department of Pathology, donors support an area of great need and positively impacting the education and training of pathology faculty and students. There are ways to give whether donors are just beginning their careers, are nearing retirement, or are somewhere in between. Donors may choose to make a one-time cash gift, annual gifts or a gift through their estate. For cash gifts, make checks payable to UMMC; in the memo line write, “Department of Pathology” and forward to the UMMC Development Office at 2500 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39216. Donors also may give online by visiting www.umc.edu/giveto 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 a will, beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy or retirement account, or for information on charitable trusts, contact Natalie S. Hutto, J.D., C.P.A., interim director of the UMMC Office of Development, at (601) 984-2306 or at nhutto@umc.edu.
UMMC Pathology Residency Program update

Congratulations to recent fourth-year pathology residents who graduated on May 19: Kristen V. Adams, M.D., Melissa J. Brents, M.D., Vikas Nath, M.D., Hillary "Brooke" Sims, M.D. and Katherine C Tumminello, M.D.

Resident excellence

PGY-2 resident Anas Bernieh, M.D., received a double award on May 19 for his dedication and outstanding service during his rotations on cytopathology and autopsy.

Welcome new pathology PGY-1 residents

Rim Alkawas, M.B.B.Ch. from the Octet 6 University Faculty of Medicine in Egypt.
Lakshmi Ramachandran Nair, M.B. B.S., from Government Medical College in Kottavam, India.
Akram Shalaby, M.B.B.Ch., from the Zagazig University Faculty of Medicine in Egypt.

2017-18 Chief Residents

Azniv Azar  Tejal Petal

Education Administrator

Hollie Thomas is the new education administrator for the residency and fellowship programs. She was formerly responsible for coordinating the fine needle aspiration service for UMMC and outside hospitals.
UMMC Cytopathology Fellowship Program update

Dr. Israh Akhtar, recently awarded “Best Teacher of Anatomic Pathology,” is director of the Cytopathology Fellowship Program. The program extends a complete experience in diagnostic cytopathology and the performance of fine needle aspirations. Cytopathology fellows participate in the rapid on-site examination of fine needle aspirations and touch imprints of core biopsies; interpret and sign out cases; prepare conferences; become involved in research projects; and teach residents and medical students.

2017-18 Cytopathology Fellows

Hillary B. Sims   Katherine Tumminello

UMMC pathology academic accolades

Dr. Dana M. Grzybicki has become Editor of the Scientific Journal of Pathology.

The Scientific Journal of Pathology is an international, open access, peer reviewed journal that invites manuscripts from researchers covering all aspects of pathology, including histopathology, virology, hematology, microbiology, cytopathology, molecular pathology, forensic pathology, dermatopathology, neuropathology, immunopathology, and surgical and clinical pathology with focus on cutting-edge approaches to diagnostic pathology.

The journal invites manuscripts in a wide range of formats, such as original, reviews, commentaries, cases, images and other short articles. The Scientific Journal of Pathology is established under the presence of international peers who analyze each of the submitted contents to ensure high impact quality and scientific validity. The content published in the Scientific Journal of Pathology is available for free access without restriction under Creative Commons Attribution License.

Dr. Stephen Raab was invited to contribute a chapter to the just published CAP (College of American Pathologists) Press Book: Patient Safety: The Anatomic and Clinical Laboratories. Dr. Raab's chapter is "Diagnostic Error and Cognitive Bias" and an excerpt was printed in the June 2017 issue of CAP TODAY.

Dr. Ali G. Saad is editing a reference book on meningiomas in adults and children. This book will represent the first book partially dedicated to pediatric meningiomas. Pediatric and adult meningiomas differ in many aspects and little work has been done to further understand their biology and how they differ from their adult counterparts. This book is anticipated to become a landmark in neoplastic neuropathology literature.
Historical anecdotes by
Dr. Julius Cruse and Dr. Robert E. Lewis, professors emeriti

The little engine that could

The faculty is the driving force, or “engine,” of any university and the University of Mississippi’s two-year medical school began with an exceptional faculty! Other universities took notice of UM’s talent pool and enticed many of its faculty “all-stars” away to more lucrative and prestigious academic positions. Let’s look at what became of a few of these early stars of the fledging medical school:

Dr. James Bell Bullitt served as chair of pathology and professor of pathology and anatomy from the school’s opening in 1903 to 1913. He was then appointed chair and professor of pathology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he trained dozens of pathologists, including future chairs and research stars. Among these was Dr. Kenneth Brinkhous, who developed the first effective treatment for hemophilia and received 50 years of continuous research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The Bullitt–Brinkhous Building at UNC honors both mentor and former student.

Dr. Paul R. Cannon, professor of bacteriology and pathology from 1921-23, went on to become professor and chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago. He trained many future chairs and served with distinction for many years. Cannon served as editor-in-chief of the Archives of Pathology and as an editor of the Journal of Immunology. In addition, he was elected president of the American Association of Immunologists. His national recognition and accomplishments earned him membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Waller S. Leathers was the first dean of the University of Mississippi Medical School (1903). In 1910, he was named director of public health for Mississippi and achieved national recognition for his organizational skills and his service to eradicate hookworm in Mississippi. He then went on to serve with distinction as dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine from 1924-45, where he accepted many of UM’s two-year graduates to complete their medical education.

Dr. Peter Rowland, professor of materia medica (pharmacology), is best remembered as founder of UMMC's medical library, which today bears his name. Rowland spent hours driving all over the state, asking practitioners to contribute medical texts that became the nucleus of our medical library.

Oren W. Hyman, Ph.D., assistant professor of embryology and histology, became dean of medicine and vice president for medical affairs at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Memphis.

Dr. Billy S. Guyton, Phi Beta Kappa and straight-A graduate of the University of Virginia, spent his career supporting the School of Medicine at both the state and national levels. In the early 1930s, Guyton and Chancellor Butts were summoned to Chicago by the American Medical Association’s Accreditation Division to defend and justify the continuation of the Medical School in Oxford. Due to their eloquent presentation and impassioned plea, UM’s accreditation and existence were preserved.

These pioneers kindled the flame of learning and demonstrated to Dr. Abraham Flexner’s commission inspecting U. S. medical schools in the first decade of the 20th Century that the world would hear from Mississippi medical researchers and practitioners in the future.

The early two-year medical school students were very collegial yet competitive in their studies, since they had to apply to out-of-state medical schools for their final two years of medical training. This quest for excellence was rewarded in that UM’s top two graduates were automatically accepted for their final two years at Harvard Medical School.

From UM’s humble beginnings, the school was fortunate to find exceptional individuals to guide it through the critical years of its development. The individuals listed above are just a few of those early superstars of UM’s humble “little medical school that could” - a school much like the “little engine that could.” The school kept “going and going,” always knowing what was needed, and always knowing what could be accomplished. The school has truly come a long, long way!