

Issue 4
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Dr. Murphy and Pathology Dept. Receive Teaching Awards

At the annual Academic Convocation and Awards Day held on September 17, the pathology department received the Golden Podium Award for the Outstanding Second-year Course and Dr Paul Murphy received the Pre-Clinical Golden Apple Award for the outstanding Instructor in a Second-Year Course. These awards are made by the vote of the second-year class; the department has received the Golden Podium award 7 out of the past 8 years and Dr Murphy the Golden Apple award 6 out of the past 7 years. Dr Bachner

commented that this "represents an incredible achievement on the part of the faculty, staff and particularly of Dr Murphy and attests to the enormous importance that we attach as a department to education of students as well as residents."



Retired UK Pathology Professor Becomes Recipient of IFCC Award

Former UK pathology professor Norbert Tietz PhD has been selected to receive the 2008 IFCC/ Beckman Coulter Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education, which "honors an individual who has made extraordinary contributions in establishing and developing educational material for our discipline to improved training and educational programs world-wide or in a region." His textbooks have served as the basis of many teaching programs around the world for almost four decades. Dr. Tietz moved to Lexington in 1976, where he served as Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Director of Clinical Chemistry at the University of Kentucky Medical Center until his retirement. Dr. Tietz is perhaps best known for his editing of the *Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry*, which is now in its sixth edition and is still used as a primary information source for educators in laboratory medicine. Professor Tietz also had a large hand in editing many other books including, *Textbook of Clinical Chemistry*, *Clinical Guide to Laboratory Tests*, the *Dictionary and Encyclopedia of Laboratory Medicine and Technology*, and *Applied Laboratory Medicine*. Today, Dr. Tietz serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of California in San Diego, where his research has been focused on reference intervals for the geriatric population, particularly nonagenarians and centenarians.



Blechner and McBride receive grant to attend OHSU informatics course

This fall, Dr. Mike Blechner and one of pathology's chief residents, Dr. Trent McBride, will participate in a medical informatics course offered by Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) in collaboration with the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). This 56 hour, 11 week Web-based course will culminate with a group meeting at the 2008 AMIA Annual Symposium. Dr. Blechner says they will be taking this course in part to evaluate its potential usefulness for other UK faculty, staff and house staff as well as evaluate the curriculum as a model for an introductory informatics course here at UK. In addition, Dr. Blechner plans to write an article evaluating the usefulness of this course for pathologists and the potential for using this as a model for developing a new AMIA course geared to practicing pathologists.

Greg Davis visits Hungary for Professorship



From August 11 – 17, Dr Greg Davis was a visiting professor at the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Debrecen (Hungary) Health Science Center. During his stay in Debrecen, in Eastern Hungary near the Romanian border, Dr Davis lectured residents, fellows, faculty, students, and attorneys on the North American medicolegal system and on different patterns and trends in morbidity and mortality. He also consulted for a day



with the faculty in order to discuss their laboratory becoming accredited in the future by the College of American Pathologists and the National Association of Medical Examiners. During his stay, his gracious host, Dr Péter Gergely was kind enough to give him a tour around the University, dating back to the 16th century and about the town of Debrecen. Dr Davis notes, "I felt right at home in Debrecen, thanks to my hosts and to the city's being a university town about the size of Lexington. Just like Lexington, it's also Hungary's horse country!" Dr Davis hopes to continue research collaboration with Dr Gergely and his colleagues.

Dr. Whitley is recipient of the 2008 Alvin Dubin Award

Dr. Ronald Whitley has been announced as the recipient of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) Alvin Dubin Award: For Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and Academy. From the NACB website, the Alvin Dublin Award is "named in honor of one of the Academy's founding members and eighth President, this award recognizes a current or past member of the Academy who has made noteworthy contributions to the mission and stature of NACB and whose professional activities have been dedicated to the advancement of laboratory medicine. Dr. Whitley is a Diplomate of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, an active member of AACC, and a fellow of NACB. He currently serves as a member of the NACB Expanded Newborn Screening Guidelines Committee. He has served AACC and NACB in a variety of leadership roles."



Dr. Karabakhtsian visits Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden

Rouzan G. Karabakhtsian, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at UK, spent two weeks in May as a visitor at the Department of Clinical Cytology, Karolinska University Hospital. During her visit she participated and observed various activities in the Aspiration Biopsy Clinic, spent time studying collection of teaching slides, and participated at multidisciplinary conferences. She brought back information that might be of interest to her colleagues and gladly shares it with others.

The Karolinska University Hospital is one of Europe's premier health institutions serving patients from the Stockholm area, throughout Sweden and Scandinavia, and other countries around the world. Karolinska University Laboratory, affiliated with the hospital, has the largest and most fully equipped laboratories in Northern Europe. The first facility for Karolinska Hospital, Radiumhemmet, was opened in 1937. It has recently been renovated, and concentrates nine (9) oncology departments, including breast, prostate, skin, gynecologic, head & neck, gastrointestinal, brain, pediatric and hematologic tumors. The Departments of Pathology and Clinical Cytology are also conveniently located at Radiumhemmet. The Hospital carries 1,600 beds, has 14,000 employees, 2,400 physicians, 5,000 nurses, 2,100 researchers and 1,200 laboratory technicians. Annually, there are overall 1,3



million patient visits, 220,000 ER visits, 100,000 hospital admissions, 10,000 deliveries, 1,700 heart surgeries. The laboratories annually perform 20 million tests. The Pathology Department processes 30,000 surgical specimens per year, of which 7,000 from gynecologic oncology. Annually, the Cytology Department processes 70,000 Pap tests per year (all conventional smears) and 5,000 exfoliative cytology specimens, and a total of 12,000 fine needle aspirations (FNA), of which 9,000 are internally performed and 3,000 are from outside institutions. The department is equipped with 3 spacious procedure rooms for superficial FNAs with 3 nurse assistants standing by for technical support. Image-guided FNAs are performed in 7 specialized rooms, including US-3, CT-1, MRI-1, GI endoscopy-1, and thoracic bronchoscopy-1. Up to 30% of cytology cases are being worked-up with immunocytochemistry (ICC). Overall, 6,000 ICC stains are being performed annually (average of 1000 cases worked-up for 6-7 immunostains each). The immunostains are predominantly being performed on smeared unstained slides (nuclear staining) and cytospin preparations (cytoplasmic or membranous staining). Nearly 700 flow cytometry studies are performed yearly, with three 8-color FACS machines available. Weekly multidisciplinary conferences with substantial involvement of the Cytology Services are being held at the Breast Center, Endocrine, Gynecologic, Orthopedic, Head and Neck, Pediatric and Hematology/Oncology Departments.



Introducing Our New Faculty

Susan E. Spires, MD

Director of Laboratories, UK Good Samaritan Hospital / Associate Professor

Dr. Susan Spires joins our department to help fulfill our increased clinical responsibilities at both UKMC and UK Good Samaritan Hospital. Her primary responsibilities will be in the areas of surgical pathology, clinical pathology and cytopathology. She will serve as the on-site Director of Laboratories for UK Good Samaritan Hospital. Dr. Spires received her MD degree summa cum laude from the University of Kentucky in 1976. She completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology

residency at UK in 1984 and served as Chief Resident in her final year. Dr. Spires completed subsequent fellowships at UK in Surgical Pathology (1992) and Cytopathology (1993). She is Board Certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Cytopathology. Dr. Spires has had extensive experience in both academic and community hospital settings as well as in a wide spectrum of clinical disciplines in pathology and laboratory medicine.

Duncan MacIvor, MD

Assistant Professor

Dr. Duncan MacIvor joins our department with primary responsibilities in the area of transfusion medicine to include blood banking, apheresis (therapeutic and stem cell services) and contracted donor and directorship services at the Kentucky Blood Center. Dr. MacIvor received his MD degree from Ohio State University in Columbus, OH in 1976. He went on to complete an OB/GYN Internship and Residency at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA in 1980. He then spent the

next 24 years in private practice in Richmond, VA. In 2004, he decided a change was in order and chose to continue his medical career in the practice of Pathology. He completed his Clinical Pathology residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond after which he completed a fellowship in Transfusion Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, The Institute for Transfusion Medicine in June of 2008.

Molly M. Tovar, MD

Assistant Professor

Dr. Molly Tovar joins our department to help fulfill our increased clinical responsibilities at both UKMC and UK Good Samaritan Hospital. Her primary responsibilities will be in the areas of surgical pathology, clinical pathology and cytopathology. Dr. Tovar received her MD degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in

2001. She completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at the University of Kentucky in 2006 and served as Chief Resident in her final year. She went on to complete a Surgical Pathology/Cytology fellowship at UK. She is Board Certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

Laura M. Crump, MD

Assistant Professor

Dr. Laura Crump has joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in a part-time position with primary responsibilities in the area of Cytopathology. Dr. Crump graduated in 1995 from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. Her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency training was completed at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX in 1999. Dr. Crump stayed on at Baylor and

completed a fellowship in Cytopathology in 2000 and served as Chief Resident in Pathology from July 2000 through June 2001. After completing her training, Dr. Crump went on to serve four years of active duty in the US Air Force as a Staff Pathologist/Cytopathologist at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

Misc. News of Interest

Dr. Joseph Pulliam has been elected by the Association of Molecular Pathology members as Clinical Practice Committee Representative.

Dr Ron Whitley has been appointed as the chair of the CLSI (Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute) Area Committee on Immunology and Ligand Assay.

Stephen Welch was named director of IT for the College. Welch previously worked in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine for the past seven years, and will now be designated 30 percent to the Pathology Informatics program and 70 percent to the College.

Dr. Elpidio Pena authored an Op-ed piece, highlighting the need for donating blood, now more than ever, that was published in the Sept 2 issue of the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Dr. Greg Davis was featured in a USA Today article discussing “touch” DNA and how it’s being used to offer new hope in cold investigations.