



## Director's Corner

J. Brooks Jackson, M.D., M.B.A.

### Promotion at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Promotion to the rank of Professor with a contract to retirement is a goal of most of the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Unlike most medical schools, Johns Hopkins has only one set of criteria for



Dr. J. Brooks Jackson

promotion to Professor. As a prerequisite for promotion, faculty must first satisfy the basic obligations of all faculty members as outlined in the Gold Book, and "candidates for Professor must have outstanding records of scholarly achievement including teaching, must have achieved national leadership and in most cases, international professional recognition, and must rank among the foremost leaders in their field."

These criteria for promotion "are derived from the Institution's primary aim, which is to be a national and international leader in medicine, science and education." The criteria are very broad and allow potentially many different paths for achieving promotion whether a faculty's activities are predominantly in the areas of research, education, program building, or clinical medicine. The

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## Spotlight: Division of Molecular Pathology

### Introduction and History

The term "Molecular Pathology" has an ever-widening reach in the clinical practice of medicine, and in the field of pathology in particular. This article will focus on the clinical laboratories, teaching and research associated with the Molecular Pathology Division and is not meant to be a comprehensive description of all aspects of "molecular pathology" in the department. The Division of Molecular Pathology is small, with an emphasis on clinical diagnostic testing. Dr. Connie Griffin has been interim director of the division since 2005.

### Clinical Laboratories

Did you ever wonder where the labs of the Molecular Pathology division might be? Take the vintage elevators in the Park Building to the sub-basement to reach the active underground dedicated to applying molecular techniques to

the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other conditions. Three clinical laboratories call the Park sub-basement home. The labs are administratively supported by Barbara Kurgansky.

The Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory originated in 1986 and has more than two decades of experience in the molecular diagnostics of cancer. Molecular diagnostics as related to oncology is a relatively new field whose contributions are increasing at a rate far surpassing the commercial development of automated instrumentation, "kits" for assays, the availability of standardized control reagents, and algorithms for clinical use. In other words, it is very much a "home brew" operation. The laboratory receives about 3,300 samples each year, with many samples requiring multiple tests on DNA and RNA extracted from a variety of specimen types, including peripheral blood, bone marrow,

lymph nodes, and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue. The tests range from simple, routine PCR amplifications to cutting-edge applications, transferring new diagnostic assays from the research bench to the clinical laboratory. Dr. Kathy Murphy has been director of the lab since 2003, and will be leaving Hopkins at the end of 2009. A search for her replacement is underway. Dr. Chris Gocke became director of the Hematologic Molecular Diagnostics service in 2005. Dr. Jim Eshleman has been Associate Director of the laboratory since 1997. Mike Hafez is the clinical manager. Clinical testing offered includes identity testing for stem cell transplant patients and verification of patient of origin for some fixed tissues, B-cell (IGH) and T cell (TCR-gamma) clonality studies of

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key is to document scholarly achievement in one or more of these areas. Conrad Weiser recently defined scholarship as the “Creative intellectual work that is validated by peers and communicated,” and has described four forms of scholarship: “discovery of new knowledge; development of new technologies, methods, materials, or uses; integration of knowledge leading to new understanding; and artistry that creates new insights and interpretation” (Conrad J. Weiser. The value system of a university – rethinking scholarship. College of Agricultural Sciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA).

Documentation of peer-reviewed scholarly achievements is essential for promotion and can take many forms. Publications of peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, textbooks, and handbooks in a focused area are typically the most common form of documentation. However, films, videos, exhibits, and Web-based material are also becoming more common. It is important to recognize that the number of scholarly works is not as important as the impact of those scholarly works on the field. In order to assess the importance of one's scholarship, the promotions committee attempts to determine whether such work has directly or indirectly changed the practice of medicine or medical education, provided new insight into mechanisms of biological systems, health care delivery, pathogenesis of disease, program building, or medical education.

Methods of scholarship assessment include the number of times scholarly work has been cited, using Google Scholar for example, with more weight given to first/last author papers. The H-index is also used which is a number that represents the number of papers that have been cited at least that number of times (e.g. an H-index of 50 means an author has 50 papers that have been cited at least 50 times each; an H-index of 15 means an author has 15 papers that have been cited at least 15 times each). A high H-index means the author has a relatively high number of highly cited papers. Nine of our faculty have an H-index greater than 50, with an H-index of 99 being the highest. The limitations of the H-index are that one could have a high H-index and not be a first/last author on any of them or not have published in 10 years. Conversely, one could have a low H-index, such as 10, and yet each of those ten papers could have been cited 5,000 times each, or the field could be a very narrow field that will not generate a high number of citations despite high impact in that particular field. According to Google scholar as of August 2009, full-time JHU Pathology faculty have published 72 first or last author articles which have been cited >250 times. Twelve articles have been cited >500 times, with one paper having been cited 1,757 times. *A sampling of some of the books authored or edited by our faculty can be seen in a separate pull-out section of this issue of pathways.*

To give some perspective, the mean and median number of original research articles at the time of promotion to Professor in the JHU School of Medicine is 68 (32 as first/last author) and 61 (30), respectively. The mean and median number of citations for peer-reviewed papers of nominees is 2,974 (1,431 as first/last author) and 1,710 (826), respectively. The mean and median H-index for all peer reviewed papers is 25 and 23, respectively. However, the range is quite broad depending on the field and type of scholarship. For example, in the History of Medicine field, authored books rather

than articles are typically the major focus of assessing scholarship. Likewise, in the field of education, textbooks, medical handbooks, and published curriculum and their impact in the field are examples of scholarship that are given greater weight than citation indices. It is important to note that while all faculty members have an obligation to apply for external funding, funding is not a criterion for promotion. However, the ability to obtain external funding does provide evidence that other highly regarded experts outside the institution view one's expertise and ideas favorably.

Outstanding teaching or education is not just assessed by scholarly works in education, but also by the quality of education provided and its impact on one's trainees. Excellent mentorship is highly valued as it will most likely lead to producing the outstanding leaders in medicine of tomorrow. Is there a track record of one's trainees who have gone on to become leaders in their field? Do the trainees speak highly of the training they received? Have the trainees been successful in publishing papers, receiving awards or grants under the faculty's mentorship? Has the faculty member received national teaching awards, conducted educational conferences that are well attended by national and international participants, developed a curriculum that is widely adopted, or developed an educational Web-site that is widely used?

Being recognized as a foremost leader in one's field is the third criterion which generally requires that one is recognized internationally. Internal and external referees who are typically professors in the field of interest are solicited to comment in this regard. In addition, the committee seeks evidence that one is considered an expert/leader in one's field in a variety of ways: one's participation in NIH study sections, editorial board membership, leadership positions in national societies, receipt of national/international awards.

Generally, the majority of faculty with M.D. degrees are involved in research, teaching, and clinical activities and faculty with Ph.D. degrees in research and teaching. It is important to note that it is not required that one does research or clinical service to be promoted. The fact that the majority of faculty who are promoted to Professor are promoted on the basis of research achievements probably reflects the fact that Johns Hopkins is the number one funded research university in the country which in turn attracts faculty interested in research as well as an order of magnitude more funding for research than educational programs or clinical program building. Nevertheless, there are a number of different ways to meet the criteria for promotion.

My advice for those who aspire to be a Professor at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is to select a focused area of interest whether it be a disease, an organ system, a biological pathway, development of a surgical technique, educational program development, or health care delivery early in one's career. There are many possible areas given the flexibility of the promotion criteria. The key is to focus on an area in which you are interested, consistently publish high quality peer-reviewed publications which advance the field, and mentor and teach trainees and others in your field who then in turn become leaders in the field of medicine. Initiate projects that address important questions that have the potential to change the practice of medicine or education or elucidate the pathogenesis of disease or the mechanism of a biological process.

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## Promotion at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Take a leadership role in training programs and courses by actively teaching, mentoring, and developing programs. Be an active participant in your field at the national and international level through presentations at national/international meetings and universities, professional societies, study sections, advisory groups, editorial boards, etc. It is not required that one does all these activities to meet the criteria for promotion. There are certainly other activities which can lead to promotion as long as the criteria for promotion are met. There is no timeframe in which one must be promoted to Professor, but staying productively on track for promotion is important.

Promotion to Professor does take hard work, but most who are nominated for promotion are successful. There are currently 513 Professors in

the School of Medicine (412 men and 101 women) among a total of 2,350 faculty (1,489 (27.7%) men, 861 (11.7%) women). In the last 8 years, 315 faculty (236 men, 79 women) have been nominated for promotion, and the Professorial Promotions Committee has recommended 272 (86.3%) for promotion. Of these 272 faculty, 200 (74%) were men and 72 (26%) were women. The success rate for men and women has been identical. The average length of time at the rank of Associate Professor before promotion to Professor is approximately 8 years.

Given that the success of The Johns Hopkins University is probably most dependent on the academic success of the faculty, meeting the criteria for promotion to Professor is not only a great honor, but also critical to sustaining the university's world class reputation and the benefits it brings to mankind.

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## Spotlight: Division of Molecular Pathology

leukemias and lymphomas, panels of aberrations in acute myeloid leukemia, BCR/ABL rearrangement in chronic myeloid leukemia, FLT3 duplication/mutation analysis in acute myeloid leukemias, 1p/19q loss of heterozygosity studies in oligodendrogliomas, KRAS mutation analysis in colon cancers, microsatellite instability in colon tumors, and analysis to distinguish between partial versus complete hydatidiform moles.

The Pathology Cytogenetics Laboratory is oriented to cancer diagnostics and receives about 2,800 samples each year, again with many samples requiring multiple tests. Dr. Connie Griffin has been director since 1986. Patty Long is the clinical manager. Clinical testing offered includes metaphase analysis of bone marrows and solid tumors, and FISH testing for specific aberrations common in hematologic and selected solid neoplasms, including aberrations seen in acute and chronic myeloid leukemias, sex-mismatch determination in stem cell transplants, and germ cell tumors. Cytogenetics is also very "hands-on," with little automation, although the lab is very happy with the automated harvester that produces cell pellets from bone marrow and blood specimens.

The newest laboratory, Prenatal Cytogenetics, will be making its debut soon. Prior to the retirement of its former director, this laboratory was in the department of OB-GYN. Newly-recruited faculty member Dr. Cheryl DeScipio (see page 10) is

hiring staff and establishing protocols; the lab will provide chromosome analysis and FISH testing of cases from amniocentesis, chorionic villus sampling, and fetal blood samples. The lab will utilize an automated metaphase scanner that will export metaphases to image processing stations for analysis by trained technologists, and promises to

increase efficiency.

Another member of the pathology department, Dr. Denise Batista, directs the clinical cytogenetics laboratory at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, where she is responsible for constitutional cytogenetics. Referrals include individuals with developmental delay and dysmorphic



*Back row (L-R) Stephanie Owen, Barbara Kurgansky, Laura Morsberger, Kathryn Lopez, Cheryl DeScipio, Aimee Piurek, Alison Shane, Azin Nozari, Penny Spencer, Natini Jinawath, Constance Griffin  
Front row (L-R) Joseph McMichael, Patty Long, Aqeel Ahmad, Denise Batista*



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## Spotlight: Division of Molecular Pathology

features and couples with repeated pregnancy losses. In addition to utilizing metaphase chromosome and FISH analysis, Dr. Batista has implemented the use of array comparative genomic hybridization in the diagnostic cytogenetics laboratory, and the laboratory now offers single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays to determine copy number gain or loss of genomic regions, uniparental disomy and loss of heterozygosity.

### Teaching

Now in its tenth year, the Molecular Pathology Fellowship Program was one of the first in the country to offer clinical molecular diagnostics training. Under the leadership of Dr. Chris Gocke, the program became ACGME accredited in 2006. The goal of the two-year program is to train academic molecular pathologists. A clinical first year is followed by a year of research. Recent graduate Dr. Rodney Shackelford is now in a surgical pathology fellowship at Moffit Cancer Center. Dr. Athanasios Tsiatis completed his first year of fellowship in June 2009 and is doing research in Dr. Jim Eshleman's laboratory. Dr. Shuko Harada joined the program this summer following surgical pathology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. The program is administratively supported by Penny Spencer.

The division has led the Pathobiology training grant since its inception. Dr. Ed Gabrielson assumed responsibility as Principal Investigator in 2005 and guided it successfully through the competitive renewal in 2008. This grant supports about 5 fellows each year, many of whom have gone on to academic faculty positions. The division is an active participant in the Graduate Program in Pathobiology and provides lectures and short clinical demonstrations in the Molecular Diagnostic and Cytogenetics Laboratories to graduate students. Several faculty members also serve as mentors for students in the program.

The Cytogenetics Fellowship Program is ABMG accredited and is administered by the Institute for Genetic Medicine. Drs. Batista and Griffin have been involved in teaching these fellows for extensive rotations in the Kennedy Krieger Cytogenetics Laboratory and the Pathology Cytogenetics Laboratory. Dr. Feng Li is the most recent graduate and became assistant director of cytogenetics at Kaiser Permanente in San Jose, California in September 2009. Dr. Natini Jinawath is in her second year of fellowship.

Varying numbers of residents rotate through the clinical Molecular Pathology and Cytogenetics laboratories. Fellows from other

programs also spend one to two months in the labs, including fellows from hematopathology, genetics, and clinical chemistry, as do occasional medical students and residents from other institutions. Faculty are also involved in teaching in the medical student curricula.

### Research

Faculty in the Division of Molecular Pathology are especially interested in improving molecular and cytogenetic diagnostic testing and in understanding the significance of unusual findings in clinical cases. The research interests of faculty with primary appointments in the division are briefly described.

Dr. Batista has used array CGH to describe new genetic syndromes and reevaluate previously diagnosed chromosome abnormalities with fine mapping of regions and genes involved. After bringing SNP array to the diagnostic laboratory, she is utilizing the technique to evaluate individuals with genomic imbalances aiming for a precise genotype-phenotype correlation. SNP array allows the identification of regions of homozygosity, and could lead to the identification of gene(s) causative of abnormal phenotype in consanguineous families.

Dr. DeScipio's research interests lie in the delineation of cryptic chromosomal rearrangements and how they relate to human structural birth defects. Specifically, this work has focused on 6p subtelomere delineation syndrome, recently recognized as a clinically identifiable syndrome consisting of developmental delay/mental retardation, language impairment, hearing loss, and ophthalmologic, cardiac, and craniofacial abnormalities. To address genotype-phenotype correlation, work has focused on mapping deletion boundaries in patients, assessing a minimal commonly-deleted region and investigating candidate genes in this region. She is also interested in the use of DNA analysis for subclassification of hydatidiform moles to guide appropriate clinical management and assessment of risk of persistent gestational trophoblastic disease.



*Back row (L-R): Mike Hafez, Keith Jackson, Emily Silzle, Christina Cooney, Roy Rich, James Eshleman, Christopher Gocke, Katie Beierl, Athanasios Tsiatis*  
*Front row (L-R): Kathleen Murphy, Wendie Zearfoss, Penny Spencer, Ruth Shane, Shuko Harada*

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Dr. Gabrielson's lab studies the biology of breast cancer and lung cancer using a variety of experimental approaches including gene expression arrays, mutational and chromosomal structural analysis, measurements of DNA methylation, and functional assays of tumor cell growth.

Dr. Gocke's lab develops new approaches to genetic analysis. Current projects include a universal method for translocation detection and a long-range haplotyping assay. Dr. Gocke is also exploring high-throughput identification of alternative splicing of mRNA.

Dr. Griffin is interested in chromosome abnormalities in solid tumors, and has identified chromosome aberrations in a large series of primary human adenocarcinomas of the pancreas. She also found a recurrent chromosomal translocation that suggests the mechanism of concurrent 1p/19q chromosome arm loss in oligodendrogliomas.

Dr. Kuhajda's research focuses on cancer and obesity as related to lipid metabolism. His laboratory studies basic mechanisms linking cancer cell

apoptosis with inhibition of fatty acid synthesis and is developing new inhibitors of fatty acid synthetase (FAS) for future clinical use.

### Future directions

The use of powerful molecular-based tools will continue to increase in clinical medicine, as we move toward the era of "personalized medicine." The challenge is how to best implement such tools in diagnostic, prognostic, and theranostic testing. The latter term refers to testing to determine an individual's response to therapy with specific drugs. As evidence-based criteria develop, we will need to offer such testing with clinically-driven turnaround times at a competitive cost. Future diagnostic tools will include array CGH analysis of hematopoietic and solid tumors, and increased use of DNA sequencing to detect mutations. We welcome collaborations with others in the areas of teaching, research, and clinical testing as molecular pathology strives to meet these needs.

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## Blast from the Past From the 1991 issue of Pathways



**Caricature of Drs. Yardley and Boitnott as drawn by a medical student**

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## New Grants and Contracts Awarded to Pathology Faculty, 12/01/08 - 10/31/09

Faculty Member	Award Type	Agency	Dates	Total Funding
Carroll, Karen	Contract	IBIS Biosciences	1/1/09 - 1/31/10	50,069
Caturegli, Patrizio	R21 Grant	NIH/NIDDK	5/1/09 - 4/30/11	410,000
Cihakova, Daniella	Grant	Natl. Organization of rare Disorders	12/15/08 - 12/15/10	38,450
Clarke, William	Contract	Saladax Biomedical	11/1/08 - 10/31/09	9,670
Clarke, William	Contract	Nova Corporation	1/1/09 - 12/31/09	22,145
Clarke, William	Contract	Nova Corporation	6/1/09 - 5/31/10	17,450
Clarke, William	Contract	Epsilon Group	8/1/09 - 7/31/10	10,050
Detrick, Barbara	Contract	Diasorin, Inc.	7/1/08 - 6/30/09	14,968
Detrick, Barbara	Contract	Bio Rad Laboratories	2/23/09 - 2/22/12	14,000
Dumler, Steve	R01 Grant	NIH/NIAID	4/1/09 - 3/31/13	1,410,762
Dumler, Steve	R21 Grant	NIH/NIAID	8/1/09 - 7/31/11	451,000
Eberhart, Charles	Grant	PLGA Foundation	1/1/09 - 12/31/09	28,000
Eberhart, Charles	Grant	PLGA Foundation	4/2/09 - 4/1/11	92,200
Eshleman, Susan	R03 Grant	NIH/NIHD	4/15/09 - 3/31/11	164,000
Garcia-Garcia, Jose	Grant	University of MD - MARCE	5/1/09 - 2/28/11	474,831
Goggins, Michael	RC2 Grant	NIH/NCI	9/30/09 - 8/31/11	1,912,026
Grab, Dennis	R21 Grant	NIH/NIAID	9/15/09 - 8/31/11	438,200
Halushka, Marc	Contract	Foldrx Pharmaceuticals	11/5/08 - 11/4/11	40,000
Halushka, Marc	Grant	Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	8/1/09 - 7/31/12	405,000
Heaphy, Christopher	Grant	Department of Defense	9/1/09 - 8/31/12	237,625
Iacobuzio-Donahue, Chris	R01 Grant	NIH/NCI	9/1/09 - 7/31/14	1,701,500
Iacobuzio-Donahue, Chris	Grant	The V Foundation	11/1/09 - 10/31/12	600,000
Kohr, Mark	F32 Grant	NIH/NHLBI	6/15/09 - 6/30/12	142,482
Koliatsos, Vassilis	R21 Grant	NIH/NIMH	4/13/09 - 1/31/11	451,000
Kurman, Robert	Grant	Department of Defense	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	242,280
Li, Tong	Grant	Schering Plough Research Institute	1/1/09 - 6/30/09	5,000
Li, Yan	Grant	Department of Defense	7/1/09 - 6/30/11	124,200
Lotan, Tamara	Grant	Howard Hughes Medical Institution	8/1/09 - 7/31/14	375,000
Netto, George	Grant	FAMRI	7/1/09 - 6/30/12	325,500
Racusen, Lorraine	Grant	National Kidney Foundation	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	10,000
Riedel, Stefan	Contract	TREK Diagnostic Systems	11/5/08 - 5/4/09	42,237
Riedel, Stefan	Contract	Becton Dickinson	10/12/09 - 10/11/10	41,182
Roden, Richard	RC2 Grant	NIH/NCI	9/30/09 - 8/31/11	999,578
Savonenko, Alena	R21 Grant	NIH/NIMH	5/5/09 - 4/30/11	451,000
Sfanos, Karen	Grant	Prevent Cancer Foundation	1/15/09 - 1/14/11	80,000
Sokoll, Lori	Contract	Roche Diagnostic Systems	3/1/09 - 5/31/09	27,567
Sokoll, Lori	Contract	Roche Diagnostic Systems	8/1/09 - 9/30/09	21,945
Straseski, Joely	Grant	American Assn for Clinical Chemistry	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	50,000
Troncoso, Juan	Grant	Alzheimer's Association	10/1/09 - 9/30/12	200,000
Valsamakis, Alexandra	Contract	3M Corporation	12/1/08 - 3/30/09	65,848
Valsamakis, Alexandra	Contract	Qiagen	10/1/09 - 4/30/10	40,058
Wasowska, Barbara	Grant	Roche Organ Transplantation Fdn.	4/1/09 - 3/31/12	258,621
Wong, Philip	R01 Grant	NIH/NINDS	8/1/09 - 7/31/11	902,000
Wu, TC	Grant	Melanoma Research Alliance	7/1/09 - 6/30/11	225,000
Wu, TC	P50 Grant	NIH/NCI	9/1/09 - 8/31/14	11,500,000
Total				\$25,072,375

## Department of Pathology Incoming House Staff, 2009-2010

### Guoli Chen

Guoli was born in Tai'an, China. He received his M.B. degree from Jing Medical College, winning the Outstanding Student Award. He went on to get an M.S. in Physiology at Beijing Medical University and a Ph.D., also in Physiology, at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Indiana where he performed research on the molecular mechanisms of insulin resistance. Guoli then completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Cincinnati where he studied the roles of sarcoplasmic reticulum regulatory proteins in heart failure. Fluent in Chinese, Guoli is also an avid soccer player and frequently claims that David Beckham is "too scared" to play him one-on-one. Guoli will be pursuing AP/CP training.



### Baojin Fu

Baojin was born in Hebi, China. He received M.B. and M.M.S. degrees from Henan Medical University, where his research focused on the molecular mechanism and early diagnosis of esophageal cancer. Following graduation, he served as faculty in their Department of Pathology. Baojin completed two post-doctoral research fellowships. The first, at Keio University in Tokyo, studied the genes responsible for Cat Eye Syndrome. The second, at the NIH, focused on the luteinizing hormone receptor gene, the expression and regulation of a gonadotropin-regulated long chain acyl-CoA synthetase, as well as HPV and cervical carcinogenesis. Subsequently, he was a research associate at Johns Hopkins studying the molecular genetics of pancreatic cancer and acting as the research coordinator of the GI Cancer Rapid Medical Donation Program. He is fluent in Chinese and enjoys basketball, swimming, and spending time with his daughters. Baojin will be joining us as a PGY-2 to continue to pursue AP/CP training.



### Cheng-Ying (Cherry) Ho

Cherry was born in Hsinchu, Taiwan. She received her M.D. from the National Taiwan University. While there, she studied PDX-1, a regulator of insulin-cell differentiation. She proceeded to earn a Ph.D. in Pathology from Columbia University where she studied molecular mechanisms of Parkinson's disease. Cherry is a polyglot, able to speak Mandarin and Taiwanese. She enjoys cooking, watching sports, and playing video games, including Rock Band under the band name "Atyp." Cherry will be pursuing AP/CP training.



### Robert LeBlanc

Robert was born in Salem, Massachusetts. He received his bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts and went on to earn his M.D. from Cornell University. While at Cornell, he performed research on the effects of dietary supplementation of leucine, among other projects. He also completed a post-sophomore fellowship in pathology at UCLA. Robert is an accomplished musician with diverse talents ranging from jazz trumpet to doo-wop singing. No word yet on any future duets with Dr. McCarthy, however. Robert is pursuing AP/CP training.



### Gloria Huang Lewis

Gloria was born in Columbia, Missouri. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at the University of Missouri, Columbia and the University of Cambridge, respectively. Her graduate work focused on the synthesis and characterization of pyridine carboxylates via hydrothermal processes for the purpose of developing molecular magnets for information storage. She subsequently earned an M.D. at George Washington University. Gloria completed her first year of AP/CP training at the University of Utah. Gloria is fluent in Mandarin and Chinese. She enjoys violin, pottery, board games, and puzzles. She has finished the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle more times than she cares to remember. Gloria will be joining us as a PGY-2, and will continue to pursue AP/CP training.



### Chad McCall

Chad was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a M.D./Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His graduate work studied the targeting mechanism of the Cullin 4A ubiquitin ligase. His many achievements in medical school were recognized with induction into Alpha Omega Alpha. Chad enjoys playing the piano, singing, and tennis. But not all at the same time. Chad will be pursuing AP/CP training.





## Department of Pathology Incoming House Staff, 2009-2010

### Zina Meriden

Zina was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received a bachelor's degree in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University and participated in numerous research endeavors during her first stay in Baltimore. She then completed a year of research at Yale using biophysical methods to study chaperone-mediated protein folding of GroEL substrates. Proceeding Northward, Zina completed a year of graduate study at Harvard and MIT studying biophysics, biochemistry, and bioorganic chemistry. She subsequently received her M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Zina completed her first year of AP/CP training at the University of Virginia. When she's not touring the finer universities of the Northeast, Zina enjoys music composition and performance, poetry, painting, and running.



### Delicia Munfus-McCray

Delicia was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. She earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology at the University of Florida, then proceeded to earn a Ph.D. in the same subject at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her graduate research focused on B cell development using bioinformatic techniques for novel molecule discovery. She then earned her M.D. at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During her medical school years, she traveled to Zambia to investigate screening women for cervical dysplasia for immediate diagnosis and treatment. Aside from her academic success, Delicia is an accomplished dancer, teaching interpretive dance and pantomime. We especially look forward to her dance interpretation of the Whipple team activating. Delicia is pursuing AP/CP training.



### Nemanja Rodic

Nemanja was born in Sabac, Serbia and immigrated to the United States at the age of 17. He earned both a bachelor's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, Gainesville, where his graduate research focused on the identification and characterization of adenine nucleotide translocase 4 gene (Ant4). He subsequently received his M.D. degree from George Washington University. As so many people are, Nemanja is fluent in Serbian. He also enjoys playing the cello. Nemanja will be pursuing AP/CP training.



### Mark Samols

Mark was born in Eugene, Oregon. After studying biochemistry at Swarthmore College, he entered the M.D./Ph.D. program at Case Western Reserve University where he worked on Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus microRNAs. In his spare time, Mark enjoys nature photography, cycling, and rock climbing. Mark "the Rock" Samols has competed in several short technical rock climbing competitions, including Boulderpalooza in Gainesville, Florida. Mark will be pursuing AP/CP training.



### Matthew Tilson

Matthew was born in Savannah, Georgia. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a M.D. at the Medical College of Georgia, where he performed research focusing on blocking corneal angiogenesis. Matthew enjoys hiking and music. He particularly looks forward to shedding the moniker "Med student Matt" he earned during his Johns Hopkins SP elective. He now prefers "Intern Matt." Matthew is pursuing AP/CP training.



### Christopher VandenBussche

Christopher was born in Rochester Hills, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the College of William and Mary where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He then earned an M.D./Ph.D. at Georgetown University where he studied the impact of allelic polymorphism on the function of killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptors. Outside of work, Christopher's interests include the guitar, hockey, and long distance running. Christopher completed the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon and is looking for a running buddy here in Baltimore. Christopher will be pursuing AP/CP training.





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## Department of Pathology Incoming House Staff, 2009-2010

### Jeremy Vincent

Jeremy was born in Clarksville, Tennessee. He majored in biochemistry with a minor in English at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he worked in a structural biology lab, studying the constitutive androstane receptor. He also earned 7 medals on the University of Tennessee Crew team. He then earned his M.D. at the University of Tennessee, where he won an NIH medical student research fellowship. In his spare time, Jeremy enjoys hunting, hiking, and fishing. He is also a history buff, particularly fond of the American Revolution. Jeremy is pursuing AP/CP training.



### Laura Wood

Laura was born in Marietta, Ohio. She earned a B.S. in biology at the College of William and Mary. She then entered the M.D./Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins. While earning a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular medicine, she performed research using high throughput sequencing technology to perform genomic analysis of tumor DNA, winning numerous awards and two first-author papers in *Science*. While not putting our CVs to shame, Laura enjoys traveling, hiking, and theater. An expert baker and candy-maker, Laura will quickly become a hero to the inhabitants of the Weinberg resident room. Laura will be pursuing AP/CP training.



### Gang Zheng

Gang was born in Mizhi, China. He received a B.M. degree from Beijing Medical University and a master of medicine (M.Med.) degree in oncology at Beijing Cancer Hospital. He then completed a Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University where his research focused on cytokine signal transduction, transcriptional regulation, hematopoiesis, and developmental biology. More recently, Gang moved to Harvard for a post-doctoral fellowship studying the molecular biology of the papillomaviruses and their role in carcinogenesis. Outside of work, Gang enjoys volleyball, basketball, table tennis, and GO, a strategic board game that originated in China more than 2,500 years ago. Gang will be pursuing AP/CP training.



## New Director of the Division of Neuropathology

We are pleased to announce that Charles Eberhart, M.D., Ph.D. is the new Director of the Division of Neuropathology. Charles took over the leadership from Don Price on October 1, 2009. Charles is well known to Pathology having done his Pathology residency and Neuropathology fellowship at Hopkins before becoming a Neuropathology faculty member here. For the past several years he has also served as the Director of the Division of Eye Pathology, a role which he will continue. Please welcome and support Dr. Eberhart in his new position.

We would also like to thank Dr. Donald Price for his remarkable leadership and the innumerable contributions he has made as Division Director of Neuropathology for the past 38 years. Under his leadership, the Division has become one of the premier Neuropathology programs for neurodegenerative research, training, and clinical diagnostics in the world. Dr. Price will continue on the faculty conducting his research in neurodegenerative diseases.

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## New Faculty

### Lois J. Arend, M.D., Ph.D.

Lois J. Arend, M.D., Ph.D. completed her Ph.D. in Physiology at Michigan State University (MSU) studying the renal actions of adenosine. Following graduate studies, she attended medical school at MSU, receiving her M.D. in 1992. Dr. Arend then completed an Anatomic Pathology residency and Renal Pathology fellowship at the University of Michigan. During this time, she also performed basic science research in kidney development investigating the expression of beta-6 integrin in the mouse embryo and received funding from the National Kidney Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. In 1999, Dr. Arend joined the Department of Pathology at the University of Rochester and in 2003 was named Director of the Renal Pathology Division. While in Rochester, she maintained a research lab investigating the role of sphingolipids in nephrogenesis. Dr. Arend joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Cincinnati in August 2004 as Associate Professor, Director of Renal Pathology and Electron Microscopy Services. Her laboratory at the University of Cincinnati has continued the investigation of sphingosine-1-phosphate in kidney development and has been funded by the National Institutes of Health. In addition to basic science research, Dr. Arend has been involved in numerous collaborative studies with transplant surgery and nephrology, resulting in more than 50 publications in such prestigious and varied journals as *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, and *American Journal of Transplantation*. In addition to renal pathology, Dr. Arend's diagnostic expertise includes transplant pathology, covering heart, liver, and pancreas allograft pathology. Dr. Arend has also been continuously involved in teaching of graduate and medical students, as well as pathology residents, and fellows in both pathology and nephrology.



### Cheryl DeScipio, Ph.D.

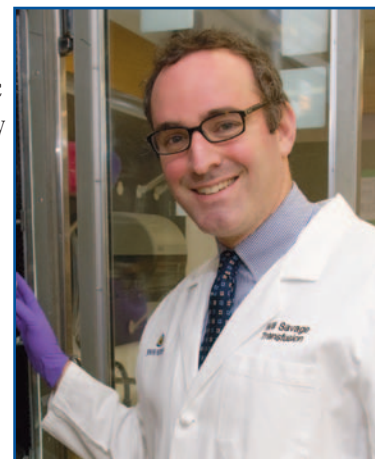


Cheryl was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She earned a B.S. in Molecular Biology from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from Drexel University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was then a Postdoctoral Fellow at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she achieved board certifications in Clinical Cytogenetics and Clinical Molecular Genetics. After fellowship training, Cheryl joined the faculty of New York University School of Medicine in New York, New York where she was Assistant Director of the Cytogenetics Lab. Most recently, she joined the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in September 2009 where she is the Director of the Prenatal Cytogenetics Lab. Please see the Molecular Pathology article on page 4 for her research interests. Cheryl has a Primary Appointment in Pathology; Secondary Appointment in Gynecology and Obstetrics.

### William J. Savage, M.D.

Will Savage, M.D., grew up in Arizona, but has lived on the East Coast for over 20 years. He went to Columbia University for undergraduate school and Cornell University Medical College. He trained in the Harriet Lane pediatric residency program at Johns Hopkins, and subsequently completed the joint NIH/JHU pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship. Dr. Savage then completed the transfusion medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

His research focus is on discovery and validation of biomarkers that track organ damage in people with sickle cell disease, many of whom receive chronic red blood cell transfusions. In addition to his clinical interests in transfusion medicine and pediatric hematology, Dr. Savage has pursued specialized clinical research training, including a year in the NIH Clinical Research Training Program, and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Investigation at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins. This training is being applied to studies that will identify transfusion techniques that minimize morbidity of chronic red cell transfusion.

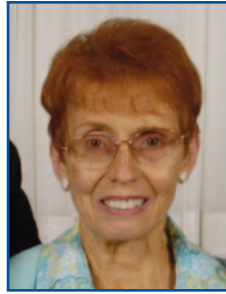


## Funding Our Future

In these hard economic times private giving is more important than ever. Our funds and fellowships honor some of our treasured faculty and staff, and, at the same time, provide critical support for the training of talented physicians and scientists. Please consider supporting the department.



*Joseph C. Eggleston*



*Mabel Smith*



### The Joseph Eggleston Fund in Surgical Pathology

The Joseph Eggleston Fund in Surgical Pathology honors one of the true giants in the field of surgical pathology. Dr. Eggleston was not only a leading authority on the pathology of lung cancer, but he also educated a generation of outstanding surgical pathologists. This fund supports the clinical and/or research activities of an outstanding resident or junior faculty member in surgical pathology.



*William Welch*



*Gerald S. Spear*



*Donald L. Price*

### The Yener S. Erozan Fellowship in Cytopathology

Yener Erozan continues to play an important role in the Division of Cytopathology as a mentor, teacher, and consultant. One way to express your appreciation for all that Yener has done for the Department and for the Division of Cytopathology over the years is to donate to this important fellowship.

### The Mabel Smith Endowment for Resident Research & Education

Mabel is as busy as ever handling the academic affairs of the Department and providing words of wisdom to those who drop by her office for advice. The Mabel Smith Fund is used to support special courses, research projects, travel and other needs of our residents.

### The Gerald S. Spear JHU-UCI Medical Student Pathology Fellowship

This program was established in 2005 to commemorate Dr. Spear's retirement. The Spear Fellowship provides a UC Irvine student with the opportunity to participate in a one month elective in the Department of Pathology at Johns Hopkins. The goal is to inspire a talented student into the field of pathology.

### The William Welch Award

The William Welch Award is named for the pre-eminent pathologist who was one of the founding fathers of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine. It was established to acknowledge outstanding achievement in pathology by a second year medical student. The award is announced each year at the Residents Award Dinner. The 2009 Award was presented to Whitney Green who will graduate in 2011.

### The Robert H. Heptinstall Fellowship

Heppy is now retired, but comes in periodically to visit friends. Paralleling Heppy's emphasis on research excellence, the Robert H. Heptinstall Fellowship promotes research activities and clinical training of outstanding young pathologists pursuing careers in research.

### The Donald L. Price Research Fund

This endowment in neuropathology honors Don Price's many contributions to neuroscience and to the Department.

### The John H. Yardley Fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology

Dr. Yardley has now retired, but he still is an active participant in GI Pathology Journal Conference. Dr. Toby Cornish is the Yardley Fellow for 2009-2010.

Please consider supporting one or more of these activities. We are enclosing a self-addressed return envelope to facilitate your contribution. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Ralph Hruban (rhruban@jhmi.edu or 410-955-2163).

If you would like to use a separate envelope, please send your tax-deductible contributions payable to Johns Hopkins University to:

Fund Office  
Department of Pathology  
The Johns Hopkins Hospital  
600 North Wolfe Street  
Carnegie 439  
Baltimore, MD 21287-6417



## Medical Student Education

At the end of August 2009, in the new Anne and Mike Armstrong Education Building, the entering medical school class of 2013 embarked on an adventure with the new Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine curriculum. This curriculum revision grew out of a five-year multidisciplinary process that not only changed many of the experiences for Hopkins students, but also reflected a change in why and how medical school is taught.

The philosophical underpinning of the new curriculum comes from the genetic revolution. Historically, Hopkins students spent the first year learning what was normal, and the second year how disease was different. What we now know is that "normal" is a relative term, and that genetic variability plays a major role in determining risk factors for diseases, as well as how a particular disease manifests in a particular individual. Thus, instead of asking "What is wrong with my patient?" it is hoped that this next generation of Hopkins students will ask "Why does my patient have this particular disorder at this time?"

To create this paradigm shift, there have been many structural changes in the curriculum. When students first walk in the door they begin in the gross anatomy lab, a quintessentially medical school experience that not coincidentally tends to even the playing field between the poets and the biochemists. And the curriculum is much more integrated. Students begin their clinical experience much earlier, with a basic clinical skills course starting day one, and a longitudinal outpatient clerkship experience that runs from the middle of year one through year two. Environmental, psychological, social, and societal aspects of disease and patient care are integrated throughout the curriculum as "horizontal strands." The curriculum is punctuated by week-long intersessions between courses or rotations that allow clinical material to be taught during the basic sciences, and basic science material during the clinical years. And the teaching is much more active; much of the first and second year is devoted to a course called Genes to Society (GTS), which superficially resembles the current second year, but, among other activities, has weekly workshops in which students research complex topics and present their findings to the entire class.

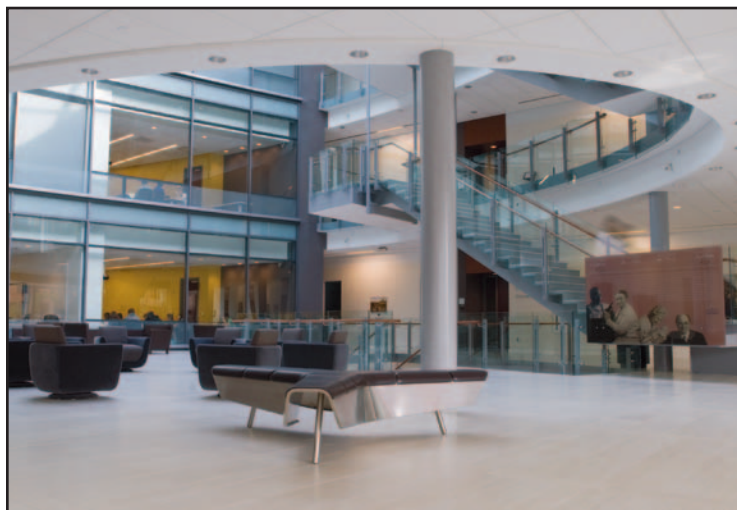


gone and in their stead the teaching collection, and more, have been scanned in as slides that the students manipulate and view in large computer labs in the new building. Students work in groups, point things out to one another, capture images into powerpoint slides that they annotate to study, look up terms on the web, and in general are much more engaged in microscopy than they have been in the past.

In keeping with the spirit of integration, pathology also appears elsewhere in the curriculum. Within the first few weeks, when the students are dissecting the viscera, pathologists come to the gross anatomy lab with carts full of gross organs, showing not only what normal tissues really looks like, but also illustrating pathologic processes. Pathologists are also involved in teaching normal his-

tology—who better, after all—both in a short introductory histology segment in the fall of year one, as well as during GTS, when, of course, normal and abnormal are taught together.

The transition to the new curriculum is not without challenges. The new building opened only about a week before the students showed up, and a few kinks are still being worked out. Students are adjusting to the pace and workload. And this year is particularly challenging because we are teaching pathology



to the year 2 students in the old curriculum, and the year 1 students in the new one. But these are exciting times, and students and faculty alike are eager to see how this experiment turns out. The curriculum is still a work in progress, and we know there will have to be tweaks, but we all expect that the students it turns out will, as Hopkins students always have been, well-positioned to take on leadership roles in the medicine of the future.

## Primary Faculty Changes - 2009-2010

### New Faculty

Lois J. Arend	Visiting Associate Professor	Renal Pathology
Cheryl Descipio	Assistant Professor	Molecular Path/Prenatal Cytogenetics
William J. Savage	Assistant Professor	Transfusion Medicine
Jonathan D. Cuda	Assistant	Surgical Pathology
Meredith A. Lakey	Assistant	Surgical Pathology
Michael T. O'Malley	Assistant	Surgical Pathology
Jason Y. Park	Assistant	GI/Liver Pathology
Ahren C. Rittershaus	Assistant	Surgical Pathology
Chanjuan Shi	Assistant	GI/Liver Pathology
Silvia Skripenova	Assistant	Gynecological Pathology
Donald C. Swing, Jr.	Assistant	Gynecological Pathology
Bonnie King	Research Associate	HIV Research
Subhashini Jagu	Research Associate	Gynecological Pathology
Leyan Xu	Research Associate	Neuropathology

### Departures

Mark Haas	Professor	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
Kathleen Murphy	Associate Professor	ProPath, Dallas, TX
Michael Lee	Associate Professor	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Karen Gustafson	Assistant Professor	Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA
Borislav Alexiev	Assistant	Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY
Vishesh Chhibber	Assistant	University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, MA
Kristin Galan	Assistant	Wichita Clinic, Wichita, KS
Jonathan Koehler	Assistant	Logan Regional Hospital, Logan, UT
Malti P. Kshirsagar	Assistant	Clinical Pathology Associates, Austin, TX
Thomas G. McConnell	Assistant	Associated Pathologists/Pathgroup, Brentwood, TN
Christopher Przybycin	Assistant	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Jennifer R. Scudiere	Assistant	Caris Diagnostics, Newton, MA
Brant G. Wang	Assistant	Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

### Promotions

Vassilis Koliatsos	Professor	Neuropathology
Roden Richard	Professor	Gynecological Pathology
Chien-Fu Hung	Associate Professor	Gynecological Pathology
Russell Vang	Associate Professor	Gynecological Pathology
Eli Bar	Assistant Professor	Neuropathology
Kathleen Burns	Assistant Professor	Hematopathology
Jose Carlos Garcia-Garcia	Assistant Professor	Microbiology

## Dr. Merz Retires

Professor William G. Merz, Ph.D. Mycology Laboratory Director in the Division of Medical Microbiology retired January 2009, after a long, highly productive career in the Department of Pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 1974, Dr. Patricia Charache recruited Dr. Merz to come to Johns Hopkins from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University in New York where he was the Associate Director of the Mycology Laboratory and Instructor in Dermatology at the time. His research focus while at Columbia was primarily in the area of dermatophyte infections.

Dr. Merz received his bachelor's degree in Botany from Drew University and his Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1968 from West Virginia University. From 1968-1970 he did an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University also in Microbiology. In 1987 he took a sabbatical to focus on molecular biology and genetics.

In addition to serving as the Director of the Mycology Laboratory for 34 years, Dr. Merz held numerous other positions and appointments. He held a joint appointment in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology in the JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health and Hygiene, and an appointment in the School of Medicine Department of Dermatology, where he taught dermatophyte recognition and identification to residents in that field. In addition to directing the Mycology Laboratory, Dr. Merz developed and directed the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory in the Microbiology Division. He was the Interim Director of the Microbiology Division from 1993–1997 and from 2000–2002.

During his extensive career, Dr. Merz authored over 145 peer-reviewed publications, numerous books and book chapters and served as Co-editor of *Topley and Wilson, Volume IV Medical Mycology* from 1999–2005. He served on the editorial board of several journals including the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. He received numerous awards both for his excellent teaching and for his contribution to the field of Medical Mycology. The latter include the prestigious Max Littman Medical Mycology Society of NY Award and the Medical Mycology Association's Billy Cooper Memorial Meridian Award for Clinical Mycology. Dr. Merz won the JHU Pathology Housestaff Clinical Pathology (CP) Teaching Award three times, and in 2006 was presented simultaneously with both the Pathology CP award and the Pathobiology Graduate Program Teaching Award.

Abundant graduate students, residents, medical technologists and fellows in numerous departments recognize him as a fabulous and influential mentor. They cite his charmingly wicked sense of humor as one his memorable attributes. Several receptions held in his honor were attended by clinicians, colleagues, researchers and students, all of whom acknowledged his support of clinical programs, his extensive knowledge base in Medical Mycology, so key to patient care at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, and his wonderful collaborative spirit. Representatives of three different departments noted that their work would have not been possible without the knowledge and support provided to them by Dr. Merz.

Bill and his wife, Cindy, who also retired recently from her position as the supervisor of the Immunology Laboratory are enjoying retirement in their waterfront condominium in Havre de Grace, Maryland and their second home in Florida. They are busy pursuing one of their hobbies, antique collecting. Bill will retain a part-time faculty position as we attempt to recruit his replacement, a virtually impossible task.



Dr. Steve Dumler, Dr. William Merz, Dr. Brooks Jackson



Cynthia Merz, Dr. Grover Hutchins, Dr. William Merz, Dr. Judith Karp



## Welcome to the Graduate Training Program in Pathobiology 2009-2010 Incoming Students

### Sarah Croessmann

Sarah was born in Rochester, New York. She graduated from the University of Virginia where she received her B.S. in Chemistry with a specialization in Biochemistry in May 2009. Sarah states that research has taught her patience. She would like to encourage a stronger link between medical and biomedical research with an emphasis on chemistry as a knowledge base for research. She is a mentor and a teacher. She has been a teaching assistant for an organic chemistry lab at UV and eventually wants to teach and do research in a university environment. Sarah enjoys helping students succeed in chemistry. She would like to have her own lab one day.



### Anne Macgregor

Anne was born in Washington, D.C. In 2007 Anne graduated from the University of Maryland College Park with a B.S. in Microbiology. She is interested in the immunobiology of cancer and has extensive research experience. Anne would like to someday have her own lab at an institution where she can carry out translational research. Anne hopes to also teach and mentor students in the classroom and in a laboratory setting.



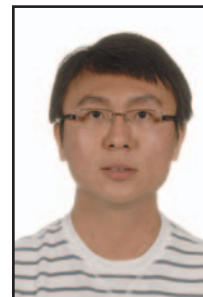
### Saniya Fayzullina

Saniya was born in Perm, Russia. She received her B.S. in Neuroscience and Biology in May 2001 from Brandeis University. Her background is in neuroscience and in vivo pharmacology, and she worked in biotechnology as a technical writer. Saniya has analyzed and clarified experimental data and methods, written and edited numerous manuscripts and witnessed drug development and experiment design. Her main interests are learning, memory and neurodegeneration. She would also like to continue to develop animal models and has a strong motivation to pursue translational research.



### Wei Wen Teo

Wei Wen was born in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. He graduated from the National University of Singapore with a B.S. in Biochemistry in 2002. He worked as a research specialist in oncology in breast cancer studies at Johns Hopkins. Wei Wen would like to be in academia and research. He has co-authored three papers. Wei Wen believes that Johns Hopkins will provide him with the resources necessary to be a successful scientist. Wei is one of our Margaret Lee students.



### Sungyul Lee

Sungyul was born in Soon Cheon, Jeolla Nam Do, Republic of Korea and received a B.S. in Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering from Korea University in 2004 and a M.S. in Medicine (Molecular Oncology) from Seoul National University in 2006. He has published his research in the Journal of Experimental Cell Research and the Journal of Clinical Investigation. He is interested in a better understanding of cellular behavior and translational research. Sungyul is interested in neoplasia and hopes to someday develop innovative and potent drugs for the treatment of malignant tumors and metabolic diseases. Sungyul is one of our new Margaret Lee students.



### Alyssa Walker

Alyssa was born in Long Branch, New Jersey and graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2009 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with honors. She has carried out research at the Army Research Laboratory and completed an internship at a biotech company that investigates novel biomarkers in cancer. Her career objectives include discovering more about how cancer works and solutions to remedy it. Alyssa has published two papers. Graduate school at Johns Hopkins will further Alyssa's experience and provide a strong foundation for her to continue on the path to curing cancer.



## Welcome to the Graduate Training Program in Pathobiology 2009-2010 Incoming Students (continued)

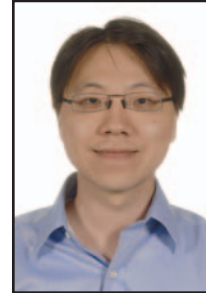
### Chao-Yi Wu

Chao-Yi (Joy) was born in Taichung, Taiwan. She received an M.D. in 2004 from the School of Medicine, Chang Gung University. She completed a residency in pediatrics and board certification in 2007. She has co-authored one paper and submitted two others as the first author. Chao-Yi believes that Johns Hopkins will help her make a difference and contribute to the advancement of medicine in her future career as a physician-scientist. She believes that her Ph.D. training will help her acquire fundamental knowledge of basic research and to become an independent researcher.



### Ren-Chin Wu

Ren-Chin Wu was born in Taipei, Taiwan. He received his M.D. in 2000 from Chang Gung University, Taiwan in pathology. He has published numerous papers, one as first author and a second paper submitted as first author. He believes that more work is needed between clinical medicine and basic research. Ren-Chin would like to bridge that gap and to further the understanding of disease mechanisms. Ren-Chin has conducted research to investigate the relationship between Epstein-Barr virus and cholangiocarcinoma. After graduation he would like to return to Taiwan on the physician-scientist career track and devote more time to translational medical research and to improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.



## Pathology Employee Appreciation Picnic

A favorite annual event in the Department of Pathology is the Employee Picnic. Over the years these events have been held at locations such as Oregon Ridge, the Baltimore Zoo, and again this year at Conrad's Ruth Villa in Middle River. Faculty and Staff along with their families enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day on Sunday, September 13th. The waterfront location offered beautiful views and a nice breeze as 700 adults and children enjoyed fried chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs along with steamed crabs and other picnic fare.

There was something for everyone as our DJ got a group dancing and our children's corner offered crafts, face painting, and games for those under age 12. The Raven's fans were happy to find a large flat screen television broadcasting the season opener against the Chiefs and plenty of fellow fans to cheer with. Others found their way to the volleyball or horseshoe pits. Most found a perfect spot to sit and talk with others from Pathology and get to know a bit about ourselves outside of the laboratory.

Overall the event was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and appreciate everyone that makes the Department of Pathology a success on so many levels.



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## George Peabody Library: An Exhibit of Photographs by Norm Barker 1st Floor Pathology Building



At the 79th annual Biocommunications Associations meeting, Norm Barker, Associate Professor of Pathology and Art as Applied to Medicine, won first place in the graphics division with his poster titled "George Peabody Library." The poster and a series of photographs, on display on the first floor of the Pathology building, depict a behind the scenes look at one of the true jewels of the Sheridan Library System of The Johns Hopkins University.

Some may be familiar with this wonderful piece of Baltimore architecture as in years past it was one of the locations where the Department of Pathology held its annual awards dinner. Come and see Norm's beautiful photographs and you will want to see the original design, located in The Peabody Institute in Mount Vernon.

George Peabody lived in Baltimore for 20 years while building a wholesale dry goods firm, Peabody, Riggs and Company, the first of his commercial enterprises. He remembered the city fondly but wanted to enrich its cultural assets. With his generous gift in 1857, George Peabody created the first major cultural center in an American city.

In his founding letter, Peabody outlined the components to be included: "an extensive library, to be well furnished in every department of knowledge, and of the most approved literature... regular periodical delivery, at the proper season of the year, of lectures by the most capable and accomplished scholars and men of science... an Academy of Music... to diffuse and cultivate a taste for that, the most refining of all arts, and a Gallery of Art... as an auxiliary to the improvement of the taste... of the society of Baltimore."

The Institute was dedicated on October 25, 1866 in the building designed by architect Edmund G. Lind. The citizens of Baltimore immediately took advantage of the Institute's offerings.

The lecture series became a thriving part of the city's intellectual life, bringing authors, scientists and other scholars to speak. The Gallery of Art quickly filled a gap, building a collection strong in American art and the Academy of Music grew to be a world-class Conservatory of Music.

The Library fulfilled its mission rapidly, serving 20,000 readers each year. It quickly outgrew its original quarters and in 1878, the current library building opened. Today the George Peabody library is part of The Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University and remains open to the public. (Courtesy George Peabody Archives)

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## Dr. Jim Eshleman - Japanese Maples



In addition to his interests in pancreatic cancer and molecular diagnostics, Dr. Jim Eshleman has a two-decade interest in propagating Japanese Maples. Jim learned the tricks of the trade from Bill Schwartz of Green Mansions Nursery while living in Philadelphia and studying medicine. He has about 60 varieties of the more than 300 different spontaneous mutant cultivars. His collection is grouped as variegated trees, dissectums or "laceleaves," deeply divided trees, broadleaves, in addition to dwarfs and "biggs." These trees are propagated by grafting, where a few nodes of an ornamental variety is transplanted to an "understock." A small twig containing the few nodes is harvested from an ornamental tree unable to propagate by seed and grafted onto understock wild-type trees that can be propagated by seed. Approximately 5-20% of his maples, depending on the season, will turn into fully mature trees which are often given to family and friends. In the photo Jim is pointing to the healed graft site, where the leaves above it are ornamental while those below it are wild-type.

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## Awards/Recognition



### College of American Pathologists Lifetime Achievement Award

Grover M. Hutchins, M.D. received the 2009 CAP Lifetime Achievement Award at the CAP annual meeting in Washington, DC on October 12, 2009. This award, established in 2006, is presented to recognize and honor the unsung heroes of the College who have made a broad and positive impact on the pathology profession through contributions to one or more areas of the College over an extended period of time.

### 2009 Fred Waldorf Stewart Award

Robert J. Kurman, M.D., Richard W. TeLinde Distinguished Professor of Gynecologic Pathology, Gynecology & Obstetrics, is recipient of the 2009 Fred Waldorf Stewart Award, bestowed annually by the Department of Pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to honor a pathologist who has made outstanding contributions in advancing our knowledge of human cancer. Dr. Kurman has devoted decades of professional life to the pathologic analysis of neoplasms arising in the female genital tract.



### bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology

Patricia Charache, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Medicine, and Oncology with a joint appointment in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Bloomberg School of Public Health will receive the distinguished bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology at the American Society of Microbiology General Meeting to be held in San Diego, California in May 2010. Dr. Charache will be recognized for her promotion of innovation in clinical laboratory science, for high dedication and commitment to the American Society of Microbiology (ASM), and to the advancement of clinical microbiology as a profession. She will also deliver the Sonnenwirth Award Lecture at the ASM General Meeting.

### Becton Dickinson and Company Award in Clinical Microbiology

Steven Dumler, M.D., Professor of Microbiology, will receive the Becton Dickinson and Company Award in Clinical Microbiology at the American Society of Microbiology General Meeting to be held in San Diego, California in May 2010. The award is presented to an individual who has outstanding research accomplishments, clinical or nonclinical, leading to or forming the foundation for important applications in clinical microbiology. Dr. Dumler will also deliver the annual Clinical Microbiology Division Lecture at the ASM General Meeting.



### Canadian Founders Natural Science Award

Norman J. Barker M.S., M.A., R.B.P. received the Canadian Founders Natural Science Award at the 79th annual Biocommunications meeting in Park City, Utah for his photograph in the salon, entitled "Pelecanus occidentalis." His photomicrographs have also won awards and will be displayed in the 25th annual Nikon Small World 2010 calendar. He also won an image of distinction award in the Olympus Bioscapes International digital imaging competition and will be showcased in the Bioscapes 2010 calendar.

Ralph H. Hruban M.D., together with his neighbor, David B. King, won second place in the 2009 Baltimore Screenwriters Competition for their historical fiction screenplay on the life of William Stewart Halsted. The judges were Curtis Grant (the producer of the Spiderman movies), Nina Noble (executive producer of The Wire), and Richard Walter (head of UCLA's Film and Television Department). The award was presented at the 2009 Maryland Film Festival.



Dr. Hruban and Film Director John Waters

## ...On The Web

The Pathology Web site continues to grow and improve. Our Research Brochure is currently being rebuilt to maintain current contact information for all faculty members across all our Web sites. Our faculty and lab members continue to blog about their research and provide valuable information to patients and families. In the past few months, The Pancreatic Cancer Web site has been given a make-over to improve visitor experience.



## The Pathology Blog

Have you read the Johns Hopkins Pathology Blog this week? Were you aware that the Johns Hopkins Pathology Department has a blog designed to share knowledge about the many unique facets of Hopkins Pathology? Open <http://apps.pathology.jhu.edu/blogs/pathology/> to view the latest featured posting and see an archive of past articles.

Averaging over 100 hits a day and No. 6 on a Google search for "pathology blog," the JH Pathology Blog debuted on April 24, 2009, the idea of Al Valentine, Administrator for Clinical & Financial Affairs of the Department of Pathology. Under the direction of our Webmaster, Jim Doran, who prepares the copy and photos for the Web, a new blog posting appears weekly.

There have been 28 blog posts in as many weeks and the blog has enjoyed over 45,000 visits from people in 142 countries/territories around the world. There have been over 77,000 page views. Personnel from many areas in Pathology have contributed news, ideas, photos and information ranging from the CAP certification process to progress on the hospital construction to the H1N1 flu testing. The growth of this publication has been exciting to watch, and we hope that even more people will choose to read, comment and contribute their ideas. WordPress blogs are free and available to any faculty or staff member wanting their own Blog!

Topics are diverse and have included the Hospital's Green Team and recycling; the financial climate of the JHMI and the Department; the Family Medical Leave Act; personal computer safety; Howard County General Hospital's lab renovations; the transition to the College of American

Pathologists accreditation; liquid-based cytology; the new clinical building; Vitamin D testing; apheresis donation; and many others. The readership of the Blog is not limited to Johns Hopkins faculty and staff there are many outside readers as well. Some postings have had over 5,000 views.

Blog is an excellent vehicle for those interested in a better understanding of the broader picture of Johns Hopkins Pathology and in learning about the many new developments within our large and complex department. Anyone interested in writing an article for publication on the Blog should see their supervisor, or contact Renee Lazarony at 410-955-5395, [rlazaro@jhmi.edu](mailto:rlazaro@jhmi.edu). All ideas are welcome and will be considered for future publication.



Aside from being a blogging platform, WordPress has proven itself to be a valuable and flexible Web publishing tool. With a minor customization, a WordPress site can be converted into a Facebook-like social network, a private or public messaging application like Twitter or a content management system for building non-blog Web sites. We are piloting four new sites with WordPress as the content management system, including the Anatomic Pathology and the Phlebotomy lab sites. By using WordPress as a content management system, a designated person in a department (like a manager) can publish content on their Web site with the same skills required to use a basic e-mail application. These sites feature built-in Hopkins (JHED) authentication, the ability to host department manuals, photos, news and embedded videos. They will be available by December 2009. Any Pathology division, lab or faculty member interested in a WordPress Web site or more information about our Web activities should contact Jim Doran [ [doran@jhu.edu](mailto:doran@jhu.edu) ].

## ...In The Photo Lab



*This 24x36 poster is available for purchase at Pathology Photography*

## Calendar

*March 20-26, 2010*

*United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology  
99th Annual Meeting  
Washington Marriott Wardman Park; Washington, DC*

*March 21, 2010, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm*

*United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology  
Sponsored Fellowship Fair - Thurgood West Ballroom  
Washington Marriott Wardman Park; Washington, DC*

*March 22, 2010, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm*

*United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology  
Johns Hopkins Pathology Alumni Reception  
Park Tower, Room 8212  
Washington Marriott Wardman Park; Washington, DC*

*April 8, 2010, Noon – 4:00 pm*

*Pathology Young Investigators' Day  
Turner Concourse, The Johns Hopkins University School of  
Medicine; Baltimore, Maryland*

*April 15-17, 2010*

*11th Annual Hopkins Cytopathology: A Team Approach  
Broadway Research Building, G1-3  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;  
Baltimore, Maryland*

*May 14, 2010*

*Pathology Awards Dinner  
The Belvedere; Baltimore, Maryland*

## Congratulations to the 10th Annual Pathology Young Investigators' Day Awardees April 16, 2009

The Department of Pathology again enjoyed an excellent turnout for this year's Young Investigators' Day.

### **For Excellence in Basic Research**

Geral Baldeviano, Sc.M.  
Qing Chang, M.D., Ph.D.  
Melissa A. Landek-Salgado, B.A.  
Karen S. Sfanos, Ph.D.  
Brian W. Simons, D.V.M.  
Yuan Tian, Ph.D.  
Zuoxiang Xiao, M.D., Ph.D.

### **For Excellence in Clinical Research**

Carla Ellis, M.D.  
Michael Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.  
Thomas G. McConnell, M.D.  
Joely Straseski, Ph.D.  
Andrea Subhawong, M.D.

### **For Excellence in Translational Research**

Sarah Brennan, B.S.  
Jessica D. Church, B.S.  
Ashkan Emadi, M.D., Ph.D.  
Jessica M. L. Lidstrom, M.S.  
Jason Y. Park, M.D., Ph.D.  
Aaron Tobian, M.D., Ph.D.  
Yu-Qian Zhang, Ph.D.  
Yi Zhong, M.D., Ph.D.

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