



UCSF PATHOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9: SEPTEMBER 2020

Message for the Department Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the summer winds down, I hope you and your families, colleagues, and friends continue to stay safe during this pandemic. At UCSF, we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis at many levels, including the operational and financial challenges that it has posed and continues to pose on the Department, Medical Center and the University as a whole. I am truly blown away by the creativity, dedication and resilience of everyone in our Department throughout 2020. We are blessed with an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of pathologists, scientists, learners, and staff.

A major highlight since the beginning of the pandemic has been the widespread implementation of digital pathology at UCSF, which allows us to prospectively scan all clinical slides, thereby enabling clinical sign out from any location, providing new opportunities for learning, consultation and review of cases among colleagues, and ultimately, providing a robust foundation for computational pathology. This rapid clinical adoption of a digital workflow in response to COVID-19 was made possible through years of hard work, perseverance and creative fundraising and problem-solving by a large team of faculty and staff across the Department and UCSF Health, which was led by Dr. Zoltan Lasik (Director of Digital Pathology), Sarah Bowman (Manager of Digital Pathology), and Dr. Grace Kim (Vice Chair for Clinical Services).

Furthermore, in July, we welcomed a new class of exceptional residents and fellows, who have been adapting amazingly to the unique challenges of learning and delivering top-notch diagnostic care during these unusual circumstances. Once again, thanks to the dedication of our faculty, staff and more advanced trainees, we have embraced video conferencing, which has allowed us to expand educational opportunities through virtual tumor boards, consensus conferences, teaching sessions, and even case sign-outs.

Because of shelter-in-place policies throughout March and April, the SF Bay Area was fortunate in preventing an extreme surge of coronavirus patients in our hospitals. However, when these policies were relaxed on Memorial Day, like most of California, our numbers grew uncontrollably over the summer. As I write, California just surpassed 700,000 cases, the most of any state in the US. As a result, COVID-19 continues to powerfully disrupt so many aspects of our daily lives, at both work and home. Among the most consequential of these obstacles are widespread school closures for our kids this fall, which are coupled with the lack of childcare options that so many in the Department are facing these days. Thanks to Kelly McNeill, our Chief Administrative Officer, and Michael Caton, Administrative Operations Manager, we have been actively seeking out resources and opportunities with the hope of mitigating the immense challenges and hardships that this brings. As a recent parent of young children, I embrace these new opportunities for our Department to foster more family-friendly policies at UCSF.

In addition to COVID-19, we grapple with another pandemic, that of systemic racism, evidenced by repeated episodes of tragic police brutality, such as the recent senseless shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin. At UCSF and the Department, we stand against racism and have begun to confront the inequalities in our own system for people of color. The Departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine have created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee led by Drs. Raga Ramachandran (Pathology) and Sara Bakhtary (Lab Med) which is tasked to eliminate unconscious bias, improve our sense community, and insure that all in our Departments feel safe and empowered. Importantly, as we confront these formidable challenges ahead, I urge all of you to register and to exercise your right to vote in the upcoming national elections this November. Although events over the last several months may be cause for dismay, the collective power of our vote is fundamental for moving our society toward directions that we aspire.

Finally, I wish you all the best of health and continued success, both at work and at home, during these challenging times.

Best wishes,



Jay Debnath,
Distinguished Professor and Chair
UCSF Department of Pathology

Residency Updates

A Message from the Residency Program Directors Sarah Calkins, MD and Kristie White, MD, MAEd

This year has been very different for all of us, and as we reflect on these past few months, we have learned a great deal about training the next generation of pathologists amidst a pandemic. Spring brought a switch to remote sign-out using whole slide imaging as mentioned in our prior newsletter. Summer brought our first Zoom Graduation for the graduating trainees and a return to working onsite. On July 1, we welcomed 7 new PGY-1 residents and 17 fellows from 16 universities across the globe into our departments (see below). We have high hopes for this year's class of residents and fellows, and look forward to guiding them in their pursuits to become exceptional pathologists and physician-scientists. They're already off to an impressive start!

Looking forward to fall, we are currently undertaking changes to prepare for the residency application cycle. Interviews will be conducted virtually via Zoom, and we are currently developing best practices for our virtual interviewers, as well as preparing a variety of events for the applicants to engage with the best aspect of our program – the UCSF faculty and trainees.

New PGY1 residents:

Naoki Akanuma, MD, PhD - Chiba University School of Medicine, Japan
Dorukhan Bahceci, MD - Koc Universitesi Tip Fakultesi, Turkey
Amanda Breitbart Borgen, MD - Oregon Health and Science University
Kevin Lu, MD, PhD - University of Michigan
Michael Sharpnack, MD, PhD - Ohio State University
Vivian Tang, MD - University of California Davis
Erron Titus, MD, PhD - UCSF

Fellows for 2020-21:

Cytopathology:

Sayed "Mohsen" Hosseini, MD, PhD – University of Pennsylvania
Brent Molden, MD, PhD – UCSF

Dermatopathology

Erik Williams, MD – Massachusetts General Hospital

Hematopathology

Andrew Levine, MD, PhD - UCSF
Natalya Hakim, MD - University of Kentucky

GI and hepatobiliary pathology

Nigar Khurram, MBBS – SUNY Brooklyn
Hsiang-Chi "Sean" Lu, MD – Washington University

Gynecologic pathology

Lara Richer, MD – McGill University

Neuropathology

Calixto-Hope "CJ" Lucas, MD – UCSF
Daniel Sullivan, MD – UCSF

Surgical pathology

Lauren Eversmeyer, MD – UCSF
Israa Laklout, MD – Boston University
Talent Theparee, MD – Northshore University
Kent Truong, MD – UCSF

Cell Therapy/Transfusion Medicine

Brian Shy, MD, PhD - UCSF

Clinical Chemistry

Briana Fitch, PhD - UCSF
Folaghabi Arowolo, PhD - University of Wisconsin

Molecular Genetic Pathology

Jacob Spector, MD - UCSF

Wellness Committee:

Dear UCSF alumni,

Last summer, a group of faculty and residents formed a joint UCSF Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Wellness Committee. This year, the Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Wellness Committee is launching a new voluntary longitudinal faculty-trainee mentorship program. The goal of this program is for faculty mentors provide to advice on pathways to follow, on opportunities to seek, and on how to prepare for career development and advancement in pathology.

As part of this initiative, we feel that the trainees would greatly benefit from the perspectives and experience of pathologists in a variety of practice settings, including other academic centers, private practice and industry. We are reaching out to you, our UCSF alumni network, to compile a list of practicing pathologists who may be interested in talking to UCSF residents or fellows on a referral basis for career questions and advice. This could be as informal as a short phone call with the trainee.

If you would like to be included on this list, please contact Dana Balitzer (Dana.Balitzer@ucsf.edu) with your contact information, location, specialty and practice setting. Thank you in advance, any input you can provide will be greatly cherished by our current trainees!

Awards and Other Notable Activities

We are pleased to announce the following awards to UCSF faculty.

Watson Scholar 2020: Roberto Ruiz-Cordero, MD, Assistant Professor

The Watson Scholar award is charged with developing, implementing and monitoring programs to increase the culture of diversity and inclusion among faculty within the School of Medicine. The recipients of the grants have been named John A. Watson Faculty Scholars after Professor John A. Watson, whose service to the UCSF School of Medicine spanned forty-six years. Dr. Watson was a pioneer for diversity, an inspiring mentor and a tenacious scientist. During his tenure as Dean of Admissions in the 1970s, he rapidly increased the number of women and minority students in the entering medical school classes. Applicants were selected based on their commitment to advancing diversity, inclusion and equity in academic medicine. Roberto will receive \$75000 annually for 3 years to develop novel molecular workflows to improve cancer diagnostic disparities in Mexico in collaboration with the HDFCCC Global Cancer Program. This work is a wonderful example of how pathologists can meaningfully leverage molecular tools, which one might traditionally consider cost-prohibitive in low resource settings, to address health care disparities

In addition, two of our faculty won prestigious awards from the American Society of Investigative Pathology (ASIP).

Gold-Headed Cane Award: Abul Abbas, Emeritus Professor

Outstanding Investigator Award: Jayanta Debnath, MD, and Chair of Pathology



**Roberto Ruiz Cordero-
Watson Scholar, UCSF**



**Abul Abbas,
Gold Headed Cane Award,
ASIP**



**Jay Debnath,
Outstanding Investigator Award,
ASIP**

Who's Who in the WHO, 5th Editions:

Our UCSF faculty have had an impressive degree of involvement in the recent and ongoing wave of recently published or "in press" 5th editions of the WHO Classification of Tumours "Blue Books".

Female Reproductive Organs: Joseph Rabban served as Co-Editor, and author for multiple chapters; Chuck Zaloudek and Karuna Garg also contributed to chapters. David Solomon in Neuropathology also co-authored several chapters--adenomatoid tumors of the genital tract, well-differentiated papillary mesothelial tumor, and malignant peritoneal mesothelioma, and Arie Perry also contributed to a chapter.

Central Nervous System: Arie Perry is the Co-Editor.

Digestive System (Liver tumor section): Sanjay Kakar is the coauthor for 3 chapters, "Focal nodular hyperplasia", "Hepatocellular adenoma", and "Combined hepatocellular-cholangiocarcinoma and undifferentiated liver carcinoma".

Breast Tumors: Yunn-Yi Chen was asked to be the primary author for two chapters, "Atypical lobular hyperplasia" and "Lobular carcinoma in situ". Gregor Krings was asked to be the primary author for the section "Secretory Carcinoma", with co-author Y Chen.

Bone and Soft Tissue: Andrew Horvai is the primary author on Extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma and co-author for Hemosiderotic fibrolipomatous tumor, Osteoblastoma and Osteoid osteoma, Sarah Umetsu is coauthor with Elizabeth Montgomery on the chapter "Anastomosing hemangiomas", and Arie Perry also contributed to a chapter on neural tumors.

Pediatric Tumors: Soo-Jin Cho, MD, PhD, Pediatric pathologist with subspecialty in GI and liver pediatric pathology was first author for the chapters on "Fibrolamellar HCC" and "Pediatric HCC" and a coauthor for "Acinar Cell Carcinoma."

Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th edition, 2020:

Dr Abul Abbas till serves as one of the three co-editors of this popular medical student pathology text, and also writes several chapters. Other UCSF faculty who also contributed to this 10th edition include: Ryan Gill and Sanjay Kakar for the liver chapter, Zoltan Laszik as co-author for the kidney chapter, Andrew Horvai for the bones, joints, and soft tissue chapter, and Marta Margeta and Arie Perry for CNS.

Current Issues 2021

Message from the Course Chair and Co-Directors

Dear Alumni and Colleagues,

After closely monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its continuing impact on our patients, practices, and families, and the uncertainties of the evolving situation, the co-chairs have made the decision to deliver the 2021 Current Issues in Anatomic Pathology and Cytology Seminar as a fully virtual event instead of our annual face-to-face meeting. We are working with the UCSF CME office to assess and select the most suitable virtual platform and hope to offer an uncompromised program filled with the outstanding content you have come to expect from the UCSF Pathology Department. We hope that you share our enthusiasm for the virtual meeting and watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Best Regards,

Laura Tabatabai, Linda Ferrell, Steve Long, Melike Pekmezci, Joe Rabban, Sarah Umetsu

As we look forward to the future for the department and the exciting initiatives ahead, please consider supporting us. Your support impacts the greatest needs of the department, clinical research, and education and training

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