



# UCSF PATHOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15: AUGUST 2022

## AWARDS

Summary by: Linda Ferrell, MD

**Carolyn Sangokoya, MD, PhD** was one of 14 recipients of the 2022 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards for the Medical Scientist program.

As per the announcement by BWF at: <https://www.bwfund.org/news/bwf-announces-the-2022-career-awards-for-medical-scientists/>, the investment of 9.8 million dollars to this year's cohort represents its largest commitment to date. The Career Awards for Medical Scientists is a highly competitive program that provides \$700,000 awards over five years for physician-scientists, who are committed to an academic career, to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service.

"The talent in this year's applicant pool was exceptional," said Dr. Paige Cooper, BWF Program Officer. "BWF continues to be committed to investing in the careers of physician-scientists and we look forward to supporting their clinical research impact."

### Drs Jayanta Debnath and Arun Wiita

Drs. Jay Debnath (Professor and Chair) of Anatomic Pathology and Arun Wiita (Associate Professor) in Lab Medicine lead the UCSF team for a new Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award from the U.S. Department of Defense that seeks to kill metastatic cancer's deadly seeds before they can sprout. This four-year, \$25 million grant has been awarded to a "dream team" of cancer scientists and patient advocates from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Huntsman Cancer Institute, and the University of California at San Francisco.

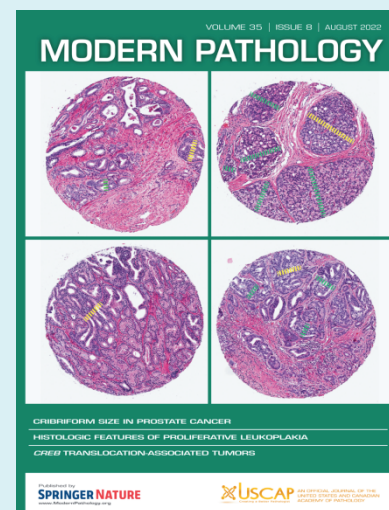
Details can be found in this press release from Fred Hutch:

<https://www.fredhutch.org/en/news/center-news/2022/07/breast-cancer-metastasis-research-grant.html>

## Special Notice

The front cover of the **August 2022** issue of Modern Pathology is a figure from a study first authored by **Emily Chan** entitled: Analysis of separate training and validation radical prostatectomy cohorts identifies 0.25 mm diameter as an optimal definition for "large" cribriform prostatic adenocarcinoma.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35145197/>



# 2022 Pathology and Lab Medicine DEI Leadership Awards

The Department of Anatomic Pathology is happy to announce the Inaugural Pathology and Lab Medicine DEI Leadership Award, which is to be given annually to one staff member and one faculty member in either the Department of Pathology or Laboratory Medicine.

These awards are intended to provide everyone working in our Departments with the opportunity to recognize a staff and faculty member (colleague, team member, mentor, etc.) for excellence in DEI leadership and supporting inclusion. Many candidates were nominated; these were anonymized and then voted on by the DEI Committee. Congratulations to both of our recipients!

- **Will Howell, Assistant Specialist in Lab Medicine (Schjerven Lab)**
- **Dr. Ron Balassanian, Professor of Pathology**



**Ronald Balassanian, MD**  
**Professor, Anatomic Pathology**

Dr. Balassanian has been mentoring students at the college, pre-med, and medical school level including URM staff members. He helped change the culture at UCSF with regard to LGBTQ+ issues. Despite having an LGBTQ resource center, primarily for students, UCSF has never sponsored a unified or group presence at the SF Pride Parade, leaving it to individuals to join on their own. Through his position on the LGBTQ+ committee, he met with Chancellor Renee Navarro and explained the need to have representation at the parade from all the UCSF Deans and Vice Deans as well as UCSF Health administrators including the CEO. He helped develop the UCSF Health LGBTQ+ web page which went live in 2021, providing an online resource to access UCSF LGBTQ+ providers and allies for the first time: <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/about/lgbtq-care>

Through serving on the ASC Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee, he developed an online summer program for high school and college students from URM and disadvantaged backgrounds to learn about career opportunities in medicine and cytology. He also developed a new DEI award for best abstract to be presented at the ASC/ICC annual meeting in 2022. The award will be presented annually going forward.

Dr. Balassanian also serves as the head of the committee for developing the Department's Global Pathology strategic plan, and he has been involved in mentorship and collaboration for residents and faculty in low and middle income (LMIC) countries, including Tanzania, Peru, and Ethiopia.

# Current Issues Announcement

Message from Course Directors

We are happy to let our alums know that our **37th Annual Current Issues in Anatomic Pathology** is continuing in 2022 as a virtual event in 2 more installments. We are offering a special discount rate of \$300 for people to sign up for the **Sept 16th course** together with the **Nov 4th** virtual session. The courses will be presented as live feeds, with time at the end of each talk included for questions that are submitted by participants, and the entire course will also be recorded for later viewing. The regular rate for the Sept 16th talks is \$180. The sign-up site (as noted in the flyer as [cme.ucsf.edu](https://virtualce.ucsf.edu/anatomic-pathology)) is on the UCSF CME website at this direct link: <https://virtualce.ucsf.edu/anatomic-pathology>.

The **Sept. 16th virtual course** will focus on Head and Neck pathology with an innovative and new talk by Arie Perry on neuropath lesions that show up in Head and Neck surgical pathology. We'll also have two great talks by Annemieke van Zante; one on the growing use and applications of molecular findings to support pathology diagnoses, prognoses and treatment in the Head and Neck, and a great nuts and bolts discussion of all the nuanced details you need to know to be fully up to date on reporting Head and Neck cancers and use the Synoptic Reports properly. Finally, we'll have an always useful talk by Richard Jordan on Odontogenic tumors of the Oral Cavity that may come your way in your practice. The Nov 16th course will focus on practical issues in Molecular Testing.

We hope to see you on the zoom on Sept 16th!

Department of Anatomic Pathology  
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine presents



37th Annual

## Current Issues in Anatomic Pathology 2022:

### Head and Neck Pathology

Friday, September 16, 2022

Live Virtual Feed, and recorded for later viewing:



#### Arie Perry, MD

No Walls in Pathology: Non-Carcinomatous  
Neoplasms that Frequently Cross the ENT-Neuro  
Border



#### Richard Jordan, DDS, PhD

Odontogenic Tumors



#### Annemieke van Zante, MD, PhD

##### Talk #1:

The AJCC 8th Edition and Staging in Head and Neck Tumors

##### Talk #2:

How can NGS Help Us Out of Diagnostic Uncertainty in the Head and Neck?

Course Fee: \$180

Please Register on the CME website: [cme.ucsf.edu](https://cme.ucsf.edu)

Special Discount of \$300 :

Sept. 16th course plus the Nov. 4th course on Practical Issues in Molecular Testing.