



# UCSF PATHOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1: FEBRUARY 2019

## LETTER FROM: OUR FORMER CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The UCSF Pathology Department is launching a newsletter to tell you about developments in the Department and encourage you to get involved in our activities. In this first installment of the letter, we want to tell you about many of the leadership changes that have happened in the last few years. I will summarize these changes, and we will introduce you to some of the new senior leadership.

- Linda Ferrell retired in 2015 as Vice Chair of Clinical Services and Director of Surgical Pathology. She has been succeeded by Grace Kim as the Clinical Vice Chair and Ryan Gill as Director of Surgical Pathology.
- Our two stalwarts of Cytopathology retired, Britt-Marie Ljung in 2014 and Ted Miller in 2017. The new Director of Cytopathology is Elham Khanafshar.
- Phil Ursell retired as Director of the Autopsy in 2018, and has been succeeded by Andy Connolly.
- Walt Finkbeiner retired as Chief of Pathology at the ZSFG (now the Zuckerberg San Francisco General) and has been succeeded by Steve Nishimura.
- I also retired in 2018 and have been succeeded by Jay Debnath.

As you can see, many of the retirees have been long-serving members of the Department, and have shepherded it through unprecedented growth and academic success. We can justifiably claim to be among the leading academic Pathology Departments and training programs in the country. The new leadership is distinguished, deeply committed to excellence, and unreservedly supportive of all our Department stands for. They are also enthusiastic about adopting new technologies and initiatives and are well-versed in the exciting developments in our field. The future is unquestionably bright, and we will surely attain greater heights in the coming years.

I hope all of you will continue to participate in the Department and its activities. On that note, if you attend the USCAP Annual Meeting, we hope to see you at our alumni reception on Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 7 pm.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas, and look forward to hearing what you have been doing. I close by wishing all of you a happy and fulfilling 2019, and many more years to come.

**Abul Abbas**  
**Professor & Chair Emeritus**  
**Department of Pathology, UCSF**



#### **Department of Pathology Chair:**

Dr. Jayanta (Jay) Debnath, Professor of Pathology, earned his MD from Harvard Medical School, magna cum laude, and subsequently completed his residency training in pathology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Debnath is Board Certified in Anatomic Pathology. Since joining the faculty in the UCSF Department of Pathology in 2005, he has led an basic research laboratory internationally recognized for its expertise in autophagy, a pathway of cellular recycling. He also served as an Attending Pathologist on the autopsy service at UCSF Medical Center and from 2016-18, Dr. Debnath served as Vice Chair for Research in the Department. Outside of UCSF, he has served as an Associate Editor for the journal *Autophagy*, Chair of the NIH Tumor Cell Biology Study Section (from 2016-18), and on the Editorial Board of *Annual Reviews of Pathology: Mechanisms of Disease*. Dr. Debnath is also widely known for his expertise in breast cancer research and serves as Chair of the Programmatic Review Panel for the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program, which oversees the second largest source of extramural grant funding for breast cancer research in the US. His major honors include an HHMI Early Career Award for Physician Scientists, AACR/Genentech Bio-Oncology Career Award, DOD Breast Cancer Research Program Era of Hope Scholar Award, American Society of Cell Biology Keith Porter Fellow Award, and elected membership to the American Society of Clinical Investigation. His bibliography comprises more than 90 publications.



#### **Vice Chair of Clinical Services:**

Grace E. Kim, MD, Distinguished Professor of Pathology, CLIA Laboratory Director at Mount Zion and Mission Bay, Medical Director of Pathology Services. Dr Kim is a long-standing member of the Department, with previous roles including Associate Director of Surgical Pathology, Co-Director of Surgical Pathology, and Medical Director of Surgical Pathology Specimen Receiving prior to her appointment as Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs (2005-2015). Among her notable accomplishments in these previous leadership roles included the planning of Pathology space and managing the move into our new sites at Mission Bay, not only for the main hospital in 2017, but also for the upcoming transition to the clinical building in 2019. Within this same time period, she also managed the transition to subspecialty sign-out, which involved a complete restructuring of our surgical pathology rotations and coverage at both the faculty and trainee level. She also pushed the transition to more efficient work-efforts within the Department, including usage of digital pathology for our services, application of LEAN techniques, and significant expansion of laboratory personnel, including the addition and development of an excellent group of Certified Pathology Assistants and supporting the efforts to develop an excellent histology and immunohistochemistry service. During her tenure as Co-Director of Surgical Pathology, she also became a highly interactive, as well as a respected, leader within the hospital administration at large, which has strengthened the department's position and visibility within the system.

Dr Kim's academic interests are in the areas of Pediatric Pathology and Pancreatic Pathology, with additional expertise in Hepatobiliary and Gastrointestinal Pathology. She has been co-author numerous peer-reviewed publications, and has been the invited lecturer and/or visiting professor at major pathology societies such as USCAP, and at numerous other venues in the USA, Asia, and Europe. She has recently served as an Executive Founding Board member of the Pancreatic Pathology Society, and is the current Secretary/Treasurer for the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society.



#### **Director of Autopsy:**

Andrew Connolly, MD/PhD is Professor of Pathology. He is originally from the East Coast, but after medical school at Harvard, came to UCSF in 1989 where he trained in Anatomic Pathology (1989-1992). He stayed on as a Clinical Instructor on the UCSF Autopsy Service while pursuing a PhD in Biomedical Sciences. After faculty positions at Harvard/BWH (1997-2001) and Stanford (2001-2017) he joined UCSF Anatomic Pathology as Professor of Pathology and Director of the Autopsy Service. His position is a mixture of autopsy pathology, cardiovascular surgical pathology, research in cardiomyocyte pathobiology, and teaching of residents, fellows, and students.



**Director of Cytopathology:**

Dr. Elham Khanafshar, Professor of Pathology and the Director of the Cytopathology Fellowship Program received her M.D. from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran. She then completed a Master of Science degree in molecular and experimental pathology at the University of Southern California (USC) before proceeding to her residency training (AP/CP) at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Subsequent to her residency, Dr. Khanafshar did a Surgical Pathology Fellowship at the University of California San Diego, followed by a Cytopathology Fellowship at USC. Dr. Khanafshar is dedicated to teaching and contributing to the field of cytopathology and endocrine pathology, with special focus in thyroid pathology. She has authored a number of peer-reviewed publications and co-authored a book chapter on thyroid cytopathology. In 2015, she served as a member of the Endocrine Pathology Society working group for re-examination of the encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma. Dr. Khanafshar's other research interest has focused on ways to improve FNA biopsy to obtain better samples for ancillary studies on small samples. Dr. Khanafshar has been an active contributor to the various pathology societies including American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) and United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP).



**Director of Surgical Pathology :**

Dr Ryan M Gill, Professor. Dr Gill specializes in the diagnosis and evaluation of adult and pediatric liver disease, liver transplantation, inflammatory bowel disease, and liver and gastrointestinal tract neoplasia and lymphoma. In his research, he focuses on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment options for medical liver disease, liver transplantation, inflammatory bowel disease, liver/GI neoplasia, and extranodal lymphoma, and has published numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles related to liver and gastrointestinal pathology.

Dr. Gill received an M.D. and Ph.D. at the University of Kansas in Kansas City, KS. He then completed a combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency, followed by fellowships in hematopathology and liver and gastrointestinal pathology at UCSF. Dr. Gill is a member of the International Liver Pathology Study Group (ELVES) and the non-alcoholic steatohepatitis clinical research network (NASH-CRN) and received a Merit Award from the American Society for Investigative Pathology. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society, the Rodger C. Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society, the Pancreatobiliary Pathology Society, and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). For the USCAP, he not only has been an invited lecturer there, but has also served on the membership committee and on the Abstract Review Committee for the Annual Meeting. Dr. Gill Has also been asked to speak at numerous other venues in the United States, Australia, and in Europe.



**Chief of Pathology at Zuckerberg General Hospital (ZSGH formerly SFGH):**

Stephen L. Nishimura, MD, Professor of Pathology. Dr Nishimura received his medical training at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, residency in Anatomic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UCSF and pulmonary pathology training from William Travis at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He is a practicing general surgical pathologist with a subspecialty interest in pulmonary pathology. He is actively involved in resident and fellowship teaching, weekly pulmonary case conferences and in hospital-wide performance improvement programs. His post-doctoral work in molecular and cell biologist was performed at the Lung Biology Center at UCSF. His NIH funded current research interest is in cell-extracellular interactions in the evolution of chronic fibrosing and inflammatory conditions of the lung, and in the mechanisms of tumor immune evasion. He is a member of the Thoracic Oncology Research Group, the UCSF Liver Center and Helen Diller Cancer Center, Center for Advanced Innovation and Catalyst programs. He also regularly contributes to clinical care through his participation in pulmonary consultations and surgical pathology signout.

# USCAP ALUMNI RECEPTION

**Sunday, March, 17th, 2019**

**At**

**7 PM to 12 AM**

**Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center**

**201 Water Front Street, National Harbor, MD 20745**

**Room: Baltimore 1/2**

**All Are Welcome**

**USCAP Annual Meeting at New Harbor, MD**

**March 16 to March 21, 2019**

[UCSF USCAP Presentations and Schedule](#)

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Current Issues 2019 at Intercontinental Hotel**

**May 22 to May 25, 2019**

[Current Issues Registration](#)

Alums are cordially invited to attend the  
2019 Henry Moon Lectureship at 4 pm, Friday, May 24, 2019  
and

The Reception that follows at 5 pm.

**PC Mission Bay Move in 2019**

Most of Cytopathology faculty currently at Mt. Zion will be moving into  
this new building at Mission Bay

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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