



UAMS *path*

A Publication of the Department of Pathology
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

On July 1, the Department of Pathology welcomes a new generation of pathology trainees. The Department fared very well in this year's national computerized "match" program, filling all five of our first year residency positions from amongst our top candidates. Four of the top five candidates graduated from UAMS in May, and the fifth is a graduate from the University of Damascus who was ranked very highly by our faculty and residents.

Five members of the year's senior medical school class chose to go into pathology, perhaps in part due to the department's "Culture Club", a monthly luncheon seminar series given for the medical students, attempting to introduce them to the field of pathology outside of the discipline of pathophysiology. In past years, the efforts of this program have resulted in increased interest in pathology by medical students. However, this year, the Department was successful in enticing most of those interested to remain at UAMS for their residency training.

Residency training is one of the central missions of the College of Medicine Department of Pathology. It provides the community with the pathologists of the future.

Residents serve as colleagues and co-workers within the department and, if well chosen, their enthusiasm and intellectual creativity helps to foster research idea and manuscripts. Dr. Kim Hiatt, Associate Professor of Pathology, initiated the "Culture Club" several years ago based upon the idea that the recruitment and retention of residents should start early in the medical school years and persist throughout. Each year, various members of the faculty present informal seminars to small groups of medical students describing their own careers in pathology as information sessions designed to stimulate interest.

While it is always difficult to know why medical students select their career pathways, or why they rank one program over another, it seems likely that the "Culture Club" program is paying dividends for the Department of Pathology at UAMS. This should ensure a continued strong pipeline of newly trained residents for the state of Arkansas!

Incoming Residents

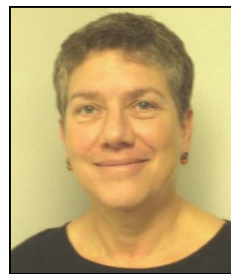
Alexis Bousamra (University of Damascus)
Richard Owings (UAMS)
Kristin Dishongh (UAMS)
Lindsey Clark (UAMS)
Josie Munkberg (UAMS)

While fellowship training programs

do not participate in an annual match, the Department is also excited to welcome a new slate of fellows as of July 1. Drs. Ahmad Brown (UAMS) and Ayman Matta (UAMS) will join the dermatopathology fellowship. The hematopathology fellow is Francis Ikpat (New Jersey), Muthu Veeraputhiran (Tulsa, OK), is the new Transfusion Medicine fellow and Matt Quick (UAMS) and Todd Spataro (University of Mississippi) are the new surgical pathology fellows.

Growth in the Banking Industry

Dr. Michele Fox, Head of Transfusion Medicine in the Department of Pathology, has been named as a permanent consultant to the Arkansas Umbilical Cord Blood Bank. Arkansas will be the first state in the country to have a system such as this. Dr.



Fox has been instrumental in developing the collection and utilization protocols, as well as being involved in the fund-raising necessary to get the program established. When the program is fully developed and the doors opened the blood bank will be located in Dr. Fox's lab, located on

In Memoriam



*Dr. Mae Nettleship (second from left)
1926-2009*

We are sad to announce the passing of Dr. Mae Nettleship in April of this year. Dr. Nettleship was a pathologist, a life-long supporter of the Department of Pathology, and the widow of Dr. Anderson Nettleship, a former chair of this department. She endowed the Chair in Oncologic Pathology currently held by Dr. Aubrey Hough. Her presence within the community will be missed and the UAMS Pathology Department sends its heartfelt sympathies to her family and friends.

the UAMS campus. Families of afflicted patients will donate samples that will be stored and processed within the blood bank. Potential uses include treatment of patients with hematologic diseases such as leukemia and aplastic anemia. There is also a hope that cord blood could be useful in the treatment of Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries.

The concept of an Arkansas Umbilical Cord Blood Bank has been a passion of Dr. Fox's for many years and it is exciting to see the project garnering publicity and becoming a reality. The Department of Pathology is proud of Dr. Fox and the role she is playing in helping healthcare all over the state.

Continued Excellence in Medical Student Education

The Department of Pathology is proud to announce that five members of its faculty were awarded Red Sashes by the graduating class of 2009! The award is given to deserving members of the UAMS faculty to recognize them for their commitment to and special involvement with the medical students.

The Department usually has two or three faculty members who receive this recognition but this was a special year with our Department receiving 5 such awards. Several of these faculty have received this award in the past, evidence of long-standing commitment to our medical students, but it is exciting that several of these have won for the first time.

Attention to this aspect of the Department's mission is growing! It is this commitment to medical student teaching and mentoring that likely played a role in this year's superlative match results. The following faculty will adorn their 2009 graduation attire with a red sash...

Murat Gokden, MD
Neriman Gokden, MD
Kim Hiatt, MD
Laura Lamps, MD
Bruce Smoller, MD

Where Are They Now?

Rebecca Wheeler (Becky) completed her residency and cytopathology fellowship at

UAMS in 1995. She then joined Dr. James Clark in private practice at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, Arkansas as a partner working 4 days a week, commuting from Little Rock. Her current work load consists of both surgical pathology specimens and non-gynecology cytology specimens.

Her husband, Gary, is an Infectious Disease specialist in the department of pediatrics at UAMS.

Her oldest daughter, Abbie, is completing her first of two years in the Teach for America program in Washington DC, after graduating from Georgetown University last year. Her younger daughter, Emily, will graduate this May from Central High School in Little Rock and will attend Rice University in the fall, following in Becky's footsteps.



Becky has many hobbies which keep her very busy. She enjoys bird watching, flat-water kayaking, knitting (gratis of Laura Lamps), hiking, and reading. Her love of

the avian species has taken her to many places in Latin America including Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Belize, and Costa Rica. They have also traveled to Alaska and Spain for fun. Send her an email at bwheeler9@hotmail.com if you would like to catch up.

Eye on Research

Dr. Kathleen Eisenach was recently awarded a R21 grant from the NIH to study “Virulence

Factors of Clinical *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* strains with enhanced growth in macrophages.”

This prestigious award is for approximately \$250,000 spread over two years and is the latest such award that Kathy has won over her career as a serious mycobacterial investigator. Kathy has been with the Department for over 20 years and has garnered an international Reputation for her work regarding the immunologic responses to *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*. She has collaborators throughout the United States and around the world, and regularly travels to Asia and Africa to work on her projects in developing countries!

One exciting aspect of this particular study is that Dr. Eisenach will be working within the State Health Department, using their BSL-3 facilities (infection control designation) to perform her culture studies. This joint collaboration further enhances the relationship between the Department of Pathology and the state laboratory facilities.



The Department has been working hard with Dr. Glen Baker serving as a liaison to enhance this relationship in order to improve the training experiences for our residents, especially with regards to microbiology training. The research collaboration as spear headed by Dr. Eisenach and her efforts is yet another way in which the Department is attempting to interconnect the various missions of an academic department!

The Once and Future King (of Teaching)

The Department of Pathology is excited to announce its inauguration of the annual Robin Jones Award to be given to the resident who is selected by the sophomore medical student class as the best teacher amongst the residents in any academic year. As many of you know,

Dr. Jones was a Professor in the Department of Pathology for his entire career, serving as the director of the sophomore pathophysiology course for nearly three decades. Dr. Jones won the Golden Apple award numerable times and was considered one of the pillars of excellence in education at UAMS during his tenure here. Dr. Jones retired several years ago.



The first recipient of the Robin Jones Teaching Award is **Dr. Ahmad Brown**. Dr. Brown is a 4th year resident at UAMS. He transferred to our program from the University of Maryland prior to his third year and has been a superstar educator since his arrival. Dr. Brown will begin his dermatopathology fellowship at UAMS in July.

UAMSPATH is published by the Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 W. Markham Street #517
Little Rock, AR 72205

Central Phone
Linda DePriest
Phone: (501) 86-5170
Fax: (501) 296-1184

Department Chair
Bruce R. Smoller
smollerbrucer@uams.edu

Vice Chair, Finance and Administration
Kelley Suskie

Vice Chair, Diagnostic Laboratories **Laura Lamps**

Director, Educational Activities
Marwan Yared

Vice Chair and Chief, Veterans Administration Hospital
Gail Woods

Chief, Arkansas Children's Hospital **Douglas Blackall**

Director, Experimental Pathology
Steven Post

Clinical Lab Administrative Directors
Sue Scott and J. Frank Betzner

Communications
Sara Thompson, M.Ed.
(501) 686-5115

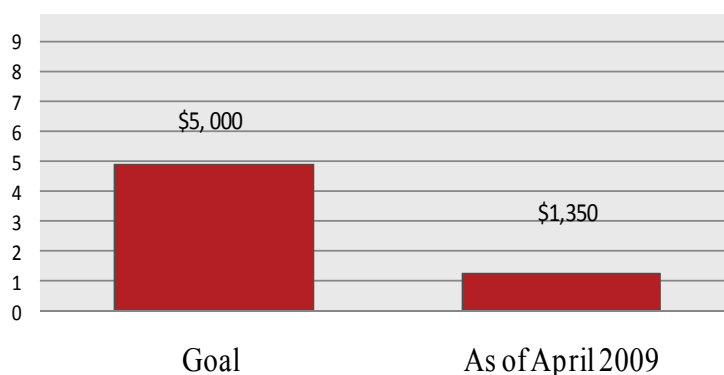
Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to use a small bit of newsletter space to express my sincere gratitude to those members of our community who responded by contributing to the request to help support our residency educational mission. While we have not yet met our goal, I am personally gratified by the responses that have been received thus far and am encouraged that there is interest in this departmental mission that extends beyond our current faculty. Thank you to all for your support of our training programs! I look forward to hearing from more of you in the upcoming months!

Sincerely,

Bruce Smoller
Aubrey J. Hough Endowed Chair in Pathology

Residency Education Gifts



[Want more information about donating?](#)

www.uams.edu/giving/givenow/default.asp

Please designate
“Pathology Foundation– Resident Education”



GOING GREEN- Would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter? If so, email SLThompson@uams.edu with your preferred contact information.

4301 W. Markham St. #517
Little Rock, AR 72205

UAMS



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES