The new state-of-the-art Histology Laboratory of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, which opened on September 10, is housed on the second floor of Walter Tower (adjacent to the atrium). The new, spacious laboratory occupies nearly 14,000 square feet, including an office area of about 2,400 square feet; it is about 4 times larger than the previous one. The laboratory has experienced tremendous growth in the number of tests it performs over the years, and the new spacious laboratory was necessary to accommodate current volumes and future growth. The laboratory staff process tissues from approximately 250 cases and between 1,100-1,500 blocks on a daily basis (24/7), totaling over half a million blocks annually. Besides providing services to the flagship and the 7 outlying hospitals in the HM System, the laboratory performs testing and provides consultation services to other clinics and hospitals throughout the US. A wide range of specimens is processed in the laboratory, including biopsies and surgical resections, ocular biopsies, tissues obtained at autopsy, and others. The laboratory delivers the highest quality results, at a fast pace, owing to the extensive expertise of the pathologists in all subspecialties, the skilled staff, and the state-of-the-art equipment and techniques. Emphasis is put on the quality of results emerging from the laboratory because they are pivotal for the lives of the patients. According to the American Clinical Laboratory Association, the results of the pathology laboratory guide over 70% of the physician’s decisions regarding disease diagnosis and management.

The new laboratory comfortably accommodates over 60 staff members, including 11 with extensive expertise in specialized techniques. It features an expansive menu of tests ranging from routine Haematoxylin & Eosin (H&E) staining to more specialized tests, such as Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH), immunohistochemical assays involving monoclonal antibodies, and others. The extensive laboratory test menu includes 30 special stains and over 200 immunohistochemical assays. The laboratory is fully equipped with the following instruments:

- 4 HistoCore PELORIS 3 Premium Tissue Processing Systems (Leica)
- 5 Tissue-Tek TEC 5 Embedding Systems (Sakura)
- 20 RM2235 Manual Rotary Microtomes (Leica)
- 4 Tissue-Tek Film Automated Platforms for H&E staining (Sakura)
- 4 Tissue-Tek PRISMA Autostainers (Sakura)
- 6 BOND-III Fully Automated Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and In Situ Hybridization (ISH) Stainers (Leica)
- 4 VENTANA BenchMark Ultra Slide Staining Systems (Roche Diagnostics)
- 4 VENTANA DISCOVERY ULTRA Systems for Accelerated IHC and ISH Independent Staining (Roche Diagnostics)
- 4 Dako Artisan Link Pro Special Staining Systems (Agilent Technologies)
- 2 Tissue-Tek Xpress x120 Rapid Tissue Processors (Sakura)
- 2 PATHOS DELTA for Hybrid Tissue Processing (Milestone)
- 2 LOGOS All-in-One Rapid Tissue Processors (Milestone)

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**FEATURED NEWS**

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Department Inaugurates New State-of-the-Art Histology Laboratory in Walter Tower (continued)

On September 17, a survey team from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) arrived for their unannounced biennial inspection of the HMH laboratories, including the new Histology Laboratory. After a very thorough evaluation, the team announced full accreditation; this strongly corroborates the exemplary quality of services and patient care that the laboratory has been continuously providing and its strong commitment to excellence. Furthermore, the laboratory has been repeatedly granted “commended status” for its outstanding cancer patient pathology reports during the surveys of the American College of Surgeons—Commission on Cancer; the last one took place in September. The aforementioned commendable results further underscore the exceptional quality of services that the laboratory provides.

New Houston Methodist Walter Tower Has Opened

Houston Methodist Hospital officially opened its new 22-story state-of-the-art Paula and Joseph C. “Rusty” Walter III Tower, and welcomed its first patients on August 27, 2018. The innovative tower is one of the most sophisticated healthcare facilities in the US and is expected to transform clinical care. The Walter Tower occupies nearly one million square feet and features the latest advances in cardiovascular surgery and neurosurgery. It is equipped with 18 state-of-the-art operating rooms, 14 heart interventional catheterization labs, 138 intensive care units, and 228 acute care beds. Among other innovative equipment, the new tower houses an intraoperative MRI—the first for HMH—enabling the surgeons to image patients during surgery. It includes 4 hybrid surgical suites equipped with image-guided, robotic-assisted technology for minimally invasive brain and heart procedures. Furthermore, the building features the latest generation of the Gamma Knife, delivering high doses of radiation with pinpoint accuracy to the brain.
The Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine hosted the Third Cancer Biomarkers Conference (CBCIII) at the Houston Methodist Research Institute, September 15-16, 2018.

The biennial event was an overwhelming success and by far surpassed attendance expectations. Not only did it reach full capacity but registration had to re-open for additional attendees. The conference featured 35 presentations and four discussion panels from leaders in this burgeoning field, representing top medical institutions throughout the US.

Approximately 200 faculty members, trainees, and other health professionals from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), other national and international organizations, and pharmaceutical companies attended the conference. Speakers and attendees hailed from 24 states in the US and Puerto Rico, and from Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Guatemala.

Dr. Philip Cagle, the S. Donald Greenberg Chair in Pathology and Medical Director of Pulmonary Pathology, was the Organizer and Program Director. Dr. Cagle delivered the opening remarks and overview of the exciting agenda. Dr. Randall Olsen was one of the Local Program Directors, and Dr. Mary Schwartz led the Executive Board. Drs. David Bernard, Dina Mody, Jessica Thomas, and Luan Truong were among the Executive Board Members.

Dr. Patricia Chévez-Barrios and Dr. Mary Schwartz delivered 30-min presentations. Drs. Roberto Barrios, David Bernard, Dina Mody, Randall Olsen, Jae Ro, Jessica Thomas, Luan Truong, and Haijun (Steve) Zhou served as panel moderators.

Since the previous CBCII, new biomarkers to select cancer patients for novel molecular targeted therapies and immunotherapies have been emerging at a brisk pace.

During the conference, speakers presented the latest advances in the field of biomarkers for multiple types of cancer. Topics addressed included the choice of biomarker tests for a given patient, proper selection of tissue samples for a given biomarker test, ways that biomarker tests should be performed, interpreted, reported, and utilized, and the clinical rationale for patient selection and treatment based on biomarker testing.

Speakers provided updates on biomarker testing for an array of cancers, including lung, breast, endometrial, gastrointestinal, colon, head and neck, melanoma, hematologic malignancies, and others. New technologies, such as liquid-biopsy and the latest updates on PD-L1 testing in melanoma, breast, lung, and urologic cancers were presented.

The event was preceded by the CBCIII Bootcamp, a half-day session wherein expert pathologists addressed the challenges of biomarker testing in different practice settings, followed by perspectives from industry and a patient advocate. Dr. Mary Schwartz was the HMH host of the CBCIII Bootcamp, sponsored by CAP TODAY.

The CBCIII enjoyed an extremely high presence on social media. During the actual event, it garnered over 6.1 million views on Twitter (about 2 million more than CBCII), reflecting its global success worldwide.

The Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Mississippi co-sponsored the CBCIII alongside the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine.

Faculty Presentations at the CBCIII and Bootcamp CBCIII

Patricia Chévez-Barrios, MD, “Update on Melanoma Biomarker Testing.”
Mary Schwartz, MD, “Update on HPV Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Molecular Testing.”
Mary Schwartz, MD, “Bootcamp at CBCIII: Whys and Hows of Biomarker Testing; Perspectives from Houston Methodist Hospital.”
Jessica Thomas, MD, PhD, MPH, “Clinical Testing of Molecular Biomarkers: Challenges and Considerations.”
Congratulations to Dr. Cagle and to All Who Contributed to the Great Success of CBCIII!
Dr. James Musser Assumes Leadership of FASEB for 2018-19

Dr. James M. Musser, Chair of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine and Fondren Distinguished Presidential Chair at Houston Methodist, took office as President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), on July 1, 2018.

FASEB is considered the international key policy voice for biomedical and biological research communities worldwide (www.faseb.org). The organization aims at raising awareness of the vital importance of scientific research, influencing federal science policy, and increasing federal funding for research. An essential component of FASEB’s advocacy is direct communication with Congress members and leadership of funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

FASEB was founded in 1912 and developed into the nation’s largest coalition of biomedical researchers, representing 30 diverse scientific societies and over 130,000 investigators worldwide. In September, Dr. Musser spoke at the Houston Methodist Research Institute about how FASEB serves its members and the critical impact of the federation in securing sustained research funding.

Dr. Musser noted the recent advocacy successes resulting in $3 and $2 billion increases in NIH funding for 2018 and 2019, respectively. He also noted that the future goals of FASEB include enhancing the organization’s social media presence and promoting scientific, age, gender, and ethnic diversity in research. Dr. Musser’s full interview with FASEB was posted by The Washington Update newsletter.

“We have developed a very forward-thinking strategic plan and identified several key objectives in areas such as public affairs, research, and education. We will advocate tirelessly for our members based on our long-held mission and principles.”

- Dr. James M. Musser, Fondren Distinguished Presidential Chair

Congratulations, Dr. Musser!

Dr. Jae Ro Received the 2018 CAP Resident Advocate Award

Dr. Jae Ro, Medical Director of Surgical Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, received the 2018 College of American Pathologists’ (CAP) Resident Advocate Award in recognition of his outstanding support, training, and mentorship of pathology residents and fellows throughout his career. The award, which was established in 1990, was presented to Dr. Ro during CAP18, in Chicago, IL, on October 21, 2018.

The most recent awards that Dr. Ro has received include the Outstanding Faculty Award (2016) and the Academic Excellence Award (2016 and 2017) from the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, the Faculty Teaching Award from HMH (2017), and the Pulmonary Pathology Society Mentor Award (2017).

Congratulations, Dr. Ro!
Dr. Suzanne Powell Receives Three Prestigious Awards

2018 ASCP Philip Levine Award for Outstanding Research

Dr. Suzanne Powell is the recipient of the 2018 ASCP Philip Levine Award for Outstanding Research. The Board of Directors of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) awarded Dr. Powell this prestigious honor. It was presented to her during the ASCP Annual Meeting, in Baltimore, Maryland, in October.

The ASCP Philip Levine award recognizes dedicated ASCP members with significant contributions to molecular pathology, immunohematology, and immunopathology. The award was established in 1969 to honor the late Philip Levine, MD, for his many significant contributions to pathology and medicine, including his discovery of the Rh factor as a major cause of hemolytic disease in newborns.

Margaret Grimes Distinguished Teaching Award in GME

Dr. Suzanne Powell received the Margaret Grimes Distinguished Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education (GME) for her diverse contributions to graduate medical education at local, regional, and national levels. The Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) presented the award to Dr. Powell during the 51st annual APC meeting, in San Diego, CA, in July. APC represents pathology leadership and supports advocacy of academic institutions in medical education, research, and practice.

Inaugural Sherilyn A. Gordon Memorial Award from HMH

Dr. Suzanne Powell received the inaugural Sherilyn A. Gordon Memorial Award for her distinguished leadership and professionalism in medical education. The award was announced during the 2018 residency and fellowship graduation ceremony that took place on June 15. This award, in honor of the late Sherilyn Gordon, will be annually bestowed on an outstanding Houston Methodist Program Director who epitomizes Dr. Gordon's distinguished leadership and professionalism in medical education. The late Sherilyn Gordon, MD, was a skilled and compassionate transplant surgeon at HMH. She transformed the HMH residency program in general surgery, and was known for her strong commitment to mentorship and professionalism.

Congratulations, Dr. Powell!
Two years after celebrating its 90th anniversary, The Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (Archives) achieved the highest impact factor (IF) in its history (3.66 in 2017). This historic pinnacle was reached under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Cagle and the current editorial board's tenure. The journal's IF has surged by nearly 250% (please see graph) since Dr. Cagle became Editor-in-Chief of the Archives in 2005. The journal's IF has been on an upward trajectory for several years under Dr. Cagle's pivotal guidance, innovative vision, and landmark contributions. In 2016, the IF essentially doubled since the beginning of the current editorial board's tenure (IF 2.92 for 2016 vs. 1.55 in 2005). The IF for Archives presently ranks higher than the vast majority (over 80%) of all pathology journals. For the first time, the 2017 IF of the Archives exceeded that of the Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology, and comes within 11% of the IF of the American Journal of Pathology.

The dramatic increase in the IF of the Archives is attributed to Dr. Cagle's relentless efforts and innovative initiatives, including creation of leading-edge masthead sections and placing over 30 members of the millennial generation on the journal's masthead. Importantly, the most critical factors underlying the remarkable increase of the journal's IF have been Dr. Cagle's high quality standards and judicious choices of accepted and invited articles.

The Archives is the most widely distributed and read pathology journal worldwide, and the journal's readership has increased to over 70% among pathologists. These findings were determined in independent surveys, conducted by the Kantar Media Readership Survey of Pathologist Publications in 2011, 2013, and 2015. In 2009, the Division of Biomedical and Life Sciences of the Special Libraries Association voted the Archives as the most influential pathology journal of the past 100 years.

The volume on Pulmonary Pathology (Neoplastic and Non-Neoplastic), in the Encyclopedia of Pathology, edited by Drs. Philip Cagle and Keith Kerr, reached a new milestone. The electronic version of the book, published by Springer in September 2017, has outperformed the discipline average in Medicine and Public Health. The performance metrics of Springer publications are reported by Bookmetrix. As of mid October 2018, the number of downloads of the electronic book have exceeded 31,100, a fact strongly evidencing the book's appeal to a broader audience beyond pathologists.

Nearly 30 current and former members of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine contributed 28 chapters to the volume. Contributing authors include Drs. Roberto Barrios, Philip Cagle, Suzanne Crumley, Mukul Divatia, Rachel Donohue, Yimin Ge, Blythe Gorman, Susan Haley, Abida Haque, Aaron Harvey, Nathan Lee, Elizabeth McQuitty, Ross Miller, Tara Miller, Jackie O'Hare, Jo Elle Peterson, Gabriela Quiroga-Garza, Kirtee Raparia, Hidehiro Takei, Michael Thrall, Dan Wimmer, and Jana Wimmer. The volume covers the entire field of pulmonary pathology, and provides comprehensive information of each pathological disease pattern.

Congratulations, Dr. Cagle and Contributing Faculty!
In July 2018, the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine installed the BD Kiestra Total Lab Automation (TLA) analyzer in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. This state-of-the-art platform automates a major part of the microbiological culture process, and constitutes a major addition to the infrastructure of the clinical microbiology laboratory. The new analyzer will improve the quality of the microbiology test results, enhance technologist efficiency and proficiency, and increase laboratory productivity. Importantly, traceability of the specimen during the entire culture process and reduction in test turnaround time will have an important impact on patient safety and care management. The decreased time between specimen submission and pathogen identification leads to faster access to antimicrobial susceptibility test results and appropriate therapy. Thus, the new analyzer will enhance patient care since faster species identification and susceptibility testing has a direct impact on the length-of-stay, morbidity and mortality rates, and healthcare costs.

The BD Kiestra TLA system assists and automates the microbiology testing workflow from inoculation through reading, pathogen identification, and susceptibility testing. The platform comprises several distinct modules, including the SorterA, BarcodA (sample barcoding), InoquIA (specimen processing and inoculation), ReadA Compact (incubation and reading), and ErgonomicA (workbenches). A two-way conveyor system links together the previous modules.

The InoquIA module automates processing of the specimen. This includes streaking the media plates using a magnetic rolling bead, which improves plating consistency and formation of more single colonies for downstream analysis. The plates are cultured in a ReadA Compact incubator under normal or carbon dioxide atmosphere, and digital imaging takes place inside the incubator, enhancing culture growth. Each incubator is equipped with a robotic arm and a digital imaging system, including a high-resolution industrial camera and three LED light sources. The clinicians and the technologists review the acquired digital images on high-resolution monitors.

The Clinical Microbiology Laboratory provides its services to the flagship hospital in the Texas Medical Center and the seven outlying hospitals in the Houston Methodist System. It currently performs more than 50,000 tests per month and uses many state-of-the-art technologies. The laboratory is staffed with many skilled medical technologists, and operates 24/7. Validation of the new Kiestra analyzer and end-user training are presently in progress. Clinical service for urine specimens will be available in November 2018, and additional specimen types will be validated in 2019. For more information on the BD Kiestra TLA analyzer, please contact Dr. James R. Davis, Medical Director, Dr. Randall Olsen, Associate Medical Director, Dr. S. Wesley Long, Associate Medical Director, or Patricia Cernoch, Manager of the Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratory.
Dr. Adriana Rosato Demonstrates Telavancin Potency against Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Cystic Fibrosis Patients

Adriana Rosato, PhD, Associate Member of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, published a study on the significantly improved activity of telavancin, as compared to standard treatment, against Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) strains isolated from cystic fibrosis patients. Dr. Rosato and her team demonstrated that telavancin, an antibiotic used to treat skin infections and pneumonia, showed rapid bactericidal activity, and performed better than ceftaroline and vancomycin in vitro at lower concentration against S. aureus strains resistant to ceftaroline. The full study was published in the August issue of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemoth-erapy, and it was featured in Contagion, a news venue on infectious disease and treatment advancements. A clinical trial is currently underway to assess the pharmacokinetics of telavancin in cystic fibrosis patients, and further in vivo studies are planned for the future.

Congratulations, Dr. Rosato!
Drs. Tara Miller and Jessica Thomas Named to the 2018 American Society of Clinical Pathology’s 40 Under Forty

Tara Miller, MD, and Jessica Thomas, MD, PhD, MPH, were recognized among the 2018 American Society of Clinical Pathology’s (ASCP’s) 40 Under Forty honorees. The Selection Committee of the ASCP annually recognizes 40 pathology leaders in the US who are under 40 years old, and whose leadership and accomplishments have an impact on the field of pathology and laboratory medicine.

Dr. Jessica Thomas
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Genomic Medicine, Associate Medical Director of the Molecular Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory, Director of the Molecular Pathology Fellowship Program

Dr. Tara Miller
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Genomic Medicine, Director of Emergency Care Laboratory Services, Director of Preanalytic Optimization

Dr. Jessica Thomas Appointed Director of the Molecular Pathology Fellowship Program

Dr. Jessica Thomas, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Associate Medical Director of the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, was appointed Director of the Molecular Pathology Fellowship Program in January 2018. Dr. Thomas joined the department as Associate Medical Director of the Molecular Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory in 2016. She received her BS degree in the biological sciences in 2000, and a Masters in Public Health in 2001, from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. She then pursued medical and graduate studies, and received her MD and PhD degrees from Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA, in 2009 and 2011, respectively. She completed a combined clinical and anatomic pathology residency (2011-2015), and a clinical fellowship in molecular genetic pathology (2015-2016) in the department of pathology, microbiology, and immunology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN. Her research interests are focused on molecular diagnostics, including molecular oncology and molecular infectious disease, assay development and validation in the clinical laboratory, and trainee education in molecular pathology. Dr. Thomas has authored 5 peer-reviewed articles and 1 book chapter, and has delivered several invited talks and presentations at national and international conferences. She is actively involved in several professional societies.

Dr. Jessica Thomas

Congratulations, Drs. Miller and Thomas!

Congratulations, Dr. Thomas!

Congratulations, Dr. Thomas!
Dr. Claudia Molina assumed her new position as laboratory medical director at the Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital (previously named HM San Jacinto) in June 2018. Her colleague, Dr. Joyce Maldonado, has stepped down from this important role to staff pathologist after ten years of dedicated service that earned her wide respect among fellow colleagues and medical and laboratory staff. The beginning of Dr. Molina’s leadership position comes at a time when the laboratory has been experiencing an increase in the volume of clinical tests and surgical specimens. This rise in service requests that the laboratory is undergoing is in line with the overall growth of the HM Baytown Hospital. Dr. Molina joined Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital as a staff pathologist in 2007 after completing fellowships in surgical pathology at Houston Methodist Hospital and medical microbiology and infectious disease pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX. She received her MD degree with honors from the Francisco Marroquin University, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Dr. Molina has authored 20 peer-reviewed articles, 2 book chapters, and 13 abstracts. She has delivered presentations at many national conferences, and is an active member of several professional societies.

Dr. Haijun (Steve) Zhou joined Houston Methodist as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Houston Methodist on September 1, 2018. Previously, he was Assistant Professor of Pathology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL. Dr. Zhou completed his fellowship in cytopathology (2015-2016) in the Department of Pathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson (MD Anderson) Cancer Center and his residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology (2011-2015) in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at HMH. Previously, he held research associate and instructor positions at the Houston Methodist Research Institute, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Baylor College of Medicine; he also was a visiting scholar and research associate at the Institute of Molecular Biology at Hong Kong University. Dr. Zhou pursued a joint MD/PhD program at Tongji Medical University and Peking Union Medical College, China, and received his MD (Clinical Medicine) and PhD (Biochemistry/Molecular Biology) degrees in 2002. Dr. Zhou was the recipient of the resident/fellow leadership/innovation award in 2012, and was awarded 3 research microgrants from our department (2012-2014). He also received 3 excellence or top place awards for his abstracts at national and international conferences (2012, 2013) from the Chinese American Pathologist Association and the International Society of Urological Pathology (ISUP). He has delivered 5 platform presentations and 2 invited tutorials at national and international conferences. He also won 2 second place awards at the annual meetings of the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP). Dr. Zhou has authored 32 peer-reviewed articles and 2 book chapters. He also serves as an invited reviewer for 3 pathology journals and is a member of several professional societies. His clinical interests are focused on cytopathology, surgical pathology, and fine needle aspiration. His research interests are focused on cancer biomarkers and innovations in pathology diagnostics.
Dr. Dina Mody National and International Educator and Speaker

Dr. Dina Mody, the Ibrahim Ramzy Chair in Pathology and Medical Director of Cytopathology, was among the world’s leading experts delivering courses and tutorials at the 2018 International Academy of Cytology (IAC) Tutorial, in Bangkok, Thailand, September 19-21, 2018. Dr. Mody delivered presentations on urinary and gynecologic cytology topics, and HPV testing. She also delivered a videomicroscopy tutorial on glandulars in cervicovaginal cytology and a session on unknown cases.

Furthermore, Dr. Mody has been invited to deliver tutorials on gynecologic, bone and soft tissue cytology and HPV testing at the 2019 IAC Tutorial, Rome, Italy, February 7-9, 2019. She will deliver presentations at the 20th International Congress of Cytology, Sydney, Australia, May 5-9, 2019. The IAC tutorials comprise lectures, discussions, and videos, delivered by international experts on a range of topics in clinical cytology.

At a national level, Dr. Mody will lead workshops and deliver presentations at the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), which will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, November 10-13, 2018.

Congratulations, Dr. Mody!
The 13th class of residents and fellows in the GME programs at HMH graduated on June 15, 2018. More than 100 of 300 medical trainees graduated from 38 of the 52 education programs offered at Houston Methodist. This year, fifteen fellows and four residents graduated from the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine. The pathology graduate fellows, including the ones who are pursuing a second fellowship, were the following: Drs. Reem Alrabeh, Maria Miguelina de la Garza Bravo, Betty Chung, Nicola Dundas, Elizabeth Jacobi, Christina Otterness, Angelina Padilla, Thuy Phung, Liliana Rincon, Siavash Samimi, Josh Showalter, Sadia Sultana, Ashwyna Sunasssee, Irene Thung, and Anneliese Velez-Perez. The four residents who graduated were Drs. Paul Christensen, Heidi Holtorf, Megan Ketcham, and Amanda Moyer.

**2018 Pathology Graduates**

Dr. Paul Christensen completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Houston Methodist Hospital in June 2018. He received his MD degree from McGovern Medical School in 2014. Dr. Christensen has 4 peer-reviewed publications in the field of clinical informatics.

**Photos from the 2018 Graduation Ceremony**

**Congratulations to All the Graduates!**

**Dr. Paul Christensen Appointed the First Fondren Fellow in Clinical Informatics**

Dr. Paul Christensen is the first Clinical Informatics Fellow in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine. He is the inaugural recipient of the Fondren Foundation Fellowship in Clinical Informatics. Dr. Christensen completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Houston Methodist Hospital in June 2018. He received his MD degree from McGovern Medical School in 2014. Dr. Christensen has 4 peer-reviewed publications in the field of clinical informatics.

**Congratulations, Dr. Christensen!**
Mr. Paul Bernard Received 2018 ASIP Sobel Scholar Trainee Travel and PISA Golden Poster Presentation Awards

Mr. Paul Bernard, an MD/PhD student at Texas A&M University Health Science Center, working in the laboratory of Dr. Randall J. Olsen, received an American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) 2018 Sobel Scholar Trainee Travel Award to attend the Pathobiology for Investigators, Students and Academicians (PISA) meeting, held at the University of Michigan, October 20-22. He also was honored with the coveted PISA Golden Poster Presentation Award at the meeting.

Congratulations, Mr. Bernard!

Department Welcomes 2018-2019 Chief Residents

Daniel Duhon, MD
Louisiana State University
Shreveport, LA

Jessica Tomsula, MD
Creighton University
Omaha, NE

Department Welcomes 2018-2019 Incoming Residents

Donghwa Baek, MD
Inje University, College of Medicine
The Republic of Korea

Lukas Cara, MD
University of Oklahoma
College of Medicine
Oklahoma, OK

Jim Hsu, MD, PhD
University of Texas Medical Branch; Galveston, TX
### Department Welcomes 2018-2019 Incoming Residents (cont)

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<td>Surgical Pathology</td>
<td>Aga Khan University Medical College</td>
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<td>Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine</td>
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### Department Welcomes 2018-2019 Fellows

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<td>Methodist Hospital</td>
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<td>George Washington University Hospital</td>
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<td>University of Nebraska Medical Center</td>
<td>University of Nebraska Medical Center</td>
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<td>Molecular Genetic Pathology</td>
<td>University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - School of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>Houston Methodist Hospital</td>
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<th>Institution 2</th>
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<td>Methodist Hospital</td>
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<td>Faaria Gowani, DO</td>
<td>Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine</td>
<td>University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center</td>
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<td>HLA</td>
<td>Creighton University Medical Center</td>
<td>Methodist Hospital</td>
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<td>Cytopathology</td>
<td>University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine</td>
<td>Bioengineering, Rice University Methodist Hospital</td>
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**Houston Methodist**

**Leading Medicine**

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Department Welcomes 2018-2019 Fellows (cont)

Rongrong Huang, PhD  
Clinical Chemistry  
PhD: Analytical Chemistry  
University of Georgia  
BS: Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China

Long Li, MD, PhD  
Breast Gynecologic Pathology  
MD: Peking University Health Science Center, China  
PhD: Neuroscience, Louisiana State University Health Science Center  
Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Shujuan Liu, MD  
Selective Hematopathology  
MD: Norman Bethune University of Medical Science, China  
Residency: East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine

Claudia Prospero Ponce, MD  
Ophthalmic Pathology  
MD: The Tec de Monterrey, Ignacio A. Santos School of Medicine, Mexico  
Residency: Ophthalmology, University of Arizona, School of Medicine  
Fellowship (Neuroplastics): Houston Methodist Hospital

Aseeb Rehman, MD  
Surgical Pathology  
MD: Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, India  
Residency: Albany Medical Center

Siavash Azadmanesh Samimi, MD  
Surgical Pathology  
MD: University of California, Davis  
Residency: Houston Methodist Hospital  
Fellowship (Cytopathology): Houston Methodist Hospital

Josh Showalter, MD  
Hematopathology  
MD: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans  
Residency: McGovern Medical School

Sadia Sultana, MD  
Hematopathology  
MD: Comilla Medical College, Bangladesh  
Residency: McGovern Medical School

Ashwyna Sunassee, MD  
Surgical Pathology  
MD: Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Medical College, Mauritius;  
Residency: University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

Lily Tran, MD  
Surgical Pathology  
MD: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – Paul L. Foster School of Medicine  
Residency: University of Chicago

Darshan Trivedi, MD, PhD  
Neuropathology  
MD and PhD: Boston University School of Medicine  
Residency: Tulane University School of Medicine
Schedule for 2018-2019 Grand Rounds

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<td>Ekene Okoye, MD</td>
<td>Hamlin Wang, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>Mayo Clinic</td>
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<td><strong>Immunotherapy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gastrointestinal</strong></td>
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<td>Jessica Thomas, MD, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>Genevieve Crane, MD, PhD</td>
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<td><strong>Molecular Pathology</strong></td>
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<td>Chair’s Lecture</td>
<td>Alex Lazar, MD, PhD</td>
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

The 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, November 10-13, 2018. For more information on the meeting, please visit ASC.

The 2nd Annual Cytopathology and Small Biopsy Updates and Review will be held at the Houston Methodist Research Institute on March 1-3, 2019. **Drs. Dina Mody and Mary Schwartz** are the program Co-Directors. The new reporting system to assess malignancy risk in patients, regarding thyroid, salivary gland and urinary tract cytology, and small biopsies, and the risk associated with each reporting category or ancillary test will be presented. For registration and more details on the symposium, please visit here.

The 2019 USCAP Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, March 16-21, 2019.

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) will take place at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, May 30-June 1, 2019.

The 11th Biennial International Meeting of the Pulmonary Pathology Society (PPS) will take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 26-28, 2019.


RECENT PUBLICATIONS


