National Accolades

Ginger Jozwiak Recognized by Association of Pathology Chairs for Exemplary Service

Leah (Ginger) Jozwiak, Operations/Academic Manager in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, has been selected by the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) to receive the 2022 Graduate Medical Education Administrators' Section (GMEAS) Distinguished Service Award.

The GMEAS Distinguished Service Award is presented annually in recognition of exemplary engagement and commitment to the field of graduate medical education through leadership and advocacy at both an institutional and national level.

The GMEAS Distinguished Service Award will be bestowed on July 19 at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the APC in Chicago, Illinois.

Congratulations, Ms. Jozwiak, and thank you for all you do to make our residency programs exceptional!
Houston Methodist Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine Sequences 100,000th SARS-CoV-2 Genome

In late March 2022, the Houston Methodist Research Institute (HMRI) COVID-19 genomics team sequenced its 100,000th SARS-CoV-2 genome.

SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing has been performed by the HMRI COVID-19 genomics team since the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning shortly after the first SARS-CoV-2-positive patient was admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital in March 2020.

Made possible through the extraordinary efforts of the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequencing team and facilitated by the acquisition of the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 instrument in early 2021, our HMRI team has sequenced 101,396 SARS-CoV-2
genomes to date. This genomic sequencing is inclusive of all positive SARS-CoV-2 tests within the Houston Methodist system. These accomplishments have been made possible through a close working relationship between technologists in the sequencing laboratory and the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.

This milestone in sequencing is emblematic of the incredible response of our Department across the entire Houston Methodist system throughout the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The dedication of our laboratory teams, faculty, and support staff have allowed us to contribute to the mission of Houston Methodist to truly lead medicine, even in the most challenging of times.

(For a look back at our Department’s pandemic response, including early testing advances and equipment acquisitions, click here.)

Faculty News

Dr. David Bernard Named James R. Davis Chair

David W. Bernard, MD, PhD, has been named the James R. Davis Chair in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine.

This new named chair was created by the Department to foster continued excellence in academic activity in clinical pathology. Presented with the opportunity to name this new chair, Dr. Bernard selected recently retired Department member James R. Davis, PhD, as its namesake. A "great man and leader" who is both a "fantastic microbiologist and good person," Dr. Davis was a natural choice to be the namesake for this new named chair.

Dr. Bernard has been a member of our Department since 1999 and states that it is a "great compliment and an honor" to be the holder of the James R. Davis chair and that it is his hope that he will be able to participate in an increasing amount of academic activities in the years to come.
Congratulations, Dr. Bernard!

Dr. Roger Bertholf Honored by American Association of Clinical Chemists

Roger L. Bertholf, PhD, has been selected by the Academy of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) to receive the Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy.

Established in honor of the late AACC Academy member and President, Professor Alvin Dubin, the award recognizes a current or past member of the Academy who has made noteworthy advances to enhance the mission of the AACC Academy.

Dr. Bertholf joined our Department in 2017 and is deeply invested in the mission of the AACC and its commitment to educational efforts in clinical chemistry. Dr. Bernard will be presented with this most recent award at the Annual Meeting of the AACC in Chicago, Illinois, on July 24.

Congratulations, Dr. Bertholf!

Department Members Present at USCAP 111th Annual Meeting

Suzanne Crumley, MD; Dina Mody, MD; and Ekene Okoye, MD, served as instructors for a short course given at the 111th Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) in Los Angeles, California. Entitled "Cytology-Histology Correlation in the 2020s: HPV and the New Era," the three-hour workshop presented the experience of our Department's cytopathology section in managing cytology-histology correlation and HPV testing in a gynecologic Pap test laboratory setting.
The short course provided attendees the opportunity to review individual cases to enable more effective communication of test results by those in daily sign-out, especially in cases where discrepancies may arise. Additionally, attendees were provided a framework for incorporating results into the correlation process to satisfy legally mandated requirements and improve laboratory quality and patient care.

Congratulations, Drs. Crumley, Mody, and Okoye, on your well-received efforts!

Dr. Jimmy Gollihar Speaks at 2022 Synthetic Biology: Evolution, Engineering, and Design Conference
**Jimmy Gollihar, PhD**, served as an invited speaker at the 2022 Synthetic Biology: Evolution, Engineering, and Design conference.

Held from May 2–5 in Alexandria, Virginia, the event highlighted advances and state-of-the-art technologies in synthetic biology. Entitled "Platform Technologies for Pandemic Response," Dr. Gollihar’s presentation focused on developments made within the Antibody Discovery and Advanced Protein Therapeutics (ADAPT) laboratory during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, including the discovery of antibodies and antigen production with far-reaching applications in interrogating adaptive immunity and developing rapid-response biological countermeasures to emerging pathogens. Dr. Gollihar serves as the head of the ADAPT laboratory which joined the Houston Methodist Research Institute in January 2022.

Congratulations, Dr. Gollihar!

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**Dr. Wesley Long Presents at South Texas All-Hazards Conference**

**S. Wesley Long, MD, PhD**, recently presented at the 2022 South Texas All-Hazards Conference.

Intended to provide opportunities for resource sharing, continuing education courses, and scholarly exchange, the South Texas All-Hazards Conference was hosted by Hidalgo County at the McAllen Performing Arts Center in McAllen, Texas, on March 23 and 24 and drew first responders, healthcare professionals, and elected leaders from the Rio Grande Valley and entire South Texas region.

Dr. Long spoke to participants about the Houston Methodist SARS-CoV-2 pandemic experience, including lessons learned that can be applied to future pandemics or other large-scale public health crises.

Congratulations, Dr. Long!
2022 Departmental Microgrant Recipients

Congratulations to our most recent departmental microgrant recipients:

Haneen Salah, MBBS, and Maria Miguelina de la Garza Bravo, MD: "Molecular and cytogenetics studies as fundamental tools in determining diagnosis and treatment in atypical blue nevi. A case of an atypical plaque blue nevus of the vulva"

Neesha Siriwardane, MD; Haneen Salah, MBBS; Jae Y. Ro, MD, PhD; Steven S. Shen, MD, PhD; Mukul K. Divatia, MD; Steven Zhou, MD, PhD; and Ziad M. El-Zaatari, MD: "Multilocular Cystic Renal Neoplasm of Low Malignant Potential (MCRN-LMP): Probing Novel Immunohistochemical Markers in a Diagnostically Challenging Tumor"

Patricia Chévez-Barrios, MD; Zejuan Li, MD, PhD; Rebecca Penland; and Jianming Shao, PhD: "Retinoblastoma liquid biopsy"

Gloria Sura, MD; Dina Mody, MD; Jim Hsu, MD, PhD; and Jessica Thomas, MD, PhD, MPH: "Precision medicine for salivary gland tumors at HMH: Detection of gene translocations associated with salivary gland neoplasms using a large NGS-based cancer translocation panel to enhance cytopathologic diagnosis and guide patient surgical and therapeutic management"

Community News

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Medical Director David Alrahwan, MD, reports that the Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital (HMCL) laboratory was honored to be an integral part of a multidisciplinary team tasked with supporting the crew of the Axiom Mission 1 space flight.

HMCL was selected by Houston Methodist Global to assist with the partnership between Houston Methodist and Axiom Space, a privately funded space infrastructure developer headquartered in Houston. Axiom Space sent four private-sector astronauts on its inaugural flight to the International Space Station on April 8, 2022.

The HMCL Laboratory was involved both pre- and post-flight in routine laboratory testing and blood sample collection for research, while HMCL nurses performed
biometric screening. Dr. Alrahwan reports: "We are looking forward to partnering with Axiom during their next mission in May of 2023!"

The four-person international crew was the first private-sector astronaut mission to the International Space Station, and the HMCL team is proud of their role in enabling their journey.

Congratulations, all, on your out-of-this world efforts!

**Laboratory News**

**Houston Methodist Hospital Celebrates Lab Week 2022**

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2022 was observed April 25–April 29. Intended to recognize the invaluable efforts of laboratory professionals, this year's celebrations included breakfast treats, ice cream, and a festive lunch, as well as Houston Methodist-branded gift items.

Core Laboratory members Baharak Shakorzadeh, Rym Abassi, Chasity Nguyen, and Jeremy Hay (left to right)  

Histology Laboratory members Anita Thayil, Dawn Samuels (kneeling), Umadevi Narra, Manoj Joseph, and Thuy Nguyen (left to right)

**Dalith Gonzalez** of the Pathology Front Office and **LaQuinta Vonner** of the Core Laboratory were the lucky winners of tickets to a Houston Astros game. **Lauren Meents, Elizabeth Saenz, and Yi-Chun Hsiao** were all winners of raffle items from the Anatomic Pathology (Histology) Laboratory.
Thank you to all of our laboratory professionals for everything that you do!

**Achievements and Milestones**

*Saima Ahmed* was named Houston Methodist Hospital Histology Laboratory Manager.

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*Donna Armylagos* was named Houston Methodist Hospital Anatomic Pathology Front Office and Cytology Laboratory Manager.

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*Candice Hatcher-Bush* was named Houston Methodist Hospital Outpatient Laboratory Manager.

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*Julie Garner* announced her retirement after 13 years of service with the Department.
Trainee News

Peer-to-Peer with Dr. Haneen Salah and Dr. Jae Ro

PGY1 Resident Haneen Salah, MBBS, recently interviewed Jae Ro, MD, PhD, for a "peer-to-peer" feature in the "Outside the Lab" section of The Pathologist.

In the interview, Dr. Ro reflects on his nearly 50 years in practice as a pathologist, including the origins of his eponymous and world-renowned daily conference, diagnostic triads, and the importance of remembering the "BEST": Basics, Effort, Study, Think.

Also included in the interview are accolades from former mentees of Dr. Ro, including former departmental trainee and current faculty member in our Department, Ziad El Zaatari, MD.

Congratulations, Dr. Salah, and thank you, Dr. Ro, for your continued excellence in educating the next generation of outstanding pathologists!

Welcome, Class of 2022–23 Residents and Fellows!

Henrietta Fasanya, MD
University of Florida College of Medicine
PGY1 Resident

Keri Janowiak, MD
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Southwestern Medical School
PGY1 Resident

Ricardo Pascual, MD
University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
PGY1 Resident
Mohammed Ahmed, MBBS
Hematopathology Fellow

Moon Joo Kim, MD
Hematopathology Fellow

Gloria Sura, MD
Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellow

Riley Lochner, MD
Neuropathology Fellow

Syeda Fatima Absar, MBBS
Surgical Pathology Fellow

Donghwa Baek, MD
Surgical Pathology Fellow

Alexandra Maria Balaban, MD
Surgical Pathology Fellow

Liana Goetz, MD
Surgical Pathology Fellow

Sarah Wilken MD
Surgical Pathology Fellow

2022–23 Chief Residents and Chief Fellow Announced

Congratulations to our 2022–2023 Chief Residents, Sylvia Jang, MD, and John Rogers, MD, and 2022–2023 Chief Fellow, Gloria Sura, MD!
Many thanks to our outgoing Chief Residents, Jim Hsu MD, PhD, and Michelle Lin, MD, and outgoing Chief Fellow, Ashley Holloman, MD, for their hard work and dedication during the past year.

Watch us Grow!
Departmental Twitter Account Continues to Flourish

With over 450 followers and counting, the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine Twitter account continues to grow. Keep up with all of the most exciting Department-related happenings, including trainee spotlights, departmental announcements, and challenging unknowns by following @HMPathology!
Please share your exciting news regarding publications, accomplishments, article interviews, and technology or equipment updates with us so that we may feature it. Any news or content suggestions should be sent to Dr. Heather McConnell or the Pathology Office of Academic Development.

**Featured Faculty**

**Tracie Koen, MD**

**Hometown:** Carthage, Texas

**Education:** BS in Biology from Stephen F. Austin University; MD from University of Texas Medical Branch

**Current Role:** Staff Pathologist and Assistant Professor at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

**Fun Facts:** Has two children, who "keep her busy!" and whom the labs have seen grown up over the years.

Is looking forward to "revenge" travel once it is safe to do so in the time after the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

**Advice for Trainees:** "Train somewhere you can see everything. Know who to call when you need to!"

Dr. Koen joined our Department in 2010, having completed her residency training at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and fellowship training in Cytopathology and Surgical Pathology at Houston Methodist Hospital, where she served also as Chief Fellow (2009–10).

Dr. Koen was interested initially in training in urology but happened to meet a pathologist before starting her residency applications. Realizing that she excelled at
histology and recognizing patterns, Dr. Koen elected to pursue a residency in pathology rather than urology.

Dr. Koen has served as a staff pathologist at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital (HMWB) since joining our Department in 2010. She has had the opportunity to watch HMWB experience great growth and the hospital is about to double its OR footprint and increase capacity again soon with another expansion.

Dr. Koen "loves her spot in the country" and is fortunate to have a window in her office looking out on a tree that serves as a home to a family of hawks. Dr. Koen reports that she has now spent more time in this office than any other space, and has had the opportunity to watch the hawk parents raise subsequent clutches of chicks over the past twelve years.

Dr. Koen counts herself fortunate to know all of the clinicians at HMWB and is grateful for the collaborative environment and the emotional connection that she feels with her colleagues there.

During the pandemic especially, this emotional connection was of great importance. Dr. Koen became aware of the importance of practicing gratitude day to day for her colleagues and the incredible work that is performed at HMWB.

Dr. Koen is grateful for the many mentors she counts from our Department, especially Dr. Dina Mody and Dr. Mary Schwartz, both of whom are the embodiment of passion for their vocations. Dr. Koen would like to thank her colleagues at HMWB for building its collegial environment and everyone from Houston Methodist for contributing to her success.

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Thu Ngo, MD

**Hometown:** Previously, Danang, Vietnam; now, Sugar Land, Texas

**Education:** BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University; MD from Baylor College of Medicine
**Current Role:** Assistant Professor and Medical Director at Houston Methodist West Hospital

**Fun Facts:** Enjoys "everything under the sun," including photography

**Advice for Trainees:** "One doesn’t know what’s abnormal unless one knows what is normal."

“Live, laugh, love, learn, maybe some sleep, and repeat."

Dr. Ngo joined our Department after completing his training in our graduate medical education program.

Dr. Ngo "never once" considered medicine in his early life and loved math and physics in secondary school, which led to a prior career in aerospace engineering. Although he found working on F16 fighter jet and space shuttle operations exciting, he discovered the ultimate engineering masterpiece that is the human body when he started to learn more about medicine from a younger sister who had recently started medical school.

Much night schooling to meet the life science prerequisites was to come before Dr. Ngo was ready for medical school. During the pathology portion of the basic sciences studies at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Ngo realized that pathology was exactly what "gets me out of bed to start the day." He is especially thankful for the
inspiration and high standards set forth by our outstanding pathology faculty, including **Drs. Mary Schwartz, Dina Mody, and Luan Truong.**

Dr. Ngo says that "pathology gives me the opportunity to study and learn each and every day while helping to care for patients in a very meaningful and direct way." He is always grateful to the teachers and now colleagues who have taught him and continue to teach him, whether directly or by example. Dr. Ngo appreciates most the collegiality amongst the pathologists, residents, and staff.

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**Conferences & Events**

**ACLPS Annual Meeting:** June 23–25, 2022 in Seattle, Washington

**AACC Annual Scientific Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo:** July 24–28, 2022 in Chicago, Illinois

**ASCP 100th Anniversary 2022:** September 7–9, 2022 in Chicago, Illinois

**CAP22:** October 2–11, 2022 in New Orleans, Louisiana

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**Grand Rounds Schedule**

**September 7, 2022**
Sanjeev Sethi, MD, PhD  
Anatomic Pathology  
Mayo Clinic

**September 13, 2022**
Daniel J. Brat, MD, PhD  
Department of Pathology  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University

**October 4, 2022**
Grace E. Kim, MD  
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
University of California San Francisco Health

**November 1, 2022**
Bogdan A. Czerniak, MD, PhD  
Department of Pathology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

**December 6, 2022**
Luan Truong, MD, PhD  
Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine  
Houston Methodist Hospital

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**OAD News**
OAD Members Present to Methodist Association for Postdoctoral and Trainee Affairs

In their first in-person engagement since the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, Sasha Pejerrey, PhD, Adrienne Winston, and Heather McConnell, PhD, of the Office of Academic Development (OAD) presented to members of the Methodist Association for Postdoctoral and Trainee Affairs (MAPTA) on the fundamentals of scientific writing, including techniques for outlining and manuscript arrangement, and strategies for beating writer's block.

The interactive hybrid session drew 36 attendees, and was the OAD's largest audience to date.

The OAD will next present on the principles of scientific writing to summer students and interns at Houston Methodist Hospital and the Houston Methodist Research Institute through the Houston Methodist Academic Institute Office of Graduate Studies and Trainee Affairs.

The Office of Academic Development (OAD) of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine is always available to assist department members with editing manuscripts, grants, posters, presentations, and more. We are available to meet, in person or virtually, to assess how we might assist you. Please contact our general email, pathologyoad@houstonmethodist.org or one of our scientific writers:

Sasha Pejerrey at spejerrey@houstonmethodist.org or 713.441.5889

Adrienne Winston at awinston@houstonmethodist.org or 713.441.3395
Heather McConnell at hmcconnell@houstonmethodist.org or 346.238.4346

There is no charge for the OAD’s services, and no project is too big or too small!

If you need help reducing percent overlap within a document for a specific journal requirement or reviewer feedback, please let us know! We have access to iThenticate and expertise in reducing overlap to whatever percent a particular journal may require.

**Departmental Publications**


[https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2021.10.022](https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2021.10.022)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2022.02.043](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2022.02.043)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clbc.2022.01.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clbc.2022.01.006)

[https://doi.org/10.1111/ctr.14600](https://doi.org/10.1111/ctr.14600)

[https://doi.org/10.1002/pul2.12026](https://doi.org/10.1002/pul2.12026)

Tsai CR, Wang Y, Jacobson A, Sankoorikkal N, Chirinos JD, Burra S, Makthal N, Kumaraswami M, Galko MJ. Pvr and distinct downstream signaling factors are


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