Welcome to the Winter Houston Methodist Hospital Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine Newsletter: The Laboratory Report. If you have contributions or feedback for upcoming newsletters, please email us.

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Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Powell Honored with Emory University Residents’ Choice Award

*Suzanne Z. Powell, MD,* has been selected as the 2021 Emory University Residents’ Choice Award winner. This prestigious award is given annually to an outstanding pathologist with national recognition from outside of the Emory community who has made significant contributions to the field of pathology. Dr. Powell will receive the award at Emory in early 2021, at which time she will present at their Grand Rounds and take part in an Unknowns Conference with Emory staff and trainees. Dr. Powell has been the director of our Department’s Anatomic and Clinical Residency and Neuropathology Fellowship since the residency program’s inception in 2005, and she has held numerous leadership roles at the national level, including serving as Chair of the Association of Pathology Chairs Residency Program Directors Council and Chair of the Residency Review Committee for Pathology of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Dr. Powell is a long-time advocate for pathology trainees, and she states: “It is always an honor to be recognized by residents around the country, and it is especially wonderful when an entire group of residents acknowledge you with such an honor.” In addition to the Emory Residents’ Choice Award, Dr. Powell has previously been the recipient of resident recognition awards from the University of Pennsylvania and the College of American Pathologists’ Resident Forum.

Congratulations, Dr. Powell!

Dr. Long Featured in Local Flu and Novel Coronavirus Coverage
S. Wesley Long, MD, PhD, was included in a December 24 TMC News article entitled “Flu season’s odd start punctuated by Harris County child’s death.” He expressed concern that this year’s flu season may be worse than in previous years because of the early start of flu activity and the unusual prevalence of Influenza B at the start of the season. Dr. Long reiterated the importance of receiving the annual flu vaccine and credited the vaccine with his own speedy recovery from Influenza A this year.

Dr. Long was also featured in an educational video produced by Houston Methodist Hospital that was created to inform the public about novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 and allay common fears and misconceptions regarding this pathogen.

Department Members Hit Their Stride at the Houston Marathon

Congratulations to all of our Department members, including Devin Blunck, Dr. Michael Greenwood, Dr. Randy Olsen, Dr. Thu Ngo, Dr. Andreana Rivera, and Page Slocum, who took part in the Chevron Houston Marathon or the Aramco Half Marathon this year! The race, held on the brisk yet beautiful morning of January 19, included more than 35,000 participants from Houston and around the world. Of Microbiology Tech Page Slocum’s first-ever Houston Marathon, she said: “The Marathon was an amazing experience. I especially loved running by the Medical Center and seeing my co-workers cheer for me. It was a grueling kind of fun, but I will be running it next year!” Dr. Michael Greenwood echoed this sentiment, saying: “I really enjoy the support Houston shows for the participants. It really helps to keep me going.”

Three cheers to all of our runners and supporters from the Department!

Dr. Jacobi Elected to Texas Society of Pathologists’ Leadership Role

Elizabeth Jacobi, MD, was elected to serve as Secretary of the Young Pathologists Section of the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP) at the TSP’s January 2020 annual meeting. Dr. Jacobi is an early-career faculty member who joined our Department in July 2019 after completing her surgical pathology fellowship here. She currently holds faculty appointments at the Houston Methodist Academic Institute and Weill Cornell Medical College as an Assistant Professor.

Congratulations, Dr. Jacobi!
HMH Laboratory Management Adopts Family for the Holidays

Members of the HMH Laboratory Management team participated in the annual holiday Adopt-a-Family event for disadvantaged families that is sponsored by Houston Methodist Hospital. Through their generosity, adopted family members received not only the items on their wish lists, but also extra gifts to bring added joy to the holidays.

Many thanks to the Lab Management Team for embodying our ICARE values for your adopted holiday family!

Baskets of gifts ready for delivery.

Johndrea Slay, Ashley Siverly, Annie Sun, Monisha Dey, and Grace Dam (left to right).

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2020 Draws Near

Mark your calendars for Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2020, to be observed April 20-24. The week is an annual celebration of the laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in providing unparalleled care to our patients. Events scheduled for this year’s celebration include a luncheon on
April 22 and an ice cream social on April 23. Please plan on joining in the festivities; more details forthcoming!

2019 Lab Coat Decorating Contest winners Cattareya Farrar, MaiAnh Nguyen, Kristy Nguyen, Julie Pham, Konnie Le, and Phuong Truong (left to right).

Trainee News

Residents and Fellows Run the Table at TSP!

Dr. David Joseph, Dr. Ziad El-Zaatari, Dr. Paloma Monroig-Bosque, Dr. Shima Mousavi, and Dr. Michelle Lin (left to right)
We are extraordinarily proud of the trainees who represented Houston Methodist Hospital at this year’s annual meeting of the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP) in Plano, Texas. As featured in the Houston Methodist Academic Institute’s newsletter, our residents and fellows swept the awards for best posters and presentations throughout the weekend.

Our prize-winners were:

**HMH, Institutional Award for Best Overall Posters and Presentations**

**Michelle Lin, MD**, 1st place for a case report poster: *Vulvar carcinosarcoma with adenocarcinomatous and leiomyosarcomatous elements: A rare entity with unusual malignant components*

**David Joseph, MD**, 2nd place for a case report poster: *A case of acute hemorrhagic leukoencephalitis*

**Paloma Monroig-Bosque, MD, PhD**, 1st place for an investigative poster: *FOXL2 mutation status in ovarian adult granulosa cell tumors with an extensive fibrothecomatosus component*

**Shima Mousavi, MD**, (presented by Michelle Lin), 2nd place for a platform presentation: *Evaluation of histologic size of high grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) with preceding abnormal cytology versus HSIL with preceding negative cytology*

**Ziad El-Zaatari, MD**, 3rd place for a platform presentation: *Percent of Gleason pattern 4 in small biopsy foci of prostatic adenocarcinoma: An interobserver reproducibility study among pathologists at different levels of expertise*

Our trainees’ award-winning research was supported by faculty members Dr. Michael Deavers and Dr. Ekene Okoye.

Congratulations all, and keep up the amazing work!

**Recruiting Update: Resident Candidate Interviews Complete**

The interview process for our Department’s class of 2020 residents has concluded. From a pool of 552 applicants, 66 highly-qualified candidates were interviewed between October 2019 and January of this year. This year’s total pool of applicants was the largest that our Department has received. According to AP/CP residency director Suzanne Z. Powell, MD, the incredibly strong group of candidates is evidence of the concerted work that has been done to increase the visibility of pathology as a specialty in this country. With only five PGY1 residency spots to fill, less than 1% of the total pool of applicants will ultimately match to our program. From this group of stellar candidates, Dr. Powell is confident that we will once again have “a fabulous class of residents for 2020!”
In December 2019, our Department welcomed **Ewa Filipowicz, MD**, as a staff pathologist at HM Sugar Land Hospital. Dr. Filipowicz earned her MD from the Academy of Medicine in Warsaw, Poland, and she completed her AP/CP residency at UTMB. During her time at UTMB, Dr. Filipowicz was the recipient of both a CAP Foundation Fellowship and a UTMB-sponsored research fellowship to study the molecular pathogenesis of hepatitis C-induced bile duct injury. Dr. Filipowicz then completed fellowships in Surgical Pathology and Breast Pathology at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), where she served on the faculty from 2008 until joining our Department.

In December 2019, our Department welcomed **Amanda Gorena, MD**, as a staff pathologist at HM Baytown Hospital. Dr. Gorena earned her MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, and went on to complete her AP/CP residency and surgical pathology fellowship at UTMB. Dr. Gorena then completed a fellowship in cytopathology from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Dr. Gorena spent the past four years in private practice in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her interests include cytopathology, breast, and GU pathology, and she is a member of many professional pathology societies, including the College of American Pathologists, the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, and the American Society of Cytopathology.

In January 2020, our Department welcomed **Sawsan Faroussi, MD**, as a staff pathologist at HM Sugar Land Hospital. Dr. Faroussi earned her MD from the University of Tishreen Faculty of Medicine in Latakia, Syria. Dr. Faroussi completed a residency in anatomic pathology at the University of Aleppo Medical School in Aleppo, Syria, before then completing an AP/CP residency and Cytopathology fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Dr. Faroussi was an Assistant Professor of Pathology.
Welcome to all of our newest faculty members!

Faculty Appointments & Promotions

Congratulations to our newest Weill Cornell faculty members!

Yimin Ge, BBM, MS
Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Brian Castillo, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Michael Greenwood, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Elizabeth Jacobi, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Steve Zhou, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Conferences & Events

2020 Meetings and Conferences

USCAP, February 29-March 5, 2020 in Los Angeles, California. Learn more [here](#).

55th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) May 28–30, 2020 at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Learn more [here](#).

American Association of Clinical Chemistry Annual Scientific Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo, July 26-30 2020 in Chicago, Illinois. Learn more [here](#).

2020 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP), September 9–11, 2020 in Austin, Texas. Learn more [here](#).


Schedule for 2020 Grand Rounds

**April 7**
Robert Folberg, MD
Michigan State University
*Ophthalmic Pathology*

**May 5**
Andrew L. Feldman, MD
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
*Hematopathology*

**June 2**
Daniel J. Brat, MD, PhD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
*Neuropathology*

**September 1**
Paul Wakely, MD
The Ohio State University
*Cytopathology*

**October 6**
William E. Winter, MD
University of Florida
*Clinical Chemistry*

**November 3**
Anil Parwani, MD, PhD
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
*GU Pathology*

**December 1**
Zejuan Li, MD, PhD
Houston Methodist Hospital
The Office of Academic Development (OAD) within the pathology department is available to assist department members with editing manuscripts, grants, posters, and presentations. Please contact Heather McConnell at hmconnell@houstonmethodist.org or 346.238.4346, Sasha Pejerrey at spejerrey@houstonmethodist.org or 713.441.5889, or Adrienne Winston at awinston@houstonmethodist.org or 713.441.3395. There is no charge for these editing services.

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

Meet our Newest Team Member!

The OAD is pleased to welcome Scientific Writer Heather McConnell, PhD, to HMH. Dr. McConnell relocated from Portland, Oregon, where she recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. McConnell has researched the contribution of reactive astrocytes to neurovascular uncoupling after stroke and how viral-sized iron-based contrast agents can improve diagnostic MRI for brain tumor patients. Dr. McConnell is "very excited to finally be here and to join the team as a scientific writer," and she "truly enjoys helping others bring clarity and accuracy to their scientific and clinical communications."

Welcome, Dr. McConnell!

Faculty Publications

**Featured Faculty:**

**Dr. Matt Cykowski**

**Fast Facts**

**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

**Education:** BS in Zoology and Physiology, with a


**Pham C, Kuten SA, Knight R, Nguyen DT, Graviss E, Gaber AO.** Assessment of infectious complications in elderly kidney transplant recipients receiving induction with anti-thymocyte globulin versus basiliximab. Transplant Infectious Disease. 2020 Feb 7;e13257. [https://doi.org/10.1111/tid.13257](https://doi.org/10.1111/tid.13257)

**Bang H, Park H, Park S, Choi E, Cho MS, Ro J, et al.** Clinicopathologic study of 60 cases of urothelial neoplasms with inverted growth patterns: Reclassification by international consultation on
Dr. Cykowski has been a faculty member in our Department since August 2015. In addition to serving as the Director of HMH's Autopsy Service, Dr. Cykowski is an active surgical neuropathologist and a recipient of a highly-competitive Houston Methodist Academic Institution Clinician Scientist award. The award permits faculty to commit 50% of their time to clinical activity and 50% to research. Dr. Cykowski believes strongly that anyone with a research interest should devote a small part of each day toward those endeavors, especially when clinical or other activities require more attention on a particular day. This attitude helps to prevent the pitfall of waiting for the “perfect time” to begin carrying out research and related activities and helps to keep projects moving along. Dr. Cykowski's research is highly collaborative. He publishes
frequently with members of the HMH Stanley Appel Department of Neurology, his neuropathology colleagues, and collaborates with researchers at other institutions (Mayo Clinic, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Kentucky). He values the strengths that each of his collaborators brings to the research. He is grateful for the role that his mentors, including Drs. Appel, Musser, and Powell, have played in his development as a researcher, clinician, and faculty member.

https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqz094.


https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-019-0504-5.

https://doi.org/10.1002/pmic.201900223.

https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCIMAGING.119.009535.

https://doi.org/10.1111/ctr.13775.

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-56213-4.

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