Focus
by Daniel M. Knowles, MD

Welcome New Faculty

It is a great pleasure to announce the appointment of three additional individuals, Drs. Sun-mi Chung, Anjali Saqi and Rhonda Yantiss, to the faculty of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Each individual has been appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Medical College and Assistant Attending Pathologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Sun-mi Chung received her medical degree (AOA) from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1999, began her graduate education in surgery at Stanford University and then switched careers, entering the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell campus pathology training program in 2000. Dr. Chung served as Chief Resident for the 2002/2003 academic year. Following completion of her training in anatomic pathology, she completed a fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology under Dr. David Klimstra at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She joined the Department in August 2005. Dr. Chung will devote her professional time and activities to gastrointestinal pathology.

Dr. Anjali Saqi received her medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate in 1996 and completed a combined anatomic pathology and clinical pathology residency at the Cornell campus of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in 2000. Subsequently, she completed a surgical pathology fellowship

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Research Highlights
by William Muller, MD, PhD

The Department Appoints New Laboratory Director

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine welcomes Dr. Hanna Rennert, who has joined us from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as the Director of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory. Dr. Rennert received her PhD from the Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology Medical School in 1989, and completed 4 years of postdoctoral training at University of Pennsylvania in 1993. She is certified in Clinical Molecular Genetics by the American Board of Medical Genetics and is obtaining a certificate in Clinical Epidemiology from the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rennert is developing Molecular Pathology services for genetics, virology, oncology and identity testing, and introducing automated platforms for different testing steps. The Molecular Pathology Laboratory recently validated and is now performing HCV genotyping, in addition to the HCV Viral Load test already offered cystic fibrosis mutation testing, bone marrow engraftment analysis and viral load testing related to transplantation will be developed as part of the expansion of molecular services. Dr. Rennert is also working with Roche Diagnostics to introduce their new FDA approved HIV-1 molecular diagnostic test system. This system is the first PCR-based test offering automated specimen preparation followed by automated amplification and quantification of HIV-1 RNA for viral load monitoring. This will greatly enhance patient care by increasing testing reliability and decreasing turn-around time.

Dr. Rennert's research focuses on understanding the genetic components contributing to the complex, multifactorial etiology of prostate cancer, and understanding the disparity in prostate cancer incidence among different ethnic populations. She became interested in this topic several years ago while directing the Research and Development Microarray Laboratory at the Genetic Institute of Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

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During this time she studied genetic changes associated with solid tumors and the genetic factors that predispose Israeli Jews to prostate cancer. She identified a novel truncating mutation in the enzyme 2′-5′-oligoadenylate-dependent RNase L (RNASEL), which was associated with prostate cancer risk in Ashkenazi Jews.

Dr. Rennert has continued these studies in the United States, using a multidisciplinary approach that combines methods from epidemiology, biostatistics, molecular biology, and classic genetics for studying prostate cancer. Her research subsequently focused on two promising molecular markers, RNASEL and macrophage scavenger receptor 1 (MSR1). These genes play a major role in inflammatory processes and were identified as candidate inherited susceptibility genes for familial prostate cancer. Using high throughput genotyping techniques, she has studied 16 different single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in these genes reported to be associated with prostate cancer risk in a large population of African-American and European-American case-control subjects seen at the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Certain SNPs in RNASEL and MSR1 are associated with prostate cancer characteristics (Gleason grade and TNM stage) by family history and by ethnic group. Moreover, haplotype analysis of MSR1 SNPs with frequency above >5% in either sample study demonstrates that certain SNPs have a combined protective effect on prostate cancer severity, and that patients with advanced disease are less likely to carry these haplotypes.

Ethnic background, in addition to family history and age, is a major risk factor for prostate cancer. The incidence of clinical prostate cancer is highest among African-American men and is strikingly low in native Asians. To determine the role of these genes in the disparity of prostate cancer incidence between high-risk and low-risk populations, Dr. Rennert has established a collaboration with the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow, India. Preliminary studies in Asian Indians have identified a new spectrum of sequence variants in these genes, including a new deleterious mutation in RNASEL. This mutation is estimated to be present in about 1% of the Asian-Indian population.

Dr. Rennert’s interest in the genetics of disease extends beyond prostate cancer. A second research interest is exploring the role of RNASEL in programmed cell death (apoptosis) in normal peripheral blood lymphocytes and in HIV-infected cells. RNASEL is a constitutively expressed latent endonuclease that mediates the antiviral and proapoptotic activities of the interferon-inducible 2-5A system. The depletion of CD4+ T cells during human HIV-1 infection has been attributed to several mechanisms including apoptosis. Increased expression of RNASEL in Jurkat cells, for example, was shown to suppress HIV-1 replication by 8-fold. The role of RNASEL in lymphocyte function has not been extensively studied. However, Dr. Rennert has studied the expression of RNASEL in peripheral blood cells from normal individuals. Preliminary results show that RNASEL is differentially expressed among the different blood cell types, and that its expression is significantly higher in granulocytes than all other cell types. This finding is in line with the role of RNASEL as an antiviral and antibacterial gene by causing RNA degradation and inhibition of cell growth. Her current research is investigating whether RNASEL expression levels in peripheral blood lymphocytes are indeed induced by HIV-1 infection, and whether this is associated with CD4+ T cell depletion.

A third research interest is focused on the development of molecular diagnostic assays and applications for clinical use. As a scientist with the Molecular Pathology Laboratory at University of Pennsylvania she was involved in the development of many assays, including RT-PCR for t(15;17), gene dosage analysis for spinal muscular atrophy carrier testing, and short tandem repeats (STR) analysis for monitoring allogeneic bone marrow engraftment. Her current efforts as the Director of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital are geared towards expanding the Laboratory test menu, particularly in the fields of virology, genetics, and identity testing. This includes the development and implementation of quantification assays for the herpes virus panel using real time PCR, cystic fibrosis testing and STR analysis for monitoring engraftment following bone marrow transplantation. Dr. Rennert welcomes questions about her research and about particular molecular tests that may be relevant to your patients. She can be contacted at 746-6412.

### Newly Awarded Grants in Pathology

#### National Institutes of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: Regulation of Antibody Production by Innate Immune Cells</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: Andrea Cerutti, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 03/15/05-02/28/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Costs: $1,250,000</td>
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#### National Institutes of Health

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<tr>
<th>National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title: Beyond PECAM: Mechanisms of Transendothelial Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: William A. Muller, MD PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 04/01/05-03/31/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Costs: $1,250,000</td>
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#### The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

| Title: Cell Cycle Control of Multiple Myeloma Pathogenesis |
| Principal Investigator: Josefina Garcia, PhD (Dr. Chen-Kiang’s Lab) |
| Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/08 |
| Total Direct Costs: $126,600 |

| Title: Studies on the Functions of CD99 and CD99L2 |
| Principal Investigator: William A. Muller, MD PhD |
| Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/06 |
| Total Direct Costs: $88,000 |

#### The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Protein-based Ex Vivo Expansion of Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: Pengbo Zhou, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/10</td>
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<td>Total Direct Costs: $525,000</td>
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#### The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

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<tr>
<th>Title: Cancer Antigen Discovery Collaborative on Pediatric Cancer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: Yao-Tseng Chen, MD PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/06</td>
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<td>Total Direct Costs: $40,000</td>
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#### Cancer Research Institute

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<tr>
<th>Title: Mouse Model of Endometrial Tumorigenesis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: Lora Hedrick Ellenson, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Costs: $49,503</td>
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#### Alice Bohmfalk Charitable Trust

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title: Studies on the Functions of CD99 and CD99L2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator: William A. Muller, MD PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period of Support: 07/01/05-06/30/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Costs: $88,000</td>
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In February 2005, Dr. Rebecca N. Baergen presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine on the “Ultrasound evaluation of abnormal umbilical cord coiling in second trimester of gestation as a predictor of adverse pregnancy outcome.” Also in February, she presented at the USCAP meeting: “Double immunostaining for cytokeratin and collagen IV is useful for detection of microvain in vulvar and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia” and “Antiphospholipid syndrome and placental deposition of complement C4d.”

The presentations at the Society for Gynecologic Investigations included “Regulation of glucocorticoid receptor expression in intrauterine growth restricted placentas,” and “Glucocorticoid receptor expression and function in the human placenta.” Dr. Baergen served on the Abstract Board for the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Director of the Perinatal Section of the Society for Pediatric Pathology, and Director of the annual Perinatal Symposium sponsored by the Society for Pediatric Pathology in October. In April 2005, she presented a paper on “Umbilical cord complications and adverse perinatal outcome” at the Havemeyer Foundations Workshop on Comparative Placentology in Victoria, Vancouver. In May 2005, Dr. Baergen served as a faculty member in the Perinatal Course sponsored by the Society for Pediatric Pathology and Perinatal Section. She continues as a member of the Committee on Human Rights in Research and the Institutional Research Board, as well as the Adverse Events Subcommittee. She has been appointed a member of the Medical Devices Advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Andrea Cerutti was awarded a new five year grant ($1,250,000) from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study the regulation of antibody production by innate immune cells. In February 2005, Dr. Cerutti was in Bethesda to serve on a special committee to review grant applications submitted to the NIAMS branch of NIH. In March 2005, Dr. Cerutti was an invited lecturer at the Oklahoma Medical Research Seminar Series. In August 2005, Dr. Cerutti was an invited lecturer at the Oklahoma Medical School in health and disease. In August 2005, Dr. Cerutti was invited to serve on a scientific advisory board for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. In March 2005, Dr. Cerutti was in Bethesda to serve on a special review committee for grant applications submitted to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. In February 2005, Dr. Cerutti was in Bethesda to serve on a special review committee for grant applications submitted to the NIAMS branch of NIH. In March 2005, Dr. Cerutti was an invited lecturer at the Oklahoma Medical School in health and disease. In August 2005, Dr. Cerutti was an invited lecturer at the Oklahoma Medical School in health and disease.
Keynotes continued

Senescence in Japan in November. Since 2005, she has been invited to speak on “Dysregulation of G1 cell cycle checkpoints in multiple myeloma” at the International Workshop on Multiple Myeloma in Australia in April; on “Control of multiple myeloma by cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors” at the ASCO Annual Meeting in Florida in May. She also chaired a session on myeloma biology at the ASH Annual Meeting in December of 2005. In between organizing and speaking at meetings, Dr. Selina Chen-Kiang is a frequently invited seminar speaker. These include seminars on “Cell cycle control of self-renewal in multiple myeloma” at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and on “Cdk inhibitor control of B cell terminal differentiation” at NCI in May of 2005.

Dr. Yao-Tseng Chen was invited as a keynote speaker in the Moscow Conference on Computational Molecular Biology, held in July 18-21 this year at Moscow State University. His presentation, titled “Identification of new cancer/testis antigens by massively parallel signature sequencing,” summarized his recently published work in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA; this paper was also showcased in the “Research Highlights” section in “Nature Review: Cancer.”

In collaboration with Dr. Yao Chen, Dr. Scott Ely has been studying CT antigen expression and function in lymphomas and plasma cell neoplasms. This work has been presented at the ASH meeting in San Diego (2004), at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting in San Antonio (2005); and in the upcoming ASH meeting in Atlanta, GA (2005). Dr. Ely presented “Blastoid Transformation of Mantle Cell Lymphoma” at the New York City Pathologists’ November meeting at North Shore University Hospital. Dr. Ely is a consultant for an NIH-funded program project entitled “Doxorubicin-Immunonconjugate Therapy of NHL” at the Center for Molecular Medicine and Immunology in Bellevue, WA.

Dr. Davise Larone lectured at various national and international meetings in multiple locations including the following: on “Emerging Pathology Issues in Breast Cancer” at the School of Breast Oncology (SOBO) at Emory in Atlanta, GA in November 2004; on “Controversial Issues in Pathology of Breast Carcinoma” at the Mexican Academy of Cytopathology in Monterrey, Mexico, in December 2004; on “The Pap Smear: Current Criteria and Changing Concepts” at USCAP in March 2005. American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Weekends in Pathology in Toronto, Canada in April 2005 on Pathology of Needle Core Biopsies of Breast on “Pathological Effects of Cryoablation on Breast Tumors” American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) in Chicago, IL, in June 2005; on “Issues in Diagnostic Breast Pathology” University of Kyoto, Japan, in August 2005; on “Practical Considerations in Differential Diagnosis in Pap Smear” and on “Pathology of Sentinel Lymph Nodes in Breast Carcinoma” at the annual ASCP meeting in Seattle in October 2005. In the same month, Dr. Hoda also delivered multiple lectures at the Second New Zealand National Breast Conference in Auckland including one during the plenary session entitled “New Frontiers in Breast Pathology.” This year, Dr Syed Hoda was re-elected Secretary of the New York Pathological Society.

Dr. Daniel Knowles, Chairman and Pathologist-in-Chief, actively participated in the Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology held in San Antonio, Texas in March, 2005. In addition to attending the annual meetings of several Editorial Boards upon which he serves, Dr. Knowles co-authored five abstracts with other members of the Cornell Hematopathology group as well as with house staff and fellows. He participated in the Sixth Annual Pathology Update sponsored by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Louisville in May 2005. There, he lectured on “AIDS-Associated Lymphoid Neoplasia” and “Immunodeficiency-Associated Lymphoproliferative Disorders.” A few days later he visited the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, reviewing the Department of Pathology with Dr. Michael Lieberman and also presenting “Primary Effusion Lymphoma: A New Clinical Pathologic Entity Associated with Kaposi’s Sarcoma-Associated Herpes Virus” at the Methodist Hospital Grand Rounds. In his capacity as President of the New York Pathological Society Dr. Knowles developed and chaired the New York Pathological Society President’s Symposium on “Molecular Pathology of Neoplasia” held in June 2005. Two members of the Department, Drs. Debra G.B. Leonard and Lynn Wang, were among the five speakers at the Symposium. In September, Dr. Knowles attended the Annual Meeting of the North East Pathology Chairs in Bermuda where he participated in discussions concerning pathology resident education and training.

This year Dr. Davise Larone was selected by the Medical Mycological Society of the Americas to receive the annual Billy H. Cooper Memorial Award for excellence in clinical research, laboratory diagnostic procedures, and teaching. The award is conferred upon an individual who has contributed substantially to the clinical applications of medical mycology, particularly in laboratory diagnosis and recognition of mycoses. Dr. Larone conducted full-day Clinical Mycology Workshops for the Southeastern Association for Clinical Microbiology in Myrtle Beach, SC in November, 2004 and for the Southwestern Association in Tulsa, OK in September, 2005. In November 2004, she was invited to present an “Update on Clinical Mycology” to the Illinois Society for Microbiology in Chicago, IL and a lecture on “Antifungal Susceptibility Testing” at a seminar on Resistance Testing Challenges in Atlanta, GA in March, 2005. At a seminar on Technological Advances in Microbiology in Atlanta in June, 2005, she spoke on “New Mycology Media for the Clinical Laboratory.” At the annual meeting of the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology in Clearwater, FL in May, 2005, Dr. Larone presented “Decreasing Indeterminant Results with BD ProbeTec ET Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae,” and she was co-author of an abstract entitled “Use of Polymyxin B in the Treatment of Multidrug-resistant (MDR) Acinetobacter baumannii Infection on a Burn Unit” which was presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Burn Association. At the annual national meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta in June 2005, Dr. Larone, with several pathology residents, presented three posters: “CHROMagar Candida as a Source Medium for Isolates to be Tested with the New VITEK 2 Yeast Identification Card” and “Comparative Study of the New Colorimetric Vitek 2 Yeast Identification Card vs the Older Fluorometric Vitek 2 Yeast Card” with Drs. Cheri Aubertine, Michael Rivera, and Stephen Rohan, and “Stability of Mueller-Hinton Agar Plates Flooded with Glucose and Methylene Blue for Fluconazole Disk Diffusion Testing of Candida Species” with Drs. Matthew Bramlage and Therase Scognamiglio.

Dr. Ehud Lavi’s laboratory is focusing on Neurovirology and Neuroimmunology projects using an experimental model system of coronavirus infection of the mouse brain, a model system for the human multiple sclerosis disease. Two research articles from the lab were recently submitted. The first article reports the identification of a single point mutation in the MHV coronavirus genome that abolishes the ability of the virus to cause demyelination in mice. The second article analyzes the differential quantitative Real-time PCR transcript profile of pro-inflammatory cytokine signals in astrocytes and microglia following infections of cell cultures with neurotropic and non-neurotropic viruses. With the help of Dr. Cris Constantinescu from the University of Nottingham in the UK, Dr. Lavi edited a book entitled “Experimental Models of Multiple Sclerosis,” to be published in November 2005 by “Springer Publishing Company.” Dr. Lavi gave the first video-sessions of the
Neuropathology Module of Brain and Mind to the medical students of Cornell Medical School in Qatar.

Dr. William A. Muller served as President of the North American Vascular Biology Organization (NAVO) as well as Chairman of the FASEB Summer Research Conferences Advisory Committee. He was appointed to the Editorial Committee of the newly founded Annual Review of Pathology: Mechanisms of Disease. He began a three-year term as a Charter Member of the Atherosclerosis and Inflammation in the Cardiovascular System (AICS) study section for the NIH. He continues to serve as Editor of the Journal of Experimental Medicine. At Weill Medical College he is Chairman of the General Faculty Council and serves on more committees than he can count, including the Committee of Review, the Committee on Science, the Conflicts Advisory Panel, the Research Awards Committee; for the Graduate Program in Immunology he heads the NIH Training Grant and serves on the Admissions Committee and the Admission to Candidacy Exam Committee. This year Dr. Muller received a MERIT Award from the NIH for his pioneering work on the molecular basis of inflammation. He was an invited speaker at many national and international scientific meetings within the past year including the Keystone Symposium on Atherosclerosis, the American Society for Investigative Pathology national meeting in San Diego, the Gordon Conference on Wound Repair, the Gordon Conference on Atherosclerosis, and the International Leukocyte Biology Meeting in Oxford, UK. The topic at these meetings was “Cellular and Molecular Control of Transendothelial Migration by Leukocytes.” Along with several other NAVO members, he ran Vasculata, a three-day course on modern vascular biology for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at Dartmouth College this July. Dr. Zahra Mammadouh and graduate student Bidisha Dasgupta from his laboratory were selected to present their work in a special mini-symposium on Leukocyte-Endothelial Cell Interactions at the Experimental Biology 2005 meeting in San Diego.

Dr. Ellinor Peerschke was elected President-elect of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists in Pittsburgh, PA at the society’s annual meeting in June. The Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists represents individuals engaged in clinical practice and residency training in all areas of Laboratory Medicine in the United States. In addition, she was elected Vice President of the North American Specialty Coagulation Laboratory Association, an organization for which she serves as Chair of the Proficiency Testing Committee. Dr. Peerschke was invited to lecture on various topics in hemostasis during the past year, including a coagulation workshop in New York City in May sponsored by Stago Diagnostics, and a symposium on quality control in coagulation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. In addition to her clinical interests, Dr. Peerschke conducts a research program examining the role of platelet and endothelial cell complement receptors in inflammation and infection, particularly S. aureus endocarditis. Her work has been presented at invited seminars in May at Temple University, Thrombosis Center, Philadelphia, PA, and in July at the Medical School of Zulia University in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Dr. Edyta C. Pirog presented “Double immuno-staining for cytokoratin and basement membrane components is useful for detection of microinvasion in vulvar and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia” at the annual USCAP meeting. She also presented “PNET arising in ovarian teratoma” at the New York Pathology Club, Unknown Case Conference, in June 2005.

Dr. Surya Seshan coordinated the first ever three day International CME in Renal Pathology “Update on Medical and Surgical Diseases of the Kidney” at the Sanjay Gandhi postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India, in March and presented several lectures on the pathology of primary glomerular diseases, vascular diseases of the kidney and classification of lupus glomerulonephritis and antiphospholipid antibody syndrome. She was elected “Councillor” by the Renal Pathology Society this year. In September, she attended the 20th European Congress of Pathology meeting in Paris, France and served as a co-chairperson in a session on “Berger’s IgA nephropathy and Henoch-Schonlein purpura” and was an invited speaker on “Vascular lesions in IgA nephropathy” and “Thrombotic microangiopathies—an overview” in a short course at the same meeting in Paris. Dr. Seshan was also busy lecturing in the tri-state area presenting grand rounds at Hospital for Special Surgery “Classification of lupus glomerulonephritis—an update,” and was an invited speaker at a clinicopathologic conference at HSS last spring. She also presented grand rounds at the Department of Pathology of University Hospital, UMDNJ, Newark, NJ on “Glomerular and tubulo-interstitial diseases” in April and at the Department of Medicine of St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, Paterson, New Jersey in “Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria—a cause of acute and chronic renal failure” in June. Also in April, Dr. Seshan participated in the Renal Pathology Course on “Morphologic findings in Medical renal disease and transplants: with clinicopathological correlations” and gave lectures on “Pathology of acute renal failure including thrombotic microangiopathies” and “unusual renal lesions.” Dr. Seshan was an invited speaker at the companion meeting of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists in October in Seattle, WA on “Classification of lupus glomerulonephritis: New developments and implications.” She was an author or coauthor of 15 abstract presentations in various national and international meetings.

Dr. Wayne Tam presented “PRDM1 is a Tumor Suppressor Gene in Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphomas” at USCAP in March 2005. This seminal work identified PRDM1 as a tumor suppressor gene in this group of lymphomas. He is now continuing work to further understand the role of microRNAs and PRDM1 in lymphomagenesis and hopes that these new discoveries can lead to effective therapeutic strategies.

In April 2005, Drs. Rita Upmacis and Ruba Deeb attended the Experimental Biology 2005 meeting in San Diego, California, and presented “Deactivation of prostaglandin H2 synthase by peroxynitrite.” Dr. Upmacis received a three-year award from Philip Morris USA and Philip Morris International to study “Deactivation Mechanisms of Cyclooxygenase.” In January 2005, Dr. Upmacis was invited to serve on a doctoral thesis defense committee in the Department of Chemistry, Columbia University. In February 2005, Dr. Deeb was an invited speaker at the Atrovastatin Research Award summit meeting in Key Biscayne, Florida and presented a talk entitled “Structural and functional analysis of the deactivation of prostaglandin H2 synthase-1 by nitrogen oxide species.”

Dr. Madeline F. Vazquez was named Chief of Cytopathology in August 2005. She is on the steering committee of the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program [I-ELCAP] and participated in the ASCO - IASLC Consensus Conference on Bronchioalveolar Cell Carcinoma held at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in November 2004. She was also on the faculty of the refresher course “Screening for Lung Cancer” held at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in Chicago. Dr. Vazquez was the senior author on several abstracts presented at national meetings including; “Hybrid capture 2 high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing for atypical glandular cells (AGC): A crucial adjunct for cancer prevention” (presented by Anjali Sajj at American Society of Cytopathology, 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting, in Chicago, Illinois), “Ki-67 and p53 Antigen detection in aspiration biopsies of non-small cell carcinoma of the lung” (presented by N Cai at USCAP), “Is Her-2/neu status determined by immunohistochemistry in cell block preparations accurate and reliable? A concordance study of immunohistochemistry and fluorescence in-situ hybridization.” (presented by Sandra Shin at USCAP), “Atypical bronchioalveolar proliferation: A new cytologic category for lung aspiration biopsy representing a bronchioalveolar growth pattern” (presented by JL Morhaime at USCAP) and “Chromosomal amplification as a molecular marker to predict neoplastic potential in fine needle biopsies of spiral CT identified small lung nodules” (presented by J Jen at the American Association for Cancer Research). In September 2005, Dr. Vazquez presented “CT-detected lung cancers in the Early Lung Cancer Action Project (ELCAP): Cytologic findings on transbronchial FNA” at Pathology Grand Rounds at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside Hospital.

Dr. Y. Lynn Wang spoke in June 2005 at the New York Pathological Society President’s Symposium on “Molecular Diagnosis and Monitoring of Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.” She was also invited to present her work on “Comparison and Selection of the Control Gene For Molecular Monitoring of BCR-ABL” at Molecular Monitoring Of Patients With Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: continued on page 6

Keynotes continued
Dr. Pengbo Zhou received a Scholar Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as well as a new R01 grant from the NIH to study the role of CUL-4A ubiquitin ligase in leukemogenesis. He also served on the Molecular Oncogenesis Study Section at NIH and the Cell Cycle and Growth Control Study Section at the American Cancer Society. His invited seminar/presentations this year included the 2005 Cold Spring Harbor meeting on the Ubiquitin Family, the 6th International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Drug and Gene-based Therapeutics, the University of Pennsylvania, the Gladstone Institute of the University of California in San Francisco, Roche Pharmaceuticals (Palo Alto, CA), and Protein Design Labs (PDL). —

The Department bids farewell to our dear friend and colleague Dr. M. Desmond Burke, who has officially retired from the Weill Medical College on November 10th, 2005. A reception was held in his honor on that day. He will be truly missed!

Dr. Daniel Knoles (right) presented Dr. Burke with a sterling Tiffany platter with a special inscription and the engraved signatures of individuals with whom he closely worked.

Mr. William T. Greene, Vice President of Operations, (right) presented Dr. Burke with a pair of 18 carat gold cufflinks of the original Hospital seal.
Faculty Publications in 2005 continued


Welcome to Our New House Staff

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Residents Corner
continued

- Bonnie Balzer, Dermatopathology Fellow, received her PhD in 1995 from the University of Virginia Chemistry Department and her MD in 2000 from Stanford University School of Medicine. She was an intern in OB-GYN from June 2000 to March 2001 and became a resident in Anatomic Pathology at Stanford University Medical School from April 2001 to June 2003. The following year, she was a Surgical Pathology Fellow at Stanford University Medical School after which she undertook a Soft Tissue Fellowship at Emory University Medical School, which she completed in June 2005, prior to joining the department.

- Shahreen Billah, PGY-1, received her MD from the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston. During her medical school training, she was a member of the Future Pathologists Group and Pathology Student Society. She is engaged to be married early in 2006.

- Suzanne Brandt, PGY-1, received her MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine. She received her BS in economics from the Miami University in Ohio. During her medical school training from 2002-2003, she served as a tour guide at Georgetown University for medical school applicants.

- Xia Chen, Hematopathology Fellow, received her MD from Hunan Medical University, China, in 1987. After surgical residency training at Hunan Medical University, she became a Research Associate in the Department of Biology at Carleton University, in Canada, where she obtained her master's degree. In 1996, Dr. Chen joined the Pathology Department as a Staff Associate in Dr. William Muller's laboratory where she studied the location and function of PECAM1 (CD31) and transendothelial migration. In July 2000, she joined our Pathology Residency Training Program, finishing in June 2004. In July 2004, she was appointed an Instructor and Assistant Attending Pathologist for the year prior to her hematopathology fellowship.

- Yingbei Chen, PGY-1, received her MD in 1998 from Peking Union Medical College in China, followed by a year as an intern at Peking Union Medical College. She then came to the United States to pursue her PhD, which she received in 2004 from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Since June 2004, she has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

- Melissa Gill, Dermatopathology Fellow, received her MD in 2001 from Brown Medical School, followed by residency training in Anatomic Pathology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia Campus. In 2003, she was the recipient of a House Staff Award, Clinical Research Grant at Columbia. Dr. Gill completed her residency training at Columbia in June 2005.

- Henry Haskell, Dermatopathology Fellow, received his MD in 2002 from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. In July 2002, he entered the Pathology Residency Training Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital finishing in June 2005.

- Lawrence Kiss, Renal Pathology/ Research Fellow, received his MD in 2001 from the State University of New York at Stonybrook. In July 2001, he joined our Pathology Residency Training Program finishing his training in June 2005. Dr. Kiss is currently spending his time working with Dr. Surya Seshan in renal pathology and Dr. William Muller in basic science.

- Kristina Loukeris joins, PGY-1, received her MD in the spring of 2005 from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/Chicago Medical School. During her medical school training from 2002-2003, she was in the Pathology Honors Program. During summer months since 1998, she was a Research Assistant in a number of laboratories at New York University School of Medicine. She competes in triathlons and is currently engaged to be married.

- Kambiz Merati, Hematopathology Fellow, received his MD in 1995 from Tehran University of Medicine. From 1996 to 1997, he was a housestaff physician at the Nasr Education Center in Iran and from 1998 to 1999, prior to coming to the United States, was a primary care physician in Iran. In July 1999, he joined the pathology residency training program at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center finishing his training in June 2003. In July 2003, he was appointed a Hematopathology Fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, after which he was a Surgical Pathology Fellow at Ohio State University.

- Libo Qiu, Cytopathology Fellow, received his MD in 1985 from Hengyang Medical College in China followed by receipt of his MSc in 1988 from Hunan Medical University in China. From 1988 to 2001, he held a number of teaching positions in China, the United Kingdom and United States. In 2001 he became a resident in pathology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine where he completed is training in June 2005.

- Miroslav R. Radevic, Gastrointestinal Pathology Fellow, received his MD in 1993 from the University of Belgrade School of Medicine. From May 1993 to May 1994, he was a medical intern at Zemun Medical Center in Belgrade followed by seven months of residency training in general surgery at the same institution. In the United States, Dr. Radevic did pathology training at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

- Theresa Scognamiglio, Research Fellow, received her MD in 2001 from MCP-Hahnemann University of Medicine. In July 2001, she joined our Pathology Residency Training Program finishing her training in June 2005. Dr. Scognamiglio is currently spending the year in the laboratory of Dr. Yao-Tsung Chen, where she is working on translational research projects. As a resident Dr. Scognamiglio was the recipient of the prestigious Stowell-Orbinson Award at the 2005 USCAP meeting.

- Raana Sela, a PGY-1, received her MD in May 2005 from the University of Miami School of Medicine. During his medical school training, he was a member of the University of Miami School of Medicine Mentoring Program, mentoring medical students.

- Ramapriya Vidyun, Cytopathology Fellow, received her MD in 1995 from the Rajah Muthiah Medical College in India followed by an internship year at the same institution. From 1995 to 1997, she was a Casualty Medical Officer at St. Isabel's Hospital in India and then was in private practice in the city of Madras, India from 1997 to 1998. In 1998, she was appointed as a Research Associate in Pathology at Mt. Sinai Hospital, followed in 1999 as an appointment as a Research Associate in Endocrinology also at Mt. Sinai. In July 2000, she entered the Pathology Residency Training Program at Danbury Hospital, completing her training in June 2004. Prior to joining us, she was a Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

- Gloria Young, PGY-1, received her MD in May 2005 from Boston University School of Medicine. During her medical school training, she volunteered in the Boston University School of Medicine Outreach Van Project and Creative Arts Society, and served as a tour guide for medical school applicants. Prior to medical school she worked as an immunohistochemistry technician.
The department congratulates our June 2005 pathology residency program graduates and wishes them luck in the next phase of their career.

Dr. Cheri Aubertine and her husband John welcomed baby Ella in June. Dr. Aubertine is currently doing a surgical pathology fellowship at the University of Vermont.

Dr. Melissa Murray joined Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as a Breast Fellow.

Dr. Micheal Rivera, also joined Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as an Oncologic Pathology Fellow, and next year he will undertake a cytology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Congratulations also go to our residents finishing the program in June 2006 and accepted to outstanding fellowships:

Dr. Pramod Gumpeni will be a Fellow at the Office of the Medical Examiner for the City of New York.

Dr. Emily Duncanson will be a Fellow at the Office of the Medical Examiner for the City of New York.

Dr. Scott Merlin will be an Oncologic Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Dr. Alexandros Polydorides will be an Oncologic Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Dr. Jamie Shamonki will be a Surgical Pathology Fellow at University of California-Los Angeles Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA.

We also congratulate all of our recent graduates who took and passed their Pathology Boards: Drs. Sun Chung, Wen Fan and Melissa Murray. Dr. Sun Chung is currently an Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in our Department and Dr. Wen Fan is working at Bio-Reference, a commercial laboratory in New Jersey.

Five residents traveled to Atlanta, GA, to the 105th American Society of Microbiology Meeting to present their work. The residents who attended and presented at the meeting are: Theresa Scognamiglio, Michael Rivera, Stephen Rohan, Pramod Gumpeni and Matthew Bramlage. The abstracts they presented are:

Aubertine, CL, Rohan SM, Rivera M, Zinchuk R, Larone, DH: CHROMagar Candida as a Source Medium for isolates to be Tested with the New Vitek 2 Yeast Identification Card.


Dr. Polydorides received the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award for his abstract: “Immunohistochemistry of Cell Clot Paraffin Sections: An Efficient and Accurate Method for the Detection of Intracellular Antigens, Including Prognostic Markers in CLL.”

Dr. Rivera’s abstract was entitled “The New Colorimetric Vitek 2 Yeast Identiﬁcation Card Compared to the Older Fluorometric Card and Evaluation of CHROMagar Candida as a Source Medium with the New Card.”

Congratulations to Dr. Pramod Gumpeni who was married in August and to Dr. Matthew Bramlage who was married in September.

Welcome to Dr. Jamie Shamonki’s new daughter, Cosette and Dr. Scott Merlin’s new son, Liav.

Our New PGY-1 Residents

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at the Columbia campus of New York-Presbyterian Hospital and a cytopathology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Saqi joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in July 2002. She relocated to the Weill Cornell Medical Center in July, 2005. Dr. Saqi divides her clinical diagnostic service responsibilities between general surgical pathology and cytopathology. She has already developed an excellent clinical research program in cytopathology, contributing nearly 20 peer-reviewed publications, primarily involving cytopathology, to the medical literature.

Dr. Rhonda Yantiss received her medical degree from the Harvard Medical School in 1996 and completed her training in anatomic pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where she served as Chief Resident in anatomic pathology in her last year of training. She subsequently completed a fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in 2001 and was appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in 2001 where she worked until her recruitment to the Weill Cornell Medical Center in May, 2005. Despite her relatively junior status, Dr. Yantiss has already established a national reputation in gastrointestinal pathology, the area in which she will focus her clinical, educational, and research activities at the Weill Cornell Medical Center. She has already contributed approximately 20 abstracts and more than 25 peer-reviewed publications to the medical literature.

Each of these three individuals will contribute significantly to the clinical diagnostic services of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, to the training and education of the pathology house staff and to the clinical research programs of this Department and other clinical departments in the Medical Center.
Resident Participation at the 2005 USCAP Meeting

The Department of Pathology was well represented at the 2005 United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Meeting held in San Antonio, TX. The department was in the top 10% of academic departments with respect to the number of accepted abstracts. The abstracts include:

- KJ Park, M Bramlage, EC Pirog, LH Ellenson. CDX2 Immunohistochemical Staining Patterns in Mucinous Neoplasms of the Female Genital Tract.


- T Scognamiglio, J Kao, TJ Fahey 3rd, Y-T Chen. Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Versus Follicular Adenoma: Molecular Diagnosis by Cumulative Analysis of Gene Expression Ratios.

- T Scognamiglio, E Hyjek, Y-T Chen. Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Versus Follicular Adenoma: Analysis of Keratin 19, Galectin-3, and CITED1 Expression by Tissue Microarray.

- LP Kiss, SV Seshan. Interstitial Nephritis in HIV Patients Is Associated with an Increased Density of Lymphatic Vessels.


- M Rivera, SL Merlin, X Chen, JM Shamoni, SA Hoda. The Use of D2-40, a Marker for Vascular Endothelium, in Diagnostic Breast Pathology.

- MP Murray, KM Marks, AH Talal, RM Gulick, MJ Glesby, LM Petrovic. Steatosis in Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis C Virus Co-Infected Patients.


- JM Shamoni, JE Salmon, E Hyjek, ER Duncanson, RN Baergen. Antiphospholipid Syndrome and Placental Deposition of Complement C4d.


- SM Chung, RH Hruban, C Iacobuzio-Donahue, NV Adsay, ZY Zee, DS Klimstra. Analysis of Molecular Alterations and Differentiation Pathways in Intraductal Oncocytic Papillary Neoplasm of the Pancreas.


In addition, Dr. Theresa Scognamiglio received the prestigious Stowell-Orbison Award for the best poster presentation of scientific abstracts by a resident or student at the USCAP annual meeting.