Welcome to Our New Chair, Massimo Loda, MD

Dr. Massimo Loda, an internationally renowned molecular pathologist, is our new Chairman and Pathologist-in-Chief. Dr. Loda was recruited to Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where he was Chair of the Department of Oncologic Pathology.

An acclaimed physician-scientist with a focus on urologic oncology, Dr. Loda uses biochemical and genomic approaches to investigate the mechanisms by which prostate cancer hijacks cell metabolism to allow tumors to flourish. Unlike healthy cells, prostate tumors rely on -- and thus create -- fat, or lipids, for energy. Dr. Loda discovered that the molecular pathway responsible for that metabolic activity renders tumors vulnerable to targeted treatments, and has identified two such drugs that exploit it with few clinical side effects. Dr. Loda has also identified prostate cancer biomarkers that can predict therapeutic efficacy.

Dr. Loda is a board-certified pathologist and physician-scientist with expertise in genitourinary cancers, particularly prostate cancer. He has published more than 360 scholarly papers in journals, including Nature and its specialized publications, Cell, Cancer Cell, New England Journal of Medicine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and Journal of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Loda has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the American Cancer Society and other organizations. He is principal investigator of a National Cancer Institute Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) prostate cancer grant, which has been funded since 2002 and comprises seven academic research institutions in Boston.

He has received several awards and honors, including the Stowell-Orbison Award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, the Donald S. Coffey Physician-Scientist Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Distinguished Mentor Award from Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Loda was also elected a member of the Association of American Physicians in 2015. He serves on several national advisory boards and NIH study sections and working groups.

Dr. Loda completed his undergraduate studies in 1976 at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and received his medical degree in 1980 from the University of Milan. In the mid-1980s, Dr. Loda moved to the United States and completed a residency in anatomic pathology at Harvard Medical School, as well as a fellowship in anatomic and molecular pathology at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Loda was appointed to Harvard Medical School’s faculty in 1992, rising through the ranks to become a Professor of Pathology in 2006. He joined the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1998, where he in 2016 became Chief of the Division of Translational and Molecular Oncologic Pathology.

Dr. Loda, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, joined Weill Cornell Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in February 2019.

BIOLOGY OF PROSTATE CANCER
According to Massimo Loda, MD

For many years, Dr. Massimo Loda and his research team have studied the links between the regulation of metabolomics and the progression of prostate cancer. Today, metabolomics is defined as the quantitative measurement of the metabolic response to external stimuli or genetic alterations. It can also detect and quantify low-molecular weight metabolites produced by living cells. The metabolites of living cells are seen as the end products of the biological hierarchy, starting with activated genes (genome) and extending over the collection of gene transcripts (transcriptome) and proteins (proteome). Metabolic alterations can occur as a consequence of genetic events. Alternatively, metabolic alterations are primary events in cancer but require genetic alterations in critical pathways for oncogenesis to occur (e.g. isocitrate dehydrogenase mutations). Either way, Professor Loda
believes that genetic alterations and altered metabolic pathways go hand in hand in a tumor cell-specific manner. Thus, simultaneous targeting of selected metabolic enzymes and “driving” oncogenes may be a cancer cell-selective therapeutic approach.

Several years ago, he and his colleagues discovered that USP2a binds to and stabilizes fatty acid synthase (FASN) by preventing its degradation. This prompted them to initiate a research program focused on FASN. Having interests in the etiology and pathogenesis of prostate cancer (PCa), his laboratory investigated the expression of FASN in PCa by immunohistochemistry as well as gene expression profiling demonstrating that FASN is overexpressed in aggressive prostate carcinomas. Since it has been reported that FASN expression is highest in androgen-independent bone metastatic disease, they set out to determine whether it confers a growth advantage to PCa. Using genetically engineered human prostate epithelial cells infected with FASN, they established that FASN can act as a PCa. Subsequently, Dr. Loda and his colleagues showed that FASN germline polymorphisms are significantly associated with risk of lethal PCa. Significant interactions of BMI with FASN polymorphisms and FASN tumor expression suggest FASN as a potential link between obesity and poor PCa outcome. Dr. Loda reasons that FASN inhibition could reduce PCa-specific mortality, particularly in overweight men.

Dr. Loda recently expanded the analysis of metabolism in PCa to assess the global metabolic profile by GS/MS in immortalized prostate epithelial cells and transgenic mice, comparing Akt and Myc as the driving oncogenes. His findings show starkly different metabolic profiles resulting from these oncogenes and signatures that could be applied to human tumors and exploited as imaging tools. He has also shown that inhibition of de novo lipogenesis is the predominant downstream effector of AMPK-mediated inhibition over mTORC1 (EMBO Mol Med, 2014).

Finally, Dr. Loda’s laboratory recently showed that the inhibition of fatty acid synthesis arrested the cells at G2/M notwithstanding the presence of abundant fatty acids in the media. Their results suggest that de novo lipogenesis is essential for cell cycle completion. This “lipogenic checkpoint” at G2/M may be therapeutically exploited for hyperproliferative diseases such as cancer.

Professor Loda’s laboratory at Weill Cornell Medicine has now been established, and he continues to hit major milestones in understanding the pathogenesis of Prostate Cancer.

Relevant Publications
Dr. G enevieve Crane exploring the M uslim Quarter in Xi'an, China following the first joint workshop between the two countries' hematology societies. Xi'an was the starting point for the Silk Road, bringing a mix of cultures and persisting today as a vibrant food and social scene.

Dr. M atthew G reenblatt (middle-left) after giving the plenary lecture on the Bone Biology Forum of Japan with colleagues Hiroshi Asahara and Ryo Nakamichi, August 2019 and (right) at podium speaking at the annual International Chinese Musculoskeletal Research Society in Shenzhen China, August 2019.

Dr. M om in Siddiqui 1. (2nd from left) was a Seminar Faculty and Speaker on Pancreas Cytology, 9th Annual Siriraj-Johns Hopkins, Cytology Course, Bangkok, Thailand, July 12th, 2019; 2. (2nd from right) Dr. Siddiqui was a Congress Faculty and Speaker at The 20th International Congress of Cytology, Sydney, Australia, May 9th-9th, 2019; 3. (far right) Dr. Siddiqui was a Seminar Faculty and Speaker at the 2019 Croatian Society of Clinical Cytology and American Society of Cytology Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia, September 21, 2019.

Dr. Rhonda Yantiss (front-middle) Dr. Yantiss was the guest GI Pathology speaker at the Pathotim 2019 Recent Advances in GI, GU, and Placental Pathology Seminar in Timisoara, Romania.

Dr. A my Chadburn (2nd from left) The Great Wall of Xian – members of the Workshop Panel and speakers from the 1st Joint Chinese Society for Hematology/SH Workshop (left to right) Drs. Yaso Natkunam (Stanford), Amy Chadburn (Weill-Cornell), Girish Venkataraman (U of Chicago) and Paul Rubinbein (Cook County Hospital, Chicago). Dr. Chadburn was part of the Workshop Panel and lectured on “HIV and HHV8-related Lymphomas” at the 2 day meeting held in Xian, China, October 19-20, 2019. Other members of the department who presented at the meeting included Mihn Mays, Hematopathology Fellow, and Eve Crane, Hematopathology Attending.

Dr. Yao-Tseng Chen returned to Taiwan in January to vote in the presidential campaign (with a happy ending)!

Our Renowned Pathologists on the Global Stage
**Faculty Focus**

*by Massimo Loda, MD*

**Welcome New Faculty**

**HEMATOPATHOLOGY**  
Anna Nam, MD joined the department as Instructor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine July 2019. Dr. Nam received her Bachelor’s Degree from Davidson College in 2008. While there she excelled as a student, received multiple awards and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She received her medical degree from University of Missouri School of Medicine, where she received clerkship honors in multiple rotations and graduated Alpha Omega Alpha. Dr. Nam took two years off from medical school to serve as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Scholar under the mentorship of Dr. Jung-Hyun Park. She completed her training in Anatomic Pathology, followed by a one year fellowship in Hematopathology, followed by a Molecular Pathology Fellowship, all with us. During that time, she had the opportunity to spend time in the research laboratory of Dr. Dan Landau where she has excelled. She was awarded the Alumni Counsel Distinguished Housestaff Award for Pathology from Weill Cornell Medicine in 2018 and the American Society of Hematology Abstract Achievement Award in 2018 as well.

Sanjay Patel, MD, MHA joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in July 2019. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Rochester in 2007, and then his master’s degree of science and public health in 2009; after which, he earned an MD from Saint George’s University in the West Indies in 2013. He did his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of Wisconsin hospital and clinics in Madison, Wisconsin, finishing in 2017. His fellowships were completed at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 2018 and 2019. Dr. Patel is board-certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and hematopathology. In the past two years, Dr. Patel has received academic honors and awards including the David Y. Mason Award from the European Association Hematopathology and from the Benjamin Castleman Award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology.

**MOLECULAR AND GENOMIC PATHOLOGY**  
James Solomon, MD, PhD joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in July 2019. Dr. Solomon graduated from the combined MD/PhD Program at the University of California, San Diego. He received his PhD from the Scripps Research Institute in July 2011 and his MD from the University of California, San Diego in June 2013. Subsequently, he completed residency training in both Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of California, San Diego. This was followed by an Oncologic Pathology Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he is now currently completing a Molecular Pathology Fellowship. During his residency, he received the Saltzstein Award for patient-oriented service in 2015 and has been editor of the monthly “Molecular Pathology” column in CAP today since 2014.

Priya Velu, MD, PhD joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in August 2019. She received her bachelor of arts degree in biophysics from The Johns Hopkins University in 2005, and then received her MD, PhD in neuroscience from the University of California, San Diego in 2014. After which, she moved to the University of Pennsylvania where she was a resident in Clinical Pathology, and a post-doctoral research fellow in Precision Medicine and Molecular Genetic Pathology in the Department of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Velu is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Clinical Pathology and is board eligible in molecular genetic pathology. She spends her time in Molecular and Genomic Pathology, and research. Her work focuses on cancer biology as well as areas of neuroscience.

**LABORATORY MEDICINE**  
Sabrina Racine-Brzostek MD, PhD joins the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in July 2019. Dr. Racine-Brzostek received her bachelor of science degree from Boston College in 2000, and her MD and PhD from Stony Brook University School of Medicine in Stony Brook, New York in 2013. She did an anatomic and clinical pathology residency program at Montefiore Medical Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York. Moreover, she became their chief resident and then moved on to the New York Blood Center and Weill Cornell Medicine to serve as a transient transfusion medicine fellow in 2018. Dr. Racine-Brzostek also served as a research assistant with Dr. Anthony Hollenberg at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center from 2000 to 2001. At Stony Brook, she was involved in the medical scientist training program and has given many didactic lectures there as well as here at Weill Cornell.

**SURGICAL PATHOLOGY**  
Lihui Qin, MD, PhD joined the Department as Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. She received her medical degree from Beijing Medical University in her native China in 1986. After practicing occupational medicine in China for four years, she immigrated to the United States and matriculated in the PhD program at the Medical University of South Carolina. She received a PhD under the mentorship of Dr. J. Bromberg from that institution in 1994. She subsequently joined Dr. Bromberg at the University of Michigan where she served as a post-doctoral research fellow for five years. She entered the pathology residency training program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1999 and completed her training in anatomic pathology at that institution in 2002. Subsequently, she completed a fellowship in gastrointestinal and transplantation pathology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 2003. She is board-certified in anatomical pathology.

Arryn Craney, PhD joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in August 2019. Dr. Craney is a Clinical Microbiology Fellow in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She obtained her BSc at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and her PhD in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at McMaster University, Canada, where she investigated metabolism in *Streptomyces coelicolor*. Subsequently, she conducted a highly productive postdoctoral fellowship in the Romesberg Laborato Velu,ry at The Scripps Research Institute where she focused on antimicrobial resistance. Dr. Craney has continued to expand upon her interest surrounding antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance throughout her fellowship and is excited to bring her expertise to bear in New York City, a bastion of antimicrobial resistance.

Jenny Yang, MD, PhD joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in September 2019. She received her bachelor of science degree and master of arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and MD/PhD from Harvard Medical School. After which, she became a clinical pathology resident and pathology fellow at Columbia University Medical Center. She is board-certified in Clinical Pathology. She was a visiting fellow at Rockefeller University. Dr. Yang has been the recipient of several awards from Harvard Medical School, the NIH, and UCLA; and, she was a Howard Hughes research fellow from 2004-2006.
Dr. Rebecca Baergen presented three lectures while attending the 34th Annual Conference on Obstetrics, Gynecology, Perinatal Medicine, Neonatology and the Law held in Maui, Hawaii (January, 2018): “Adverse Pregnancy Outcome: Benefits and Limitation of Placental Pathology,” “Maternal and Fetal Vascular Malperfusion;” and Potential Medical and Legal Implications of Inflammatory Lesions of the Placenta.” In March 2018, she attended the Workshop for Society for Pediatric Pathology Annual Spring Meeting in Virginia, where she presented a workshop on: “What the placenta can tell us.” In June, Dr. Baergen traveled to Glasgow, Scotland to attend the International Conference on Stillbirth, SIDS and Baby Survival, where she presented: “Interpreting the Placental Pathology Report.” Also in June, she presented “Placental Pathology and Adverse Outcome – an update” at the American Conference Institute, Philadelphia, PA.

It has been a busy year for Dr. Amy Chadburn as she has given a number of lectures and talks in different areas of the country and the world. January started off with a trip to Florida where she lectured on “Immunodeficiency-related Lymphoproliferative Disorders in the Neoplastic Hematopathology Course.” As it was the last year that Dr. Daniel Knowles, our former chairman, was director of the course, it was a great honor to be able to participate. In March, Dr. Chadburn traveled to Washington, DC, for two meetings. The first was the AIDS Malignancy Consortium International Pathology Meeting where she spoke on “Lymphomas in the Setting of HIV Infection” and “A Practical Approach to Immunohistochemistry.” This meeting was attended by individuals from several countries in Africa and South America. Following this meeting Dr. Chadburn attended the USCAP meeting where she had 3 scientific projects presented as posters with residents and other departmental faculty. In addition, she, with Dr. Ethel Cesarm an from our department with two other individuals from the University of Miami gave a short course entitled “Viral-Associated Lymphoproliferative Lesions: A Rational Approach.” She was also the moderator for the Hematopathology Night Case Conference Session, which received excellent reviews.

In April, Dr. Chadburn had a case accepted and presented as a podium talk at the European Bone Marrow Working Group meeting held in Frankfurt, Germany. She also presented a case of “Marginal Zone Lymphoma in a Patient with Autoimmune Disease and Iatrogenic Immune Suppression” in conjunction with Dr. John Allan from the Lymphoma Group at WCM at the Lymphoma Research Foundation (LFR) 2019 New York Lymphoma Rounds: Marginal Zone Edition held in association with the LFR Marginal Zone Lymphoma Scientific Workshop. This case presentation was subsequently published as part of the Fall Edition of the LFR newsletter, Frontline. Early May saw Dr. Chadburn in San Francisco at the ASCO (AIDS Cancer Specimen Resource) Advisory Board Meeting. On her return she lectured on Opportunistic Infections and Lymphomas, to the Arthur Ashe Fellowship Recipients who are individuals that spend a month at WCM learning about AIDS and AIDS treatments. Later in May she was the Grand Rounds speaker at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, FL, where she talked on “Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorders.”

In June, Dr. Chadburn traveled to Poland where she gave 5 lectures and 2 case seminars at the “Update in Hematopathology” 3-day course held in Warsaw. There she lectured on Immunodeficiency-related Lymphoproliferative Disorders, T-cell Lymphomas, Diffuse Aggressive B-cell Lymphomas, Plasma Cell Neoplasms and the Spleen. In early August, Dr. Chadburn lectured as part of the The Papanicolaou and Frost 2019 Cytopathology Tutorial: A Cornell and Johns Hopkins Partnership in Excellence. The title of her lecture for this meeting was “Challenging Lymphoid Lesions – The Hematopathology Consultation” where she presented on how to optimize small tissues for the diagnosis of lymphoid and myeloid lesions. She then went to Anaheim, CA, for the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) annual meeting where she lectured on “Hemoglobin Electrophoresis,” presenting the work-up of hemoglobinopathy cases seen here at NYP-WCM, partnering with a clinical chemist who discussed the technical aspects of testing. In September, she presented a course with Dr. Genevieve Crane, also of the Division of Hematopathology, on “Emerging Trends in Immunosuppression-related Lymphoproliferative Disease, Optimizing Patient Care with Insight from Clinical and Molecular Data.” This course was one of the best attended sessions at the 2019 American Society of Clinical Pathology Annual Meeting.

In addition, Dr. Chadburn served on the expert panel for the The 1st Joint Chinese Society of Hematopathology – Society of Hematopathology Workshop held in October 19 and 20. This was a 2-day workshop held in Xian, China, where cases were presented in 4 different categories including chronic EBV infections and borderline lymphoproliferations, EBV-related lymphomas, HIV and HHV8-related lymphomas and other infectious agents. In addition, there was a multidisciplinary case presentation session, where Dr. Minh Mays, hematopathology fellow, with Drs. Crane, Chadburn, Geyer and Tam, presented a case of “Extra-nodal NK/T-cell Lymphoma Arising in a Patient with Concurrent Hepatitis B Viremia.” Dr. Chadburn also gave a plenary lecture on “HHV and HHV8-related Lymphomas.” Back in New York, Dr. Chadburn lectured on “Interpreting Bone Marrow Biopsy/Immunopathology Reports” to the nurse practitioners and physician assistants at the 2019 Lymphoma & Myeloma: An International Congress on Hematologic Malignancies. Most recently she traveled to Lima, Peru, as part of the planning committee for the AMC PEACH Trial where she lectured the Histologic Criteria, Pitfalls, Assessment and Central Review for the trial.

Dr. Genevieve Crane was named to the Pathologist’s 2019 Power List, as a top trailblazer in the field and recognized on the cover of the September 2019 Pathologist Magazine. She was an invited guest faculty at the European Bone Marrow Working Group XIV International Course and Workshop on Bone Marrow Pathology, and lectured as part of the Foundation in Bone Marrow Pathology Course: “Primer for diagnosing cytopenia – practical guidelines for diagnosing myelodysplasia and reactive mimickers,” in Frankfurt, Germany. She also gave two case-based platform presentations as part of this workshop. Dr. Julia Geyer was on the scientific committee for this meeting and also presented as part of the Foundations Course. Dr. Crane’s research on HHV-6 with Dr. Ethel Cesarm an resulted in a platform presentation in the “Hot Topics” section of the 11th International conference on HHV-6 & HHV-7, Quebec City, Canada as well as pilot grant to Dr. Crane from the HHV-6 Foundation to continue this work. Dr. Crane and Dr. Chadburn presented a short course at the ASCP Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ in September 2019 titled, “Emerging trends in immunosuppression-related lymphoproliferative disease, optimizing patient care with insight from clinical and molecular data,” which was one of the top 5 most attended courses of the meeting. Dr. Crane together with division colleagues at Weill Cornell had multiple cases accepted for discussion at the 1st Joint Workshop between the Chinese Society for Hematopathology at the Society for Hematopathology in Xi’an, China. A case submitted together with current fellow Dr. Minh Mays was selected for a platform and presented by Dr. Mays at this inaugural event focusing on infectious agent related lymphoproliferative disease.

Dr. Crane continues to serve on the editorial board of multiple journals and was recently promoted to Deputy-Editor-in-Chief of PathologyOutlines.com, the largest online pathology resource in the world.

In this past academic year, Dr. Annarita Di Lorenzo was an invited speaker at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, at King’s College of London, Cardiovascular Division, and Neuromed/University of Rome “La Sapienza” where she discussed her recently published work on the role of sphingolipids in a new model of coronary artery atherosclerosis and myocardial infarction. She gave a talk at the FEBS Special Meeting in Sphingolipid Biology and at Hypertension Scientific Session AHA on how specific sphingolipids control blood pressure homeostasis. She was a member of the organizing committee for the 10th International Conference on the Biology, Chemistry and Therapeutics Applications of Nitric Oxide. She also served as an ad hoc reviewer on AHA and NIH study sections.
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Dr. Yi-Chieh Nancy Du’s lab focuses on understanding cancer metastasis in order to develop targeted therapies. Dr. Du served as an ad-hoc reviewer on two NIH study sections and a reviewer for Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Dr. Du was an invited speaker at the 5th NCIC Pancreatic Cancer Symposium, NIH and University of Maryland Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Domenick J. Falcone received an Award for Excellence in Medical Education for developing a comprehensive set of interactive exercises in organ-based histology, and in recognition of his role as an educator in the Health, Illness and Disease course (June, 2019). Dr. Falcone continues to serve as vice-chair of the Executive Curriculum Committee and co-director of the Essential Principles of Medicine (EPOM) course. He serves as basic science theme leader for the medical college curriculum, and leader of the Injury, Infection, Immunity and Repair learning unit of the EPOM course. In December 2019, Dr. Falcone traveled to Doha, Qatar to teach the first year students at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, and review the course progress with the WCM-Qatar faculty.

In 2019, Dr. Paula Ginter was an invited speaker at The 3rd Annual International Symposium: Improving Breast Cancer Management and Outcomes in Africa, Aug, 2019, Enugu, Nigeria. The title of her presentation was “Processing of Breast Tissue for Optimal H&E, IHC and RNA/DNA Extraction and Sequencing.”

In 2019, Dr. Matthew Greenblatt was an invited speaker at the University of Michigan Center for Organogenesis (October 2019), the Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Bone Disease Program of Texas (September 2019), the International Chinese Musculoskeletal Research Society Annual Meeting, and the Bone Biology forum of Japan (August 2019), where he discussed his recent publication on the identity of the periosteal stem cell. He also gave the YueJin lecture in life sciences at Xiamen University (August 2019) and the International Scholars lecture at Guangzhou University (August 2019) on the same topic. He spoke at the European Calcified Tissue Society annual meeting in Budapest (May 2019) on the discovery of a novel angiogenic factor in bone, SLIT3, and conducted a session at this meeting on how to work with and define skeletal stem cells. He was awarded a 2019 Pershing Square Sohn Prize in Cancer Research to study how different skeletal stem cells may have different capacities to support tumor cells metastasizing to bone.

Dr. David Hajjar was appointed Senior Advisor to the Dean/Provost of Medical Affairs at Cornell as well as Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at WCM.

2019 was a special year for Dr. Selina Chen-Kiang and her team. For her innovative and seminal contributions to developing CDK4/6 inhibitor as a cancer therapy, Dr. Chen-Kiang was honored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at the Crimson Ball in New York City on April 24. Dr. Christina Lee, a clinical fellow with Dr. Chen-Kiang was selected for the Conquer Cancer Foundation of American Society of Clinical Oncology/Frist Family Endowed Young Investigator Award for her project entitled “Longitudinal Genomic analysis of Tumor-Immune Cell interaction in targeting CDK4 in mantle cell lymphoma” in July, and as a Lymphoma Research Foundation Scholar in LRF Clinical Research Mentoring Program for “Dual CDK4/6 and immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy in indolent non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in November. Nicole Zhao, a summer intern with Dr. Chen-Kiang from Stony Brook University, won an Outstanding Abstract Accomplishment Award from the American Society of Hematology and gave an oral presentation on “Disrupting GRINL1A Association with Cereblon Accelerates IKZF1/3 Degradation and IMiD Killing of MCL Cells by CDK4/6 Inhibition” at the Annual ASH meeting in Orlando Florida (December 7-10). Dr. Chen-Kiang continued to serve on the American Society of Cancer Research Basic Cancer Research Fellowship Review Committee. She was invited to give a keynote lecture on “Longitudinal scRNA-seq analysis of tumor-immune interaction in lymphoma therapy” at the Annual Waldenstrom Roadmap Symposium (April 6-7); speak at the Meyer Cancer Center Overseer’s meeting on May 1 and Retreat on May 3rd, the New York Genome Center on June 4th; at the Hematology-Oncology Grand Rounds at Knight Cancer Center at Oregon Health Science University on June 12th; the 5th International RB Conference in Charleston, South Carolina (September 29-October 2); the Second Annual Cornell Cancer Research Symposium in Ithaca on October 11; the International Lymphoma and Myeloma Congress in New York City on October 25th; and the European Society of Hematology Mantle Cell Lymphoma – Now and Beyond Conference in Rome, Italy (November 8th), and she chaired a session on “Lymphoma—Genetic Epigenetic Biology: Lymphoma Genomics and Mechanisms of Lymphomagenesis” at the ASH meeting (December 7-10).

In June 2019, Dr. Cynthia Magro along with her colleagues Dr. Mihm and Dr. Crowson gave their annual comprehensive Dermatopathology course for the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) meeting held in Seattle, WA. Dr. Magro gave 15 lectures during the weeklong course discussing diverse topics in the field of Dermatopathology. She continues her work as a section editor for Dermatopathology for the online Journal, The Dermatologist.

Dr. Sanjay Patel has received the following notable awards: David Y. Mason Award from the European Association for Haematopathology (October 2018), Benjamin Castleman Award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (March 2019) and the Poster of Distinction from the Departments of Pathology, Brigham and Women’s and Massachusetts General Hospitals/ Harvard Medical School (May 2019).

Dr. Hanna Rennert has established a collaboration with the industry to study the genomic profile of renal cyst epithelial cells derived from patients with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD), using advanced genomic sequencing methodologies including whole exome and whole genome sequencing. She was invited to serve on Vertex Advisory Board for ADPKD in April 2019 in Boston, MA. The purpose of this board was to discuss the genetics of human renal cysts, especially with regard to somatic mutations and how this influences choice of therapeutic approach. Additionally she has validated an ultra-deep next-generation sequencing assay for detecting and monitoring of low-frequency somatic mutations in circulating cell-free tumor DNA in lung cancer patients. A poster describing this work has been presented at the Association for Molecular Pathology annual meeting in November 2018 in San Antonio, TX. She also mentored PYG4 resident, Rebecca Marrero Rolon who had a podium presentation, at AALPS in June 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah, entitled “Clinical Utility of a Laboratory Developed BKV Viral Load Assay for Predicting BKV Associated Nephropathy in Kidney Transplant Patients.” Finally, Dr. Rennert has been a member of the AMP Genomic Guideless for Molecular Genetic Pathology fellows Working Group.

Dr. David Rickman was an invited speaker at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, (April 2018) and the Roswell
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Dr. Momin Siddiqui serves as the Chief of Papanicolaou Cytology Laboratory at Weill Cornell Medicine. 2019 has been a busy year for Dr. Siddiqui. He had a number of national and international speaking presentations. He organized and moderated the American Society of Cytopathology Companion Meeting titled “Serous Cavity Fluids: Momentum, Molecules, Markers…and More!!!” at the USCAP 2019 meeting. This was followed by chairing sessions and participating as faculty at the International Congress of Cytology in Sydney, Australia in May 2019. He was an invited speaker at the Siriraj- Johns Hopkins Cytology Course in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2019 and the 2019 Croatian Society of Clinical Cytology Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia in September 2019. He also moderated sessions and was an invited faculty at the 2019 American Society of Clinical Pathology Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ and the American Society of Cyto-pathology Annual Scientific Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. He organized and directed the Papanicolaou and Frost 2019 Cytopathology Tutorial in New York, NY, in August 2019. Dr Siddiqui continues to serve on the editorial boards of Cancer Cytopathology, Diagnostic Cytopathology, Acta Cytologica and Cytojournal, and was appointed a Section Editor for the Journal of American Society of Cytopathology.

Dr. Lars Westblade had a number of regional and national speaking engagements including: Laboratory Literature Review, First Coast ID/CM Symposium, February 2nd 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; A Clinical Microbiologist’s Antimicrobial Susceptibility Journey: not the Path of Least Resistance, Wadsworth Center, March 15th 2019, in Albany, NY; Microbiology for the Masses, Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists Annual Meeting, May 30th 2019; What you Should be Doing and What’s to Come, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services CRE Surveillance and Prevention Conference, June 11th 2019, in Plymouth, MI; Integrating Rapid Diagnostics into Antimicrobial Stewardship: Microbiology and Stewardship Synergies, ASM Microbe 2019, June 20th 2019, in San Francisco, CA; Guess the Resistance Mechanism, ASM Microbe 2019, June 21st 2019, in San Francisco, CA; Literature Review, Infectious Diseases Diagnostics, ASM Microbe 2019, June 22nd 2019; San Francisco, CA; Case Studies, SCASM 83rd Annual Meeting, October 26th 2019, in San Diego, CA; and Wonderful World of Staphylococci!, 2019 SEACM Annual Meeting, November 16th 2019, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dr. Jenny Yang is the recipient of the Kellen Junior Faculty Award, selected among her peers across the medical college. This is a notable achievement. Congratulations!

Dr. Rhonda Yantiss had a number of national and international speaking engagements, including presentations at Scientific Symposia in Maui, Hawaii, the 30th European Congress of Pathology in Bilbao, Spain, and Diagnostic Pathology Updates of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology in Napa, California. She was a visiting lecturer in the Surgical Pathology for the Practicing Pathologist Course of Harvard Medical School in Fort Myers, Florida, the 6th Princeton Integrated Pathology Symposium in Plainsboro, New Jersey, and the 26th Annual Seminar in Pathology of Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was the Davey Lecturer for Discovery, Research, Innovation, and Education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, and presented in two interactive courses at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Interactive Center in Palm Springs, California. She directed the Tutorial on Pathology of the GI Tract, Pancreas, and Liver for the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology in San Sebastian, Spain and lectured at the 24th Congress of the Chinese Society of Pathology in Chengdu, China on behalf of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. Dr. Yantiss continues to serve as an ad hoc reviewer for fifteen journals, and is an editorial board member of the Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Modern Pathology, American Journal of Clinical Pathology, Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology, and The American Journal of Surgical Pathology. She serves as Associate Editor of Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Senior Associate Editor of Modern Pathology, and is an abstract reviewer for the College of American Pathologists. Dr. Yantiss continues to serve on the Education Committee and is Chair of the Abstract Review and Assignment Committee of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. She also serves on the American Board of Pathology Test Development and Advisory Committee for Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Yantiss is the President-Elect of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society of Surgical Pathologists.

Newly Awarded Pathology Grants

NIH Support for Scientific Conferences (R13)
Title: The 22nd international conference on Kaposi’s sarcoma-associated herpes virus and related agents
Principal Investigator: Ethel Cesaran, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 04/09/2019 – 03/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $8,000

Inter-campus Seed Grant
Title: Disruption of protein synthesis by cytoplasmic inclusions of RNA-binding proteins drives cytotoxicity and neurodegeneration in ALS/FTD
Principal Investigator: Jessica Tyler, PhD & Sui Sylvia Lee, PhD (Cornell, Ithaca)
Period of Support: 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020
Total Direct Costs: $75,000

National Institutes of Health Research Grant (R01)
Title: Role of novel onco-histone mutations in b-cell malignancies
Principal Investigator: Ethel Cesaran, MD, PhD & Charles David Allis, PhD (Rockefeller)
Period of Support: 08/01/2019 – 07/31/2024
Total Direct Costs: $630,707

HHV-6 Foundation Grant
Title: HHV-6 in the lymphoma microenvironment
Principal Investigators: Genevieve Crane, MD, PhD & Ethel Cesaran, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 08/06/2019 – 08/05/2020
Total Direct Costs: $9,309

NIH High Priority, Short-Term Project Award (R56)
Title: Mechanisms underlying integrated stress response induced inflammation
Principal Investigator: Ji hye Paik, PhD
Period of Support: 09/01/2019 – 08/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $250,000

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Pathology Grants

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◆ Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Research Alliance
Title: Targeting skeletal stem cells to treat tumor-induced osteolysis
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2019-06/30/2022
Total Direct Costs: $545,454

◆ MSK Lymphoma SPORE Career Enhancement Program
Title: Targeting metabolic vulnerabilities in primary effusion lymphoma using the novel nucleoside analog (6-ETI)
Principal Investigator: Jouliana Sadek, PhD
(Instructor, Ethel Cesarmian Lab)
Period of Support: 08/01/2019-07/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $50,000

◆ National Institutes of Health (R01)
Title: Defining molecular determinants of lineage plasticity as a mechanism of treatment resistance in prostate cancer
Principal Investigator: David S. Rickman, PhD
Period of Support: 08/01/2019-07/31/2024
Total Direct Costs: $1,443,165

◆ National Institutes of Health (R01)
Title: Recipient epidemiology and donor evaluation study IV-pediatric (REDS-IV-P)
Principal Investigator: Melissa Cushing, MD
Period of Support: 04/01/2019-03/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $35,826

◆ JumpStart Research Career Development Program
Title: The stem cell basis of the bifurcation between adipogenic versus osteogenic lineages
Principal Investigator: Shawon Debath, PhD
(Research Associate, Matthew Greenblatt Lab)
Period of Support: 07/01/2019-06/30/2022
Total Direct Costs: $300,000

◆ The Daedalus Fund for Innovation
Title: Development and in vitro validation of novel antibody therapeutics for vascular disorders
Principal Investigator: Teresa Sanchez, PhD
Period of Support: 04/01/2019-03/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $100,000

◆ National Institutes of Health (R01 Subaward)
Title: The impact of changes in chromatin architecture on cancer phenotypes and tumor progression
Principal Investigator: Giorgio Inghirami, MD
Period of Support: 06/01/2019-05/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $121,782

◆ US Department of Defense (Subaward)
Title: Molecular and clinical correlates with prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)-targeted radionuclide therapy
Principal Investigator: Francesca Khani, MD
Period of Support: 07/01/2019-06/30/2020
Total Direct Costs: $10,331

◆ WCM SPORE Career Enhancement Award
Title: Prostate cancers with MAPK oncogenic driver mutations: characterizations of a potentially novel and targetable molecular subclass associated with aggressive behavior
Principal Investigator: Francesca Khani, MD
Period of Support: 08/01/2019-07/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $50,000

◆ National Institutes of Health Research Grant (R01)
Title: Coopition of the DNA damage response for epigenetic regulation of inflammation
Principal Investigator: Steven Josepowicz, PhD
Period of Support: 12/01/2019-11/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $1,250,000

◆ National Institutes of Health Research Grant (R01)
Title: Endothelial sphingolipid synthesis and tissue inflammatory response
Principal Investigator: Annarita Di Lorenzo, PhD
Period of Support: 12/10/2019-11/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $1,078,000

◆ The Medical Centre Insurance Company (MCIC) Vermont
Title: Enhancing pathology accuracy through artificial intelligence slide review
Principal Investigator: Alain Borczuk, MD
Period of Support: 03/01/2020-12/31/2020
Total Direct Costs: $20,000

◆ Lymphoma Research Foundation Fellowship Grant
Title: Signaling to chromatin pathways in regulation of germinal center B cell differentiation and lymphoma
Principal Investigator: Alexia Martinez De Paz
(postdoc in Steven Josefowicz Lab)
Period of Support: 03/01/2020-02/28/2022
Total Direct Costs: $105,000

Congratulations Dr. Rhonda K. Yantiss

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

The American Board of Pathology Announces the Appointment of Rhonda K. Yantiss, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College to the Test Development and Advisory Committee for Gastrointestinal, Liver, and Pancreatic pathology.

TAMPA, Fla., (January 9, 2020) - The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rhonda K. Yantiss to the ABPath’s Test Development and Advisory Committee (TDAC) for Gastrointestinal, Liver, and Pancreatic pathology for 2020. The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess and certify a physician’s education, knowledge, experience, and skills in order to provide high quality care in the pathology profession.

To be appointed to a TDAC means a physician is an established subject matter expert in their subspecialty field and is current on the latest advances in the continually evolving field of pathology and patient care. TDAC committee members develop and review examination questions for statistical performance and relevance to current practice. They contribute to the validity of examinations by determining the content and distribution of items on examinations (exam blueprints). The TDACs also advise the ABPath on issues in their subspecialty area of expertise.

“As TDAC members, these physicians play a critical role in the development of the exams and are entrusted with maintaining the integrity of the board-certified designation. The appointment to a TDAC indicates the physician is highly regarded in the field of pathology and exemplifies the utmost standards of care,” states Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, CEO of the American Board of Pathology.

Contact: Bonnie A. Woodworth, Communications Director, American Board of Pathology
(813) 724-3707 • bwoodworth@abpath.org • abpath.org

Dear Dr. Yantiss,

It is my honor to inform you that you have been selected to receive the 2019-2020 Honorary Fellowship Award presented by the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association. Each year the Alumni Association presents two Honorary Fellowship Awards to individuals who did not receive their MD or PhD degree from the Medical College and who, by their scholarship, dedication and leadership have greatly enhanced and enriched the life of the Medical College, its faculty, and its students.

The award will be presented during Reunion on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Again, my congratulations.

Best,
Natasha I. Leibel, MD ’98
President
WCMC Alumni Association
Residents’ Research Day

Held in the Greenberg Conference Room, April 18, 2019 at Weill Cornell Medicine, the judges for this year’s platform presentations were: Surya Seshan, MD, Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Chief of Renal Pathology; Wayne Tam, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Co-Director of Molecular Hematopathology; Wei Song, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Director of Clinical Genomics Initiative. Of the 6-oral presentations, the 2-winners were:

Dr. William (Sam) Towne (PGY-2, AP/CP).

Dr. Matthew Canver (PGY-2, CP-PSTP).

Best scientific poster presentation of 18-posters presented went to Dr. Miguel Cantu (PGY-4, AP/CP).

Dr. Victoria Costa (PGY-3, AP/CP) presented 2-posters at the ASCP 2019 Annual Meeting titled “PD-L1 Immunohistochemistry on Cellblock Preparations from Different Fixatives: A Pilot Study,” which was a blue ribbon finalist, and “PD-L1 Expression on Cellblock Preparations of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma.” Victoria also received an award from the ASCP (American Society of Clinical Pathology) as one of the “40Under Forty,” which recognizes future leaders in pathology for their achievements and leadership in pathology. This was also awarded in 2019.

Dr. Kartik Viswanathan (PGY-4, AP/CP) is the recipient of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society Study Stipend, which is an award to allow residents in pathology to spend one month at another institution to pursue study of a specific area of diagnostic surgical pathology. Dr. Viswanathan will be hosted by Dr. Jonathan Epstein at The Johns Hopkins University Hospital in the area of Genitourinary pathology.

Our very own Dr. Layla Hatem (PGY-4, AP/CP) has been awarded the November 2019 Employee of the Month Award! Congratulations Layla!

Dr. Tobias (Toby) Cohen was awarded the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award and, as one of the top scoring abstracts, he was a candidate for the Young Investigator Award with Distinction. Toby’s abstract scored in the top 6 out of 97+ submissions for ACLPS 2019 but he didn’t get the “distinction.” The Strandjord award is from ACLPS (Academy of clinical laboratory physicians and scientists).

The digital image contest had 13-entries and the winner was Dr. Danielle D’Ambrosio (PGY-4, AP/CP) for her photo (right) “RCT FULLFACE.”

All winners were awarded with gift certificates. Congratulations to all on your excellent presentations and participation.

Housestaff and Residency Program Leadership at the annual holiday party held at the Metropolitan Club.
Welcome New Residents

Paul Dylan Barone, MD
Paul completed his MD from Weill Cornell Medicine. His undergraduate degree is in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Binghamton. Paul has been around the department for a few years working with the pathology student interest group, coming to conferences, and writing iBooks in support of medical student pathology education here at Weill Cornell. Paul is an incoming AP/CP resident.

Shaham Beg, MBBS
Shaham completed his medical education and a residency in Pathology at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Aligarh in India and has been a practicing pathologist, prior to joining the Englander Institute of Precision Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine as the previous Research Fellow. Shaham is an incoming AP/CP resident.

Diana Rose Berman, MD
Diana completed her MD from the Howard University College of Medicine, where she was AOA. Her undergraduate degree is in Bioengineering from the University of California, LA. Diana is an incoming AP/CP resident.

Alicia Veonia Dillard, MD
Alicia completed her MD from the Howard University College of Medicine with an academic scholarship. Her undergraduate degree is in Neuroscience from Brown University. Alicia is an incoming AP/CP resident.

Jeffrey Michael Kubiak, MD, PhD
Jeffrey completed his MD, PhD from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. His undergraduate degree is in Biology from Georgetown University in DC and his PhD is in Cell and Molecular Biology-Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology. Jeff is an incoming AP/CP resident.

Welcome New Fellows

Yahya Al-Ghamdi, MBBS
Hematopathology
Yahya graduated medical school in 2001 from Umm Al-Qura University Faculty of Medicine from Saudi Arabia. He completed his AP/CP residency from Rush University in Chicago, IL.

Hussein Alnajar, MBChB
Genitourinary Fellowship
Hussein completed his medical school in Iraq at Al-Mustansyria University in 2010. He then completed his AP/CP residency from Rush University in Chicago, IL. Hussein is currently completing his Surgical Pathology fellowship at North Shore University Health System.

Kenrry Chiu, MD
Gastrointestinal Pathology
Kenrry joins us from Canada where he completed his Medical school at McGill University in 2014. He moved to Vancouver to complete his AP residency at the University of British Columbia.

Ami Patel, MD
Cytopathology
Ami completed her residency in AP/CP program Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and will be staying on as a Cytopathology Fellow.

Alexandra Budhai, MD
Transfusion Medicine
Alexandra obtained her MD from Ross University School of Medicine in 2015 and completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Residency training in 2019 at Westchester Medical Center/New York Medical College. She joins our department as the Transfusion Medicine Fellow, where she will complete the transfusion service portion of her fellowship from July-December 2019.

Leadership Appointments:
- Melissa Cushing, MD
  Vice Chair for Laboratory Medicine
- Ethel Cesarmean, MD, PhD
  Vice Chair for Education
- Lars Westblade, PhD
  Director of Clinical Microbiology

Visit our Residency Program on Facebook
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Promotions:
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  Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- Theresa Scognamiglio, MD
  Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- David Pisapia, MD
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