Welcome from the Chairman

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we are proud of the hard work and dedication our faculty have displayed across our divisions, and I thank each one of them for continuing to make our department a leader at Weill Cornell Medicine and among our peers at top tier academic medical organizations across the country and around the world.

Our mission has never been more important: To provide science-based diagnostic services of the highest quality in anatomic pathology, hematopathology and laboratory medicine; to pursue innovative basic and clinical research dedicated to discovering pathogenic mechanisms of human disease; and to promote an integrated scientific and clinical educational experience for pathology residents and fellows, as well as Weill Cornell medical and graduate students.

We have invested in the technologies of the future such as computational and molecular pathology and attracted world renowned scientists, students of the highest caliber, and continue to attract the brightest residents and fellows. Our faculty continue to publish very high-quality research in some of the best peer-reviewed scientific journals, pushing the boundaries of science.

We are proud of the work of our staff, at all levels, and want to showcase their ideas at leading conferences like the most recent USCAP, where we again had amazing posters, participated in panel discussions, chaired sessions, moderated discussions, led seminars, and taught classes. I have also initiated the AACR-USCAP companion meeting focused on digital pathology that has successfully run the past two years.

A great way to stay abreast of news and department updates is to follow us on our rapidly expanding social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Our Twitter account (@WCMCPathology), for example, has become the fourth most popular feed among WCM’s dozens of Twitter accounts. I hope you’ll join us on social media and participate in the conversation.

We have openings in a range of professions and divisions, feel free to share our career opportunities within your professional networks.

Thank you again to all our faculty, trainees and staff for making our department such a special place.

Sincerely yours,

Massimo Loda, MD
David D. Thompson Professor and Chairman of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Pathologist-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College
Dr. Antonio Marzio joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as an Assistant Professor in October 2022. Antonio is part of the Division of Cell and Cancer Pathobiology, led by Dr. Jorge Moscat. Antonio received his PhD from “SAPIENZA” University of Rome (Italy), where his graduate work, with Prof. Maurizio Gatti, centered on discovering novel genes involved in the DNA damage response (DDR). Using Drosophila melanogaster as a model system, Antonio learned sophisticated genetic techniques enabling the establishment of in vivo models able to recapitulate the complexity of organismal physiology. Antonio made pioneering contributions to our understanding of how high levels of sugar and low levels of Vitamin B6 induces genomic instability and cancer development. Fascinated by the role of DDR in cancer progression and the possibility to therapeutically exploit DDR defects, Antonio decided to join the laboratory of Dr. Michele Pagano at NYU Langone Health, who is a world-renowned expert in protein degradation and cancer, to gain expertise in the biochemical approaches required to elucidate the mechanisms of DDR signaling, including biochemical assays, protein biology and in vivo studies. During his training, using an interdisciplinary approach, Antonio identified the E3 ubiquitin ligase EMI1 as a modulator of PARP inhibitor (PARPi)-sensitivity in triple negative breast cancers. This function requires the F-box domain of EMI1, through which EMI1 assembles a canonical SCF ubiquitin ligase complex that constitutively targets RAD51 for degradation (Marzio et al., Mol. Cell 2019). Expanding his interest on the therapeutic potential of PARPis, Antonio has recently identified a molecular mechanism by which deregulation of the E3 ubiquitin ligase KEAP1 controls fundamental aspects of anti-tumor immunity and DDR in the context of NSCLC (Marzio et al., Cell 2022). Throughout his post-doctoral training, Antonio has been supported by numerous internal and external awards, including an American Italian Cancer Foundation Fellowship, an ICARE Marie Curie Fellowship, and the Molecular Oncology and Tumor Immunology Training Program (NCI T32).

**Research Focus**

Perturbed proteostasis is an emerging hallmark of cancer, exhibiting aberrations in the rate of protein degradation mediated by the ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS). Numerous studies provide evidence that dysregulations in the activity of E3 ubiquitin ligases (E3s), which mediate the selective ubiquitination and subsequent degradation of critical cellular proteins via the UPS, are associated with different aspects of tumorigenesis, cancer progression, tumor immune infiltration, and response to therapy.

**Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**

Volume 30 | April 2023

The Newsletter of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine

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Scholarly Productivity

Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD served as a reviewer for the NIH Director’s Transformative Research Awards (TRA) in 2022.

Amy Chadburn, MD and Cynthia Magro, MD were recipients of the Exceptional Women in Medicine, Castle Connolly 2023.


Selina Chen-Kiang, PhD was the keynote speaker at the 12th International Cancer Conference held on October 12-14, 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, on the invitation of the Trinity St. James Cancer Institute. The title of the talk was “Overcoming therapy resistance in cancer through sequential single cell RNA-seq.”

Melissa Cushing, MD was appointed the Executive Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in July 2022.

Robert DeSimone, MD was nationally elected to the Transfusion Medicine Section Coordinating Committee (TMSCC) of AABB, a prestigious group that oversees AABB’s transfusion medicine-related sub-committees, educational resources, and scholarly activity. He was selected to lead a data analysis related to transfusion outcomes in pregnant women for the NIH NHLBI REDS-IV-P contract grant and organized the Blood Banks Association of NYS annual meeting program in Saratoga Springs, NY on May 11-12, 2023.

Maria Diaz-Meco, PhD was appointed Chair of Tumor Host Interactions Study Section-NCI/NIH.

Nancy Du, PhD gave the talk “Identification of RHAMMB as a metastatic factor in mouse model by somatic gene transfer” at the Symposium on World Cancer Research 2022 (SWCR2022) in Singapore in May 2022 and gave the talk “The function and regulation of MIT/TFE activation in autophagy and pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma” at the STARR Cancer Symposium, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in May 2022.

Matt Greenblatt, MD, PhD has been selected to receive the American Society Bone and Mineral Research 2022 Fuller Albright Award.

Dr. Greenblatt’s proposal to the Pershing Square Sohn Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery (MIND) prize has been selected for funding. His idea that the skeleton is an unappreciated regulator of neurodegeneration is truly innovative. Obtaining this prize is a recognition of his research’s high quality and originality.

Steven Josefowicz, PhD has been awarded the Irma T. Hirschl Career Scientist Award (2022), leadership role in Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis graduate program.

Massimo Loda, MD hosted the Pan Prostate Cancer Group Meeting in Camogli Italy in October 2022, an international research conference devoted to the genomics of prostate cancer. He gave several international talks such as “Role of the microenvironment in prostate cancer progression” at Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale, Università di Roma “La Sapienza” in June 2022, “Metabolic dependencies in prostate cancer: regulation and targeting of lipogenesis” at the X^ Matematika monthly seminar of the Microbiology Section in Warsaw, Poland, “Targeting lipid metabolism in human prostate cancer: strategies based on pre-clinical findings” at the Lipidomics Meeting in Leuven, Belgium in October 2022. He also presented “Prostate stromal microenvironment: A scRNA-Seq map of mice and men” at the AACR Advances in Prostate Cancer Meeting in March 2023 in Denver.

Jorge Moscat, PhD had a busy year with several international and national speaking engagements. He gave the talk “Metabolic oxidation and autophagy pathways in hepatocellular carcinoma driven by p62” at the International Liver Congress 2022 in London, UK in 2022 and the talk “Targeting the tumor stroma to overcome immunotherapy resistance: The colorectal cancer paradigm” at the 33rd Pezcoiler Symposium on “What are the obstacles to cancer immunotherapy success?” in Trento, Italy in 2022. He also spoke at the Cell Research Symposium on Cancer and Immunity in Tiantai City, China in 2022 where he gave the talk “Epithelial and stromal plasticity in mesenchymal colorectal cancer biology and immunotherapy”. Finally he gave the talk, “Stroma-epithelial crosstalk in colorectal cancer biology and immunotherapy,” at the Distinguished Lectures in Cancer Research symposium held at the University of Pennsylvania in 2022.

Jihye Paik, PhD gave the talk “The FOXO1T AD-p300-Mediated Lineage Survival Transcription Program Is a Targetable Dependency of Mantle Cell Lymphoma” at the 64th ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition on December 10-13, 2022 in New Orleans.

The AMC (AIDS Malignancy Consortium) Executive Committee has selected Sanjay Patel, MD to participate in its scholar award program for a one-year term December 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 for ongoing work in HIV/EBV-associated classic Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Dr. Patel has also started a new position as Member, Professional and Community Engagement Committee at College of American Pathologists (CAP).

Surya Seshan, MD was the keynote speaker at the Association of Indian Pathologists in North America’s annual general body meeting at USCAP. The talk was titled “A lifetime of learning as a Pathologist/Renal Pathologist with Shifting Landscapes and Global Perspective.”
Scholarly Productivity continued

Juan Miguel Mosquera, MD and David Pisapia, MD hosted colleagues from Kyoto University who wanted to learn from experiences of our Rapid Autopsy Program. They are currently establishing a program, funded by Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi; https://ashbi.kyoto-u.ac.jp).

Hanna Rennert, PhD presented at the Medical University of South Carolina in October 2022: “Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Molecular Genetic Testing for Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease” and “Nephrology Grand Rounds: Somatic Mutations in PKD1 and PKD2: Do they have a role in the pathogenesis of ADPKD?”

David Rickman, PhD was an international conference speaker at the Advances in Prostate Cancer Research (AACR) Special Conference in March 2023 at the lineage plasticity and treatment resistance session.

Jessica Tyler, PhD organized the ASBMB conference on “The Interplay between Epigenetic Regulation and Genome Stability” in Seattle and also organized the FASEB conference on “Reversible Acetylation in Health and Disease” in Dorado, Puerto Rico.

The WCM team, composed of Sarina Yang, PhD, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, in collaboration with Dr. Fei Wang’s Lab and the Department of Population Health Sciences, won the machine-based learning challenge, a competition organized by the AACC Data Analytics Committee and Washington University.


WCM Employee Service Awards: Career Milestones
We commend your support to Cornell!

Name | Yrs of Service | Employee Subgroup
-----|---------------|------------------
Jose Jessurun | 10 | Faculty
Nalini Scarpa | 10 | Administration
Karen Collins-Rodriguez | 15 | Administration
Jessica Misner | 15 | Faculty
David Rickman | 15 | Faculty
Steven Salvatore | 15 | Faculty
Theus Adams | 20 | Administration
Steven Bowe | 20 | Administration
Maurizio Di Liberto | 20 | Faculty
Syed Hoda | 30 | Faculty

Dr. Yang also became the new President of the North America Chinese Clinical Chemists Association. She was also selected to serve a 3-year term on the AACC education committee which determines the educational content for the AACC meeting.

Indeterminate Cell Proliferative Disorder

“Indeterminate Cell Proliferative Disorder” video was conducted by Cynthia Magro, MD, Faculty Distinguished Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Professor of Dermatopathology in Dermatology, and Director of Dermatopathology.
Notable Publications


https://news.weill.cornell.edu/news/2022/05/tumor-release-of-lactate-forces-nearby-cells-into-supportive-role


For Full List of Publications
Division Highlights: Cell and Cancer Pathobiology (CCPB)

Overview & Goals

CCPB is the basic/translational research arm of the Department of Pathology with an overarching goal of unraveling the cellular and molecular mechanisms of human disease, with a particular emphasis on cancer. What distinguishes CCPB from other departments/divisions of Cell and Cancer Biology is our interest in understanding these cellular processes in the context of pathological tissues. The interface between investigators working with cellular and physiologically relevant mouse models, faculty with pathology expertise, and access to well-annotated human specimens and state-of-the-art imaging and computational technologies makes CCPB unique in its goals and research strategy.

The composition of the division is diverse to promote cross-pollination among investigators with different expertise and focus. During the last four fiscal years, CCPB has secured approximately $20 million from active grants per year, which amounts to more than $100 million in multi-year projects. Notably, 90% of those funds come from federal sources, mainly NIH and the Department of Defense, with close to 70% indirect costs. In the last three years, our NIH funding has doubled, catapulting us from the 31st to the 17th in terms of grant funding among Pathology departments in the U.S. (BRIMR.org).

Goals:

- Increase the effort on studies on cell plasticity and the role of the tumor stroma during cancer therapy resistance and the role of inflammation, metabolism, and epigenetics in these processes.
- Promote the interrogation of human tissue microarrays with multiplex imaging to validate findings in mouse and cell models, as well as to unravel new aspects of the carcinogenic processes with a special interest in metastasis.
- Grow in the areas of computational analysis of multiplex imaging at a single-cell level.

Newly Awarded Grants

**Well Cornell Medicine Dean’s Office (Jumpstart award)**
Title: A Tri-stem cell basis for calvarial mineralization and neuroinflammation
Principal Investigator: Seo yeon Bok, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2025
Total Direct Costs: $300,000

**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (SCOR grant)**
Title: Targeting Unmet Needs For B-cell Lymphomas
Principal Investigator: Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD
(Project 2 Lead)
Period of Support: 10/01/2022-09/30/2027
Total Direct Costs: $750,000 (Project 2)

**National Institutes of Health (U01 grant subaward)**
Title: Rapid Sample-to-Answer Diagnosis of Kaposi's Sarcoma Across Sub-Saharan Africa using KS-COMPLETE
Principal Investigator: Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 06/10/2022-05/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $361,050

**National Institutes of Health (U01 grant)**
Title: B cell determinants of EBV latency
Principal Investigator: Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2025
Total Direct Costs: $750,000

**National Institutes of Health (T32 grant)**
Title: Cancer Research Manpower
Co-PI: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 09/01/2022-08/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $3,158,148

**National Institutes of Health (T32 grant)**
Title: A multi-stem cell basis for craniosynostosis
Principal Investigator: Shawon Debnath, PhD
Period of Support: 06/15/2022-12/31/2024
Total Direct Costs: $250,000

**United States Department of Defense**
Title: The skeletal stem cell basis for skeletal fragility
Principal Investigator: Shawon Debnath, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $200,000

**American Society for Bone and Mineral Research**
Title: A multi-stem cell basis for craniosynostosis
Principal Investigator: Shawon Debnath, PhD
Period of Support: 01/01/2023-12/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $15,000

**National Institutes of Health (R01 grant)**
Title: Receptor for hyaluronan-mediated motility isoform B (RHAMM B) in Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis
Principal Investigator: Nancy Du, PhD
Period of Support: 08/01/2022-07/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $1,143,750

**Charles A. Frueauff Foundation**
Title: Equipment purchase for osteoporosis research
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 01/01/2023-12/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $40,000

**Cornell China Center**
Title: A stem cell basis for vertebral metastases
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2023-06/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $15,000

**Pershing Square Foundation**
Title: A bone to brain axis controlling Alzheimer’s disease progression
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2023-06/30/2026
Total Direct Costs: $675,000

Upcoming Event

**WCM Cell and Cancer Pathobiology Symposium**
September 13 - September 14, 2023
https://pathology.weill.cornell.edu/education/wcm-cell-and-cancer-pathobiology-symposium

National Institutes of Health (R01 grant)
Title: Receptor for hyaluronan-mediated motility isoform B (RHAMM B) in Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis
Principal Investigator: Nancy Du, PhD
Period of Support: 08/01/2022-07/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $1,143,750

Charles A. Frueauff Foundation
Title: Equipment purchase for osteoporosis research
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 01/01/2023-12/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $40,000

Cornell China Center
Title: A stem cell basis for vertebral metastases
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2023-06/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $15,000

Pershing Square Foundation
Title: A bone to brain axis controlling Alzheimer’s disease progression
Principal Investigator: Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2023-06/30/2026
Total Direct Costs: $675,000
Division Highlights continued

National Institutes of Health (R44 subaward)
Title: Quantitative mapping of dynamic epigenetic states in rare and stimulated immune cells
Principal Investigator: Steven Josefowicz, PhD
Period of Support: 08/18/2022-07/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $123,894

National Institutes of Health (R01 supplement grant)
Title: Epigenetic alterations and phenotypes in innate immune cells and their progenitors in PASC
Principal Investigator: Steven Josefowicz, PhD
Period of Support: 08/09/2022-11/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $177,089

Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Title: Epigenetic regulation of immunity: molecular mechanisms of inflammatory priming and altered hematopoiesis
Principal Investigator: Steven Josefowicz, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2027
Total Direct Costs: $200,000

National Institutes of Health (R35 grant)
Title: Destruction of noncoding RNAs
Principal Investigator: Benjamin Kleaveland, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2027
Total Direct Costs: $500,000

Prostate Cancer Foundation
Title: Targeting lipid metabolism and diet in patients with locally advanced prostate cancer
Principal Investigator: Massimo Loda, MD
Period of Support: 12/23/2022-12/22/2024
Total Direct Costs: $1,250,000

National Institutes of Health (US4 subaward)
Title: Radiation Oncology-Biology Integration Network on Olgometastasis (ROBIN OligoMET) Center
Principal Investigator: Luigi Marchionni, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 08/04/2022-07/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $640,020

Meyer Cancer Center Collaborative Research Initiative
Title: Characterization of Alternative polyadenylation as a determinant of tumor progression and immunotherapy response
Principal Investigator: Luigi Marchionni, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $50,000

National Institutes of Health (R01 grant)
Title: Cholesterol metabolism in mesenchymal colorectal cancer
Principal Investigator: Jorge Moscat, PhD
Period of Support: 12/09/2022-11/30/2027
Total Direct Costs: $1,543,195

National Institutes of Health (R50 grant)
Title: Dissecting the in vivo stromal metabolic and inflammatory crosstalk in colorectal cancer
Principal Investigator: Maria Angeles Duran Molina, PhD/Jorge Moscat, PhD
Period of Support: 08/16/2022-07/31/2027
Total Direct Costs: $524,435

Qatar National Research Foundation
Title: Differences in methylation profiles of prostate cancer (PCa) patients with different genetic ancestry
Principal Investigator: Juan Miguel Mosquera, MD
Period of Support: 11/01/2022-12/31/2022
Total Direct Costs: $300,000

National Institutes of Health (DP5 Diversity Supplement)
Title: Defining malignant hematopoiesis via single-cell multi-omics
Principal Investigator: Anna Nam, MD
Period of Support: 09/01/2022-08/30/2024
Total Direct Costs: $126,126

Scipio Bioscience
Title: Identifying signatures of metastatic disease using genetically engineered mouse models (GEMMS) of locally advanced and metastatic prostate cancer
Principal Investigator: Mohamed Omar, PhD (Marchionni Lab)
Period of Support: 04/17/2023-03/31/2024
Total Direct Costs: $30,000

National Institutes of Health (UM1 Fellowship)
Title: The AIDS Malignancy Consortium Grant (AMC)
Principal Investigator: Sanjay Patel, MD
Period of Support: 09/01/2022-08/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $25,000

National Institutes of Health (RO1 supplement grant)
Title: Endothelial sphingolipid signaling in post-sepsis cognitive impairment
Principal Investigator: Teresa Sanchez Garcia-Vao, PhD
Period of Support: 06/15/2022-05/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $250,000

National Institutes of Health (U13 grant)
Title: 2nd Biennial ASBMB - BSC Symposium on the Interplay between Epigenetic Regulation and Genome Integrity
Principal Investigator: Jessica Tyler, PhD
Period of Support: 08/15/2022-07/31/2023
Total Direct Costs: $9,600

National Institutes of Health (R43 SBIR subaward)
Title: High-resolution genomic mapping of ssDNA and associated proteins for Alzheimer’s disease research
Principal Investigator: Jessica Tyler, PhD
Period of Support: 09/01/2022-06/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $88,496

National Institutes of Health (RO1 subaward)
Title: Development of Targeted Antipseudomonal Bactericidal Prodrugs
Principal Investigator: Lars Westblade, PhD
Period of Support: 04/01/2023-03/31/2028
Total Direct Costs: $200,000

Cornell Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response
Title: Clinical utility of viral load quantification in influenza infections
Principal Investigator: Lars Westblade, PhD
Period of Support: 12/01/2022-11/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $75,000

WCM Clinical & Translational Science Center
Title: Effects of In-Utero SARS-Cov-2 exposure and immunity on pediatric outcomes
Principal Investigator: Yawei (Jenny) Yang, MD, PhD
Period of Support: 07/01/2022-06/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $50,000

National Institutes of Health (R01 grant)
Title: UBRS’s mechanisms of action in tumorigenesis and immunoregulation
Principal Investigator: Pengbo Zhou, PhD (Co-PI Xiaojing Ma)
Period of Support: 03/01/2022-02/28/2028
Total Direct Costs: $611,590

National Institutes of Health/WCM (SPORE DRP Pilot grant)
Title: Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) SPORE in Prostate Cancer
Principal Investigator: Massimo Loda, MD; PI Pilot Award: Pengbo Zhou, PhD
Period of Support: 10/01/2022-09/30/2023
Total Direct Costs: $75,000
Residents’ Corner

Thank A Resident Day Appreciation event on February 24, 2023 at Randolph Beer in Brooklyn.
Left to Right: Carlos Munoz Zuluaga, Muhammad Ahmad, Hnin Ingyin, Ivo Sah Bandar, Rrita Krasniqi, Joshua Mo, Diana Vulcain, Carla Stephan, Uzayr Arif, Chandler Sy, Steven Salvatore.

Julio Cordero joined the department in November 2022 as Residency Coordinator. He was previously at Weill Cornell in our department in various administrative roles. We welcome him back to the department.

MD, PhD February students on their pathology rotation.
Left to Right: Xiao, M.; Davis, K.; Cardakli, EM; Doymaz, A.; Yen, SF; Wallace, TN; Fan, S.

MD, PhD January students on their pathology rotation.
Back row: Wang, E; Pachas, M; Leo, K; Nathoo, I
Front row: Dimitriadou, S; Chen, C; Lee, Y; Lawless, V.

2023 NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center Pathology Residency Match
Jordan Drinkill, M.D., PhD
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
Khalia-Cheyenne Moreau, M.D., MPH
St. George’s University School of Medicine
Claire Bise, M.D.
Louisiana State University School of Medicine
Residents’ Corner continued

Poster Presentations

Carlos Munoz Zuluaga, MD presented Assessment of Size of Locally Advanced Breast Carcinoma After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy (NACT): A Retrospective Study of 44 Cases Evaluating Extent of “Tumor Bed” by Imaging Techniques, Gross & Microscopic Examination” at USCAP.

Selda Karaaslan, MD, PhD presented “The Clinicopathologic Spectrum of Esophageal Biopsy Specimens Showing “Sloughing”: Is It An Esophagitis, Esophagopathy or Both?” at USCAP.

Andy Phan, MD presented “Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of Locally Advanced and Metastatic Breast Carcinoma Unravels Relevant Molecular Signatures and Novel Events” at USCAP.

Carlos Munoz Zuluaga, MD presented Assessment of Size of Locally Advanced Breast Carcinoma After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy (NACT): A Retrospective Study of 44 Cases Evaluating Extent of “Tumor Bed” by Imaging Techniques, Gross & Microscopic Examination” at USCAP.

Selda Karaaslan, MD, PhD presented “The Clinicopathologic Spectrum of Esophageal Biopsy Specimens Showing “Sloughing”: Is It An Esophagitis, Esophagopathy or Both?” at USCAP.

Andy Phan, MD presented “Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of Locally Advanced and Metastatic Breast Carcinoma Unravels Relevant Molecular Signatures and Novel Events” at USCAP.

Siarhei Dzedsik, MD presented a poster at – American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week 2022 Orlando, FL on Nov 3-6, 2022.

Chiefs at USCAP
Selda Karaaslan, MD, PhD (AP Chief Resident), Carlos Munoz Zuluaga, MD (CP Chief Resident), and Georgi Lukose, MD (AP Assistant Chief Resident).

Taylor Kalomeris, DO presented “Whole Genome Profiling of Primary and Metastatic Adrenocortical Carcinoma Unravels Significant Molecular Events” at USCAP.

Chandler Sy, MD, PhD presented “In vitro activity of plazomicin and conventional aminoglycosides against genetically characterized carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales bloodstream isolates” at USCAP.

Olivier Michaud, MD presented “Biomarker Testing in Microinvasive Carcinoma (T1mi) of the Breast” A Study of 79 Cases Highlights Need for Clinicopathologic Guidelines” at USCAP.
Welcome New Faculty

Scott Avecilla, MD, PhD joined us as Director of the Cellular Therapy Laboratories on December 1st. Dr. Avecilla was formerly the Director of the Cellular Therapy Laboratory at Memorial Sloan Kettering and the Director of Clinical Laboratories at Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Avecilla has over 10 years of experience in the field.

Liming Bao, MD, PhD joined us as Director of Cytogenetics on October 2022. Dr. Bao was previously the Director of Cytogenetics at the University of Colorado and before that Director of Cytogenetics at Dartmouth. Dr. Bao has over 25 years of experience in the field. We thank Dr. Amy Chadburn, Dr. Madhu Ouseph, Dr. Yi Ning, Dr. Mary Haddadin, Dr. Brynn Levy and the cytogenetics faculty at Columbia Pathology for their incredible effort in supporting the Cytogenetics Program at Weill Cornell. The laboratory has run smoothly since Susan Mathew's retirement in early June thanks to their work and the work of the NYP management team in the Cytogenetics Laboratory.

Esther Cheng, DO rejoined the faculty in November 2022 and works at both the NYP Weill Cornell and NYP Queens campuses with an emphasis on breast pathology.

Chen Zhang, MD, PhD joined our department as Chief of Thoracic Pathology in August 2022. Her recruitment was timely since we just implemented our new cardiac transplant program. Dr. Zhang was formerly an Associate Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine and she has more than 10 years of practice specializing in cardiothoracic pathology.

Neal Lindeman, MD joined as Vice Chair of Molecular Pathology and Laboratory Medicine beginning January 30, 2023. Previously, Dr. Lindeman was the Vice Chair of Molecular Pathology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Lindeman has more than 30 years of experience in the field of Molecular Pathology.

Left to right: Massimo Loda, MD, Scott Avecilla, MD, PhD, Antonio Marzio, PhD, Chen Zhang, MD, PhD, Neal Lindeman, MD and Liming Bao, MD, PhD.

Promotions/Leadership Changes

Maria Diaz-Meco, PhD Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine with Tenure
Joe Jessurun, MD Interim Chief for Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology
Michael Kluk, MD, PhD Director of Molecular Hematopathology Laboratory
Jorge Moscat, PhD Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine with Tenure
Steven Josefowicz, PhD Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Sarina Yang, PhD Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Zhen Zhao, PhD Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
In Memoriam Grace Yang, MD

Dr. Grace Yang came to the United States in 1964 after graduation from National Taiwan University majoring in Plant Pathology to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After obtaining an M.S. degree, she married and worked as an electron microscopist in research laboratories at University of Chicago, M.I.T. and Rutgers Medical School for 16 years. After an M.S. degree in Zoology from Rutgers University, she was admitted at age 40 to Rutgers (Robert Wood Johnson) Medical School and graduated in 1987. She completed her AP/CP Pathology residency training at New York University Medical Center, followed by Cytopathology fellowship at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She subsequently became an Assistant Professor at Cornell University Medical College in 1992.

"The cells don't lie" was her mantra as a cytopathologist. As a morphologist assessing fine needle aspirations this applied to her practice on a daily basis during sign-out with a generation of residents and cytopathology fellows. To improve her practice, she was an innovator as well. She was instrumental in developing the Ultrafast Papanicolaou stain, which significantly reduced the time for evaluating fine needle aspiration smears at the time of adequacy assessment. This was reported to national acclaim by the New York Times on 4/25/1995.

"It was my dream to study fine needle aspiration slides using the microscope to help patients." Another often used statement from Dr. Yang which showed her humanitarian side aside from being an educator. She was promoted to an Associate Professor at New York University Medical Center in 1996 and then to a professor in 2005. In this phase of her career, she remained an educator at heart along with continuing her interest in fine needle aspiration cytology. She became part-time faculty in 2011 with a final retirement in 2020.

Dr. Yang passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving husband, son, and daughter on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at NYU Tisch Hospital in New York City. She had bravely battled serious health issues over the past eleven months which she could not overcome, including autoimmune hemolytic anemia, disseminated tuberculosis, and Hodgkin's lymphoma. Dr. Yang's funeral was held on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at Bridgewater Funeral Home in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Written by Momin Siddiqui, MD

Left to right: Patrick McIntire, MD, Sue Alperstein, Kartik Viswanathan, MD, PhD, Grace Yang, MD, Abha Goyal, MD, Ami Patel, MD, Momin Siddiqui, MD at the ASC Meeting in 2019.
Department Gatherings

Rhonda Yantiss, MD, Farewell Event, September 2022

Left to right: Nalini Scarpa, Jeff Hernandez, Ann-Marie Ewell, Gina Imperato, Daniel Knowles, MD, Shefali Shah and Jessica Misner.

Left to right: Rhonda Yantiss, MD, Massimo Loda, MD and Daniel Knowles, MD.

Left to right: Diana Vulcain, Alicia Dillard, Selda Karaaslan, Nicole Mendelson, Rrita Krasniqi and Ivo Sah Bandar.

Ian Hatch Farewell, February 2023

Left to right: Chif Umejei and Ian Hatch.

Left to right: Ian Hatch and Melissa Cushing, MD.

Holiday Department Party, December 2022

Our Residents.

Left to right: Gina Imperato, Shefali Shah, Kristen Gonzalez, Nalini Scarpa, Hiral McCarthy, Sarina Yang, PhD and Zhen Zhao, PhD.

ITS Smartfest at Weill Cornell Medicine, February 2023

Left to right: Melissa Cushing, MD, and Massimo Loda, MD.

Left to right: Anna Yemelianova, MD, James Solomon, MD, PhD, Erika Hissong, MD and Cong Shen.

Left to right: Jessica Misner, Kristen Gonzalez, Nalini Scarpa, Shefali Shah, Ann-Marie Ewell and Gloria Ramirez.

Left to right: Jessica Misner, Shefali Shah and Gina Imperato.

Left to right: Kristen Gonzalez, Julio Cordero and Melissa Lopez.