

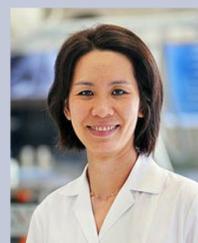


Bruce R. Smoller, M.D.,
Professor and Chair

This past quarter was a big one for URM Pathology and our contributions to global pathology. In March, I had the honor and privilege of representing the University of Rochester and our department at a Pathology CME conference in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Along with faculty members from Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Washington, I gave a series of lectures and slide seminars (on dermatopathology) to nearly 100 pathologists from all over Vietnam.

The conference received national recognition and was introduced by the Rector of the University system. The participants demonstrated a level of enthusiasm unprecedented in my experience, and left me with a feeling of having "made a difference."

I was also honored to take part in the plenary session for the Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Clinic annual meeting, which ran concurrently with the pathology course. This non-profit organization (of which I have been an active contributor for several years) has now examined and treated several thousand children over the past six years free of charge through the dedicated volunteer work of Vietnamese and US-based physicians.



RAISING THE BAR

In a separate but somewhat related situation, Dr. Thuy Phung, one of my co-faculty members in Vietnam (and a graduate

of the M.D./PhD program at URM), gave a Grand Rounds symposium here in April about her work as a founding member of the Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Clinic, and her efforts to raise the bar for the practice of pathology in Vietnam. She delivered an inspirational talk that was attended by the vast majority of our faculty members. She stimulated great discussion and several of our faculty volunteered to help with her amazing mission. Learn more about the Clinic's mission here:

<http://vietnamvac.org/>. I spoke with our anatomic pathology support group and received the same type of enthusiastic desire to help "make a difference." They are actively generating ideas that might help with training of histology technicians and donations of necessary items to improve healthcare in Vietnam.



Dr. Jennifer Griggs, a URM alumna now practicing at the University of Michigan came to our department to speak about her healthcare efforts in Haiti. Plans are afoot for a significant collaboration within our cytopathology unit involving Dr. Jerome Jean-Gilles and some telepathology assistance.



Dr. Rick Hodes, a 1982 UR School of Medicine graduate working in Ethiopia, visited our department in March. Supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, an international NGO, Rick has been sending his young patients' tissue samples to our department for years and receiving the expert opinions of our faculty, which he uses to treat children throughout Ethiopia. His visit precipitated stories on several regional TV news outlets that recognized the good work of our departmental faculty and staff. Learn more about Rick's work online at <http://rickhodes.org>.

I am sincerely proud to lead a department that strives to "make a difference."

- Bruce Smoller, M.D.



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FOCUS ON FACULTY: DR. MAJED REFAAI



Dr. Majed Refaai may be the ultimate multi-tasker in our Department. He serves as Associate Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Director of the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Laboratory, Associate Director of the Transfusion Medicine/Blood Bank, and Associate Director of the Therapeutic Apheresis Unit, Internal Medicine. Majed also is our newly developed blood management program director. He's a

primary investigator of several active pharmaceutical and industrial clinical trials. Along with Dr. Charles Francis, Majed also manages a basic research lab in the Wilmot Cancer Center.

After earning his medical degree from Aleppo University School of Medicine in Syria, Majed joined Dr. Michale Laposata's Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School as a research fellow. He then completed his Pathology residency at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, and went on to a Transfusion Medicine fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, TX. He then joined us at URM in 2007 as Assistant Professor of Pathology. "In medical school

in Syria, I became very interested in basic research," Majed explains. "My interest in basic and clinical hemostasis and thrombosis research advanced further while working with Dr. Laposata for several years in his lab at Harvard Medical School. We had very similar backgrounds and interests in research, and he became a personal hero of mine."

Majed's research focuses on platelet function, and he's authored or co-authored > 45 articles, including a 2015 paper, ABO matching of platelet transfusions - "Start Making Sense," with Dr. Neil Blumberg, professor of Pathology and Vice Chair/Director for Clinical Laboratories at URM. "Dr. Blumberg made me like this field," Majed says.

"I think one of my proudest achievements in teaching has been changing residents' attitudes about coagulation," he says. "They start out their rotation apathetic toward coagulation, but then end up liking it so much that they ask to do another rotation."

Away from the labs and classrooms, Majed and his wife have four children, ages 8, 13, 18, and 21. Their family activities include soccer, fishing adventures, and camping trips.



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ABOUT THE COVER

Our Blood Bank team (pictured above) received the most votes for their decorated Lab Coat submission as part of National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. Learn more about our Department's Lab Week celebration inside, on page 3.

RECOGNIZING OUR TECHNICAL TEAM MEMBERS



In April, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, recognizing the achievements and dedication of hundreds of medical technicians and staff. Our events included a bake-off of employee-prepared dessert items, a lab coat decorating contest (won by the Blood Bank team), a luncheon sponsored by the department, and a seminar featuring Dr. Sally Quataert, Director of the Human Immunology Center (HIC) Core Laboratory, on equipment verification best practices.



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The summer months bring change to our Department, as we welcome new fellows and bid adieu to those residents and fellows moving on to new opportunities in our profession.

NEW FELLOWS:

- Year-Out Student Fellow from URM School of Medicine:
Sandra Toth

- GI Fellow: **Shweta Chaudhary** in Cytopathology, from Yale School of Medicine; breast and surgical pathology

DEPARTING RESIDENTS/FELLOWS (LEAVING IN JULY):

Mortiz Stolla, M.D. - Boston, Brigham Women Hospital/Harvard (Joint Program) - Transfusion Medicine Fellowship (1 yr.)

Mary Barrett, M.D. -Univ. of Rochester MC, GU Fellowship (1 yr.)

Amanda Martin, M.D., MPH – Univ. of Rochester MC, Surgical Pathology Fellowship

Abraham Loo, M.D. - Monmouth, New Jersey - Private Practice – Heme/Path Pathologist

Elizabeth Denby, M.D. – to be determined

Asif Shahab, M.D. - Private Practice – Parkway Pathology Group, St. Louis, MO.

Michael Lunt, M.D. - Private Practice – AP/CP General Pathologist, Central Illinois Pathology, Peoria, IL.



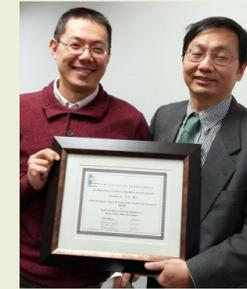
ACHIEVERS ACROSS OUR DEPARTMENT

YAO EARNS LOCAL GRANT TO RESEARCH BREAST CANCER BONE METASTASIS

A \$50,000 grant from the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester will help Dr. Zhenqiang Yao of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine to develop an approach to prevent the development and progress of breast cancer spreading to bone.

Since 2003, the Breast Cancer Coalition has awarded more than \$525,000 to study prevention of the disease and how it spreads in the body. In the past, the coalition awarded multiple grants, but Yao's was only one of nine applications funded in 2015.

According to Yao's grant application, most deaths from breast cancer result from the spread of the cancer cells to other organs, and bone is a common site. Current approved medications to stop the destruction of bone don't affect cancer cells, and do little to help patients live longer. Yao's research will investigate whether a particular protein inhibitor can kill cancer cells to prevent, stop or slow breast cancer cells spreading to bone, while simultaneously prevents bone break-down and stimulating new bone formation to help repair the affected bone. If successful, the study could lead to new therapies to reduce illness and death from breast cancer bone metastasis.



AACC AWARDS RESEARCH GRANT TO ZHANG



Victoria Zhang, Ph. D., recently received the 2015 General Research Grant from the AACC (formerly the American Association for Clinical Chemistry). The grant will fund her research project, "Exhaled Breath Condensate: A non-invasive approach in concert with mass spectrometry and lipidomic profiling to study chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)." Dr. Zhang, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, is also Director of Clinical Mass Spectrometry and Toxicology Laboratory, and Associate Director of Clinical Chemistry and Hematology Laboratory at URM. She also serves as the current President and 35th President of the North American Chinese Clinical Chemists Association (NACCCA).

PATENT AWARDED TO PATHOLOGISTS

Four URM physicians received a U.S. patent for inventing a data tool that helps to identify people at high or low risk for heart attacks. **James P. Corsetti, M.D., Ph.D.**; **Charles E. Sparks, M.D.**; and **Dan Ryan, M.D.**, all professors of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and **Arthur J. Moss, M.D.**, who collaborates in the departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Cardiology, earned a patent for outcome event mapping or OEM, a novel graphical data map. It charts the levels of two well-established biomarkers for heart health: HDL cholesterol, and C-reactive protein (for inflammation). OEM creates a weather map-like picture of peaks and valleys that correspond to high- and low-risk patient subgroups. By identifying small subgroups of patients and identifying high risk variables, doctors can better deliver personalized medicine by offering the appropriate treatment for individual patients.

PING TANG TO LEAD PATHOLOGISTS' GROUP

Ping Tang, B.Med., Ph.D., was elected as President-elect for 2017-18 for the Chinese American Pathologists Association. She is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and a surgical pathologist with a subspecialty interest in breast pathology. She currently researches the use of immunocytochemical analysis to identify breast tumors with a high risk for bone metastasis.

URMC PATHOLOGY COLLABORATES TO RUN CYTOTECH TRAINING PROGRAM IN BUFFALO



Donna Russell, M.Ed., CT (ASCP) HT is going to Roswell Park Cancer Institute. For the right reasons.

Starting in July, Donna – education coordinator of the cytopathology program for residents and fellows at URM – will serve as program director of a new cytotechnology education program at Roswell. The new program is managed through Buffalo (NY)'s Daemen College School of Cytotechnology.

While she will continue her teaching and clinical duties at URM, Donna will teach students several days each month at Roswell Park. It's a one-year B.S.-Biology/M.S. Cytotechnology program designed to include a clinical rotation for students at URM. Students who complete the program earn a Master of Science in Cytotechnology.

It's hoped that graduates who complete the program will join Roswell Park's cytology department or other western NY cytology departments. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Professionals granted Candidacy Status for the new program in May.

In addition, Russell will co-chair a workshop, "Glandular Lesions in Liquid-Based Gynecologic Preparations" at the 39th European Congress of Cytology in Milan, Italy in September, 2015.

"Roswell Park has a serious need for cytotechnologists," Donna says. "Dr. Lourdes Ylagan, director of the cytotechnology lab at Roswell Park, contacted us for help in developing an outcomes-based cytology program."

OUR VISITING SPEAKERS

Our Department has benefited from the insights, research, and innovations shared by a spectrum of scholars and practitioners in our Visiting Speakers series. Among the presenters in recent months:

Thuy Phung, M.D., Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital

Rupal Mehta, M.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine

Benjamin Pinsky, M.D., Ph.D., Stanford University School of Medicine

Dina Mody, M.D., Houston Methodist Research Institute

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D., Rockefeller University and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Keri J. Donaldson, M.D., Milton S. Hershey Medical Center/Penn State University

Luis De Las Casas, M.D., Medical College of Wisconsin

Amy Ly, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital

Darrell Triulzi, M.D., University of Pittsburgh

We have been fortunate to receive philanthropic support from many individuals, which allows the Department of Pathology to maintain and accelerate vital clinical, educational, and research initiatives. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible gift today, or as part of your estate plans, please visit urmc.rochester.edu/urmc-labs/pathology or contact Jon Sussman, Associate Director of Advancement at 585-276-4976 or jon.sussman@rochester.edu