

Summer
2022

COLUMBIA PATHOLOGY
AND CELL BIOLOGY **REPORT**

Reflection and Renewal

Featured Article

Columbia and UNCF Join Forces!

New Faculty and Staff

Welcome to Columbia Pathology!

Campus News

Pathology Women Relay for a Cause



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Columbia Pathology and Cell Biology Report

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Review, Reflect, Renew



Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D., Chair
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THE Department of Pathology and Cell Biology recently underwent a two-day external review to assess its strengths and weaknesses and to reflect on opportunities for future departmental improvements. The department was last reviewed approximately two years prior to my appointment as Chair in September 2015. In advance of the on-site review by three nationally recognized academic pathologists, we prepared a 112-page booklet describing all facets of the department, including its clinical, research, and educational programs, administrative structure, and financial status. The external reviewers subsequently provided Dean Katrina Armstrong with a nine-page report detailing their observations and recommendations for her consideration. Dean Armstrong and I have now met several times to discuss the reviewers' findings and to begin to plot a course for departmental renewal following the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last several years. I'd like to share some of the comments of the reviewers that I found interesting and/or insightful and provide some of my initial thoughts on how to further improve the department in the coming years.

First, the overall evaluation of the department was extremely positive. Comments included: "The Department of Pathology and Cell Biology is a national leader in research and clinical care"; "outstanding investigators"; "Clinically the department is highly respected and has particular strengths in renal pathology, neuropathology, blood banking, and clinical lab medicine"; "Pathology is viewed as a critical component of medical student education"; "The physician scientist track is a particular strength and...the Pathobiology PhD program is another strength"; and importantly, "a diverse faculty, exceeding essentially all national standards." These comments confirm many of the impressions that I have had about our department, but it is heartening to have external validation.

Second, the reviewers stated that many of the challenges our department faces are shared with academic pathology departments throughout the country. These include a decline in third party payor reimbursements for clinical services, the acute and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, clinical staff shortages, poor reimbursement for clinical genomic pathology testing requiring substantial departmental and/or institutional support, and the need to financially subsidize basic and translational research efforts. However, the reviewers also noted some unique challenges for our department. These include aging facilities; New York State Department of Health regulations that hamper rapid clinical test development and implementation; our large faculty size which presents challenges to communication and departmental "identity;" a complex budgeting process and financial relationship between the

department, the medical school, and NewYork Presbyterian Hospital; and relatively limited extradepartmental support for clinical fellows and graduate students.

Third, several opportunities for improvement or program enhancement were identified. These included, but were not limited to, increased prioritization and investments in digital pathology and molecular and genomic pathology, additional clinical interactions with the Weill Cornell Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, development of new forums for faculty interaction to reveal new areas of scholarly collaboration, careful evaluation of opportunities for revenue enhancement and expense reduction in collaboration with CUIMC and NYP leadership, and additional efforts to increase transparency and teamwork throughout the department.

In total, the external review highlights a moment in time--an assessment of the current state of the Columbia University Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. The challenge is to now chart a course that renews our shared commitment to excellence in clinical care, research, education, and community service and develops a strategic vision that will assure our future success as a premier department of pathology. I look forward to working with departmental faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and CUIMC and NYP leadership, to establish our priorities and identify the resources necessary to ensure success in all our missions. ♦

Best wishes,
Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D.

New Faculty

Diane Chen, MD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



Dr. Diane Chen is a surgical pathologist board-certified by the American Board of Pathology. Originally from Hauula, a rural town in Hawaii, she matriculated into the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine where she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Dr. Chen then moved to New York City to complete a residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. During this time, she was selected to become Chief Resident in her second year of training where she further developed a keen interest in medical student and resident education. Inspired by her mentors and experiences, she remained at CUIMC to complete a joint surgical pathology and gastrointestinal/hepatic pathology fellowship.

Dr. Chen is a member of several professional societies, including the College of American Pathologists, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, and Association for Molecular Pathology. Her research interests include clarifying the differential histology and staining patterns of pediatric liver tumors, elucidating the differential network analysis of colon and rectal adenocarcinomas, determining the utility of molecular testing in clinical outcomes of thyroid nodules, and examining the histology of certain subtypes of renal cell carcinoma. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences.

Fatemeh Derakhshan, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



Dr. Fatemeh Derakhshan is an anatomical pathologist at the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. She completed her Anatomic Pathology residency at University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver, Canada, and her breast pathology fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), NYC. Prior to her residency training, she accomplished her Ph.D. in Neuroscience at University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and her Medical Degree (MD) at University of Isfahan, Iran.

Dr. Derakhshan is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and has a number of articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Her current research interest involves different types of breast cancers, their genomic and molecular underpinning, and their therapeutic vulnerabilities.

Useful Information

There are many tax advantages to giving appreciated stock to the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. In donating appreciated securities, you avoid capital gains tax and qualify for a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the securities.

Please visit www.giving.cuimc.columbia.edu/ways-give/gifts-securities for more information.

New Faculty

Wen-Hsuan (Wendy) Lin, MD, PhD

Instructor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



Dr. Wendy Lin is a hematopathologist and physician-scientist in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. She earned her MD from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, and obtained a Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology in the laboratory of Diane E. Griffin, M.D., Ph.D. of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, where she studied the pathogenesis and immunity of measles virus infection. Following the receipt of her Ph.D., she completed post-doctoral training in the laboratory of Steven L. Reiner, M.D. in the Department of Microbiology, and Immunology here at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, where she studied the influence of metabolism on molecular signaling and cell fate decisions during lymphoid differentiation. She subsequently completed an anatomic pathology residency and hematopathology fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Irving Medical Center, where she also served as a chief resident in Pathology from 2019-2020.

During her residency, Dr. Lin was selected for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded R38 training program and completed her physician-scientist research pathway training in the laboratories of Drs. Teresa Palomero and Adolfo Ferrando, where she focused on the immune tumor microenvironment of peripheral T cell lymphomas (PTCL). For her clinical practice, she provides all aspects of diagnostic services in the division of hematopathology. As a recipient of the 2022 ASCO Young Investigator Award and HICCC Early Career Development Pilot Award, she will continue working at the intersection of hematopathology and translational lymphoma research to better understand the pathogenesis and therapeutic modalities of PTCLs.

Michael Miller, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



Dr. Michael Miller is a neuropathologist at the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. Dr. Miller completed undergraduate training at Binghamton University in New York with concentrations in integrative neuroscience and biochemistry. Building on this foundation, he then completed graduate training at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, receiving doctoral degrees in medicine and neuroscience as part of their combined MD/PhD medical-scientist training program. Dr. Miller completed post-graduate training in anatomic pathology and neuropathology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center as part of the Department's combined AP/NP training program.

Dr. Miller has broad academic interests related to the field of neuropathology. In particular, he is interested in the relationships between the nervous system, the neuromuscular system and the immune system, and the impact of these relationships to human disease. Translating these interests to practice, Dr. Miller is interested in the development and safe implementation of new technologies to assist the pathologist during their examination.

Elham Yousefi, MD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



Dr. Elham Yousefi is a cytopathologist and surgical pathologist at Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. She attended medical school at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in Isfahan, Iran. After moving to the United States, she completed her anatomic and clinical pathology residency training at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (2016-2020) followed by cytopathology training at Brigham and Women's Hospital (2020-2021). She then spent some time focusing on bone and soft tissue pathology at University of British Columbia (2021). She has published several peer-reviewed articles in the field of cytopathology.

Meet Our New Staff

Monisha Dhanasekar, *Administrative Fellow*



Monisha Dhanasekar grew up in Dallas, Texas. She completed her Bachelor's degree at The University of Texas at Dallas and majored in Healthcare Studies. Even though she started college with the intention of pursuing a career in the clinical side of healthcare, she slowly grew more passionate and interested by the business and operations aspect of healthcare. This switch led her to start her master's in health services administration at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is currently in the third year of her program and will graduate upon the completion of her fellowship. During her time at Xavier, the various projects, case competitions, and internships helped her to improve her knowledge and technical skills, which she hopes to enhance during her fellowship year. She is very excited to start at Columbia in the Pathology and Cell Biology department as an administrative fellow and cannot wait to contribute and make new connections!

Anna Pryamkova, *Administrative Fellow*



Anna is excited to start her journey with Columbia as an Administrative Fellow in the Department of Pathology!

Her journey in the U.S. started in 2014, when she arrived at Colorado State University. She graduated in 2018 with a degree in microbiology. During the time there, she concentrated on M. tuberculosis, and worked as a manager at the university's information desk and box office. She started her professional career at National Jewish Health as a clinical laboratory scientist and quality improvement lead for their mycobacteriology and microbiology division. She later joined SCL Health's Saint Joseph Hospital and their general microbiology lab as a medical laboratory scientist, and the experience there helped her prepare for and pass ASCP Technologist in Microbiology accreditation. In 2020, she joined the MHA program at Rutgers University, which she recently graduated from. In her time there, she interned with the department of Clinical Efficiency at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, the HR department at Penn Medicine Princeton Health, and the Laboratory Outreach Department of the New Jersey Department of Health Public Health and Environmental Laboratories. She was also awarded the outstanding academic achievement award by her professors. She is looking forward to working with and getting to know everyone.

Renissa Audain, *Procurement Coordinator*



Renissa Audain is a native New Yorker and was born here at the Columbia Medical Center. This is truly a full circle moment for her to be here in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. She received her degree in Marketing Communications at Johnson & Wales University, however her experience led her to a career background in Purchasing, Fulfillment, Inventory Management, and Accounts Payable. She is thrilled to be a part of the team and looks forward to learning and growing with CUIMC.

Staff Highlights



Congratulations to Milan Fredricks who recently graduated from Columbia University with an MS in Strategic Communication!

Meet Our New Staff

Clara M. Cruz Camilo, *Financial Analyst*



Clara M. Cruz Camilo was born in Salcedo, Dominican Republic with her identical twin, in a family of six and grew into a girl with a strong character and defined goals. She emigrated to the United States and in 2017, she began her studies at the CUNY Bronx Community College (BCC), completing an associates degree in Business Accounting. After graduating, she transferred to CUNY Lehman College where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Accounting. She has work experience in various companies where she has been a bookkeeper and an associate banker.

Hegel Gonzalez, *User Support Consultant*



PathIT welcomes Hegel Gonzalez, our newest User Support Consultant, to the team. Hegel was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to New York City in 1984. His passion for IT led him to pursue studies in Electrical Engineering at City College but he had to drop out in order to make ends meet. But he kept his interest in computers and began taking additional classes in technology. Hegel was employed by Eurobrokers, which lost 62 employees, five of them close friends, in the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. From 2012-2021, Hegel worked for Interfaith Medical Center, first as a support tech and eventually as their help desk supervisor. We're very fortunate to have Hegel as part of the PathIT team!

Melanie Rodriguez, *Administrative Aide*



Melanie Rodriguez graduated from Manhattan college with a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Medicine. While in school, she interned at Columbia University for two years. She then came back to Columbia as an employee and has been here for almost five years. She looks forward to meeting the faculty and staff and servicing the various needs of each division.

Vasiliki Zotou, *Financial Analyst*



Vasiliki Zotou joined the finance team at the department of Pathology and Cell Biology on May 2, 2022. She works closely with the finance manager to ensure the department operates in a sustainable manner and all reporting requirements are completed according to institutional requirements and timeframes. She is a dedicated, accomplished finance professional with bookkeeping and accounting expertise. Having served as a full charge bookkeeper and team leader within the manufacturing and restaurant sectors, she's accustomed to the rigors of fast-paced, highly-regulated environments requiring sharp attention to detail, consummate accuracy, and outstanding communication skills. She will work tirelessly to deliver the similar results for Columbia University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, specializing in financial management from the Coastal Carolina University at South Carolina.

Honors and Awards

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Eldad Hod Appointed as Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine



It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of [Eldad Hod, MD](#), as the next Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine effective July 1, 2022. Dr. Hod is a tenured faculty member in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, directs a well-funded research program focused on red blood cell transfusion and iron biology, and is Director of the Center for Advanced Laboratory Medicine (CALM). Dr. Hod is also an attending physician on the Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapy service and currently serves as Director of the Automated Laboratory.

Dr. Hod will be succeeding Steven Spitalnik, MD, who will be stepping down from the Vice Chair position to devote more time to his research and other scholarly interests. Dr. Spitalnik will continue to serve as an advisor to the Chair as Executive Vice Chair for Laboratory Medicine and will assist in strategic divisional planning and the transition to Dr. Hod's leadership.

Please join me in congratulating Eldad on his new appointment and thanking Steve for nearly 20 years of service as Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine.

- KEVIN A. ROTH, MD/PHD, CHAIR

Alan Detton, PhD, MS Receives Fundamentals Outstanding Teacher's Award



Every year, second-year medical students at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons attend a ceremony to mark the transition from classroom-based instruction to patient-centered training. During the ceremony each year, awards are given by the class making the transition and by the class that just finished its Major Clinical Year. At this year's ceremony, which took place on April 4, the Class of 2024 honored its teachers by giving [Dr. Alan Detton](#), assistant professor of pathology & cell biology at CUMC, the Fundamentals Outstanding Teacher Award, which recognizes classroom teaching.

Dr. Detton joined the department in 2018. He teaches Gross Anatomy at the VP&S medical school. He is the author of the highly regarded Grant's Dissector, Sixteenth Edition, which is the go-to guide for dissection in the anatomy lab. His research interests are the development of dissection-based video content as well as novel 3D interactive anatomy education resources, 3D printing, Augmented (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and surgical simulation and their evaluation through video analytic usability principles of human computer interaction.

The Department congratulates Dr. Detton for achieving this remarkable honor.

ANNUAL LECTURESHIP: To recognize Dr. Marboe's long and distinguished career in the department, we have established an annual lectureship in his honor. The annual Dr. Charles Marboe Lecture will continue Dr. Marboe's history of sharing his expertise in cardiovascular pathology, cardiology, and heart transplantation. This endowed lecture will ensure quality education within the department by supporting Columbia's most important assets: its accomplished educators and faculty members who shape the future leaders in the field.

SUPPORT EDUCATION! To make a tax-deductible gift in Dr. Marboe's honor, please click the link [here](#).

Honors and Awards

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Vimla Aggarwal, MBBS, FACMG

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Francesca Bartolini, PhD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology with tenure

Serge Cremers, PhD, PharmD

Promoted to professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Daniel Green, MD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Susan Hsiao, MD, PhD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Vaidehi Jobanputra, PhD

Promoted to professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Teresa Palomero, PhD

Promoted to professor of Pathology and Cell Biology (in the Institute for Cancer Genetics) at CUMC

Li Qiang, PhD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology with tenure

Dominick Santoriello, MD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Yvette Tanhehco, MD, PhD

Promoted to associate professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

FACULTY LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

John Crapanzano, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC will be the Associate Director of Cytopathology and the director of the ACGME Cytopathology fellowship program.

Stephen Lagana, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC, will assume the role of Director of Surgical Pathology. This has been a 2-year transition with Dr. Lagana serving as the Associate Director of Surgical Pathology since 2020 and serving as the Director of Quality Assurance in AP prior to that time.

Michael Lee, MD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC will assume the role of Director of Quality Assurance in AP, after serving the role of Associate Director since 2020.

Glen Markowitz, MD

Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC has been appointed Executive Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology.

Kathleen M. O'Toole, MD

Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC, will retain the role of Director of Anatomic Pathology Laboratories. No single person is more responsible for the successful function of our labs than Dr. O'Toole, even at the most challenging of times, and we are fortunate that she will continue to lead these efforts and to serve as the NY State Laboratory license holder, responsible for operational compliance.

Renu Virk, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC will be the new Director of Cytopathology.

Featured Article

EDUCATION

Columbia and United Negro College Fund Join Forces for Biomedical Research Diversity Initiative

Ernest E. Just Biomedical Research Scholars @ Columbia



In its second year, a [groundbreaking program between Columbia and UNCF](#) is flourishing in a big way! Under the leadership of [Dr. Kevin Gardner, MD, Ph.D.](#), senior vice chair and professor of pathology and cell biology, and in partnership with the UNCF/Ernest E. Just Life Science Initiative, Columbia has matched dozens of undergraduate, graduate, and medical students from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with Columbia mentors. The EE Just Scholars program seeks to increase the number of underrepresented groups pursuing degrees and careers in STEM disciplines. The program illuminates pathways to success in STEM by providing opportunities for intellectual engagement, professional growth and mentorship within a diverse and inclusive community of Columbia scientists.

Last year during the pandemic, the program was remote with 12 participants. In 2022, the engagement and commitment took off! Over 34 students have been matched to 29 mentors. This year, our scholars hail from 10 outstanding institutions and will work with faculty from over 20 different departments and centers.

During a Saturday brunch on June 18th, students met with Professor Jelani Cobb, the newly appointed Dean of Columbia Journalism School where he talked about the importance of HBCUs in shaping his career and the urgency of increasing diversity in all fields in order to improve equity for all.

Student quotes:

"The talk with Dr. Cobb was inspiring and uplifting. Having him share his academic experiences when he was at his HBCU and Rutgers was insightful. Also, he expressed the importance of knowledge, community, and how to navigate academic spaces to leave it better than how you arrived." - Shedrick Wright, II

"On the weekend of Juneteenth, sitting amongst Dean Jelani Cobb and a host of other HBCU students (undergrad, grad students, and med students), was an inquisitively enlightening way to kick off my summer at Columbia University!"

"Being a student in the EE Just Biomedical Research Program has revamped my love for higher education more than I imagined possible. Having the amazing opportunity to work around the nation's top physicians, clinicians, & researchers while living in a city that never sleeps pushes me to continue to strive for nothing less than excellence!" -Keyah Brown

The E.E. Just Biomedical Research Scholars @ Columbia is a partnership between the UNCF/Ernest E. Just Life Science Initiative and Columbia University that provides Black undergraduate, graduate, and medical students with research opportunities and access to mentors at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), its institutes and centers, and the HICCC. While the program has an emphasis on students attending historically Black colleges, universities, and medical schools (HBCUs), students attending majority institutions are also eligible. In addition, faculty at CUIMC will have access to a diverse and talented cohort of students to mentor, where faculty and students will collaborate on research projects including epidemiological studies, cutting-edge research in the neurosciences, oncology, and bioengineering.

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

FEATURED ARTICLE CONT

"We are excited about this first-of-its-kind initiative that establishes a link between HBCUs and majority research institutions and centers like Columbia University," says Chad Womack, Ph.D., senior director of STEM Initiatives and the founding director of the Ernest E. Just Life Science Initiative at UNCF. "This initiative leverages the phenomenal legacy of Dr. Ernest E. Just, a preeminent Black scientist who blazed a trail for other Black Americans pursuing careers in the life sciences. The program with Columbia also represents an effort to address historical inequities and remove barriers that have kept many Black scientists from achieving their highest aspirations in life science research at top-tier research institutions."

"Being a successful scientist is not just about doing science. Having access to experienced scientists as mentors and being connected to a vibrant research network are key to successfully navigating the academic world, attaining a tenured position, and thriving professionally," Womack adds.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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Read more about E.E. Just's life and legacy:

- ["The Greatest Problem in American Biology" by Shelby Grantham \(Dartmouth Alumni Magazine Profile, 1983\)](#)
- ["E.E. Just: Scientific Pioneer, Member of the Class of 1907" \(The Call to Lead Campaign, 2021\)](#)

HONORS & AWARDS CONT

Yasmeen Majoka, Executive Director, Finance and Business Operations Selected As Society of '67 2022 PDAS Fellow



Congratulations to Yasmeen Majoka, MBA and newly appointed Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations in the department of pathology and cell biology, who has been selected as the 2022 Society of '67 PDAS Fellow. Additionally, the PDAS Council has identified Yasmeen as the "Marty Lawlor Fellow" as a tribute to the characteristics Marty Lawlor exemplified as a leader and mentor for the PDAS community before his untimely passing in September 2021. We are very proud that Yasmeen was selected to receive this special honor.

The Society of '67 was established in 1967 by the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) to support programs that foster the development of academic pathology and future leaders in academic practice, education, and research.

The Society of '67 Pathology Department Administrator Section (PDAS) Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for emerging and new pathology department administrators to network with the community of administrators by attending the PDAS Program at the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) Annual Meeting.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Society of '67's PDAS Fellowship Program.

GRANTS AWARDED (SINCE APRIL 2022)

Compiled by Renee Peele, Senior Grants Manager

PI	Sponsor	Title
Ibrahim Batal, MD	2022 Irving Institute Precision Medicine Pilot Award (internally funded)	The Immunopathology of Donor-Derived APOL1 Nephropathy
Alan Detton, PhD	Provost RFP: Innovative Course Design 2022 (Internally funded)	Proposal for a novel elective bridging 3D printing and medical educator skill development
James Goldman, MD, PhD	Thompson Family Foundation Program for Accelerated Medicines Exploration in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders of the Nervous System (TAME-AD) (Internally funded)	Beta-Amyloid Deposition In the COVID-19 Brain
Santoru Kudose, MD	National Kidney Foundation	New IF Techniques For a Diagnosis of Kidney Disease
Ronald Liem, PhD	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	Training in Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Studies (CMBS)
Wen-Hsuan (Wendy) Lin, MD, PhD	HICCC Early Career Development Award (Internally funded)	Targeting the tumor microenvironment by Duvelisib in peripheral T-cell lymphomas
Wen-Hsuan (Wendy) Lin, MD, PhD	Conquer Cancer The ASCO Foundation	Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment by Duvelisib in Peripheral T-cell lymphomas

Meet Our New Staff CONTINUED

Greg Ellner, Payroll and HR Reporting Coordinator



Greg grew up on Long Island but moved to the Upper West Side about a decade ago. He graduated from Brown University and enjoys reading, watching, and playing through various science fiction and fantasy stories. Until recently, he worked for MPOWERD, Inc., a company that sells inflatable solar lights. Additionally, he regularly writes reviews and various analyses for the website Multiversity Comics.

Hira Marie Pantanosas, DNP, RN, ACNP-CS, CCRN, Nurse Practitioner

Ms. Pantanosas is the nurse practitioner for Hemotherapy/Apheresis unit. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Massachusetts Boston while working as an anesthesia NP in the post-anesthesia care unit at Mount Sinai Beth Israel. She is a proud alumna of the Columbia University School of Nursing nurse practitioner program. With previous background of clinical works in inpatient and outpatient settings, she is dedicated in maintaining efficiency and patient care satisfaction. Additionally, she enjoys spin bike for fitness, loves to swim, travel, and participates in church group activities.

Graduate Program

RECENT THESES DEFENDED

Jiemin Sheng, Alejandro Chavez Lab, May 11, 2022

"The development and application of highthroughput tools for functional genomics"

Charlotte Wayne, Dritan Agalliu Lab, June 15, 2022

"Roles of the Th17 cytokines in microglial and neurovascular responses to recurrent intranasal Streptococcus pyogenes infection"

Catherine Crose, Yamamoto Lab, June 16, 2022

"Using selective autophagy to determine protein aggregation's pathogenic contribution to neurodegenerative disease"

Crystal Colon Ortiz, Carol Troy Lab, June 21, 2022

"Vascular-Glial Signaling in Neurovascular Injury"

Residency Program and Clinical Fellowships

Shelanski Research Innovation Award in Pathology

Supported by gifts from the Ralph Abrams Fund (from Anatomy and Cell Biology) and the Herman Shelanski Memorial Fund, Shelanski Research Innovation Award in Pathology is designed to support the development of innovative research ideas and concepts contributed by fellows and residents within the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology in their research projects that further our understanding of mechanisms of biology and pathophysiology of disease.

The award provides up to \$5,000 to defray the cost for supplies and services for research projects to be conducted during the fiscal year of the award.

Applications are accepted and evaluated each fiscal year on an open/rolling basis. Interested applicants may submit as research teams or individuals, a 3-4 page (no more than 3000 words) proposal (excluding references) including background, central hypothesis, detailed specific aims, and a discussion of the expected outcome, significance, novelty, impact, and possible anticipated pitfalls to the approach. Applicants must also submit their current CV and a letter of support from their mentor(s) that provides a statement describing their support for the research and how participation and successful completion of the proposed research will be important for the career development of the applicant(s).

Once documents are received the application is reviewed and rated by a committee of faculty and staff. Final decision is made and applicant is advised if awarded.

So far, the following pathology fellows/residents have received this award:

- 2017 - **Osama Al Dalahmah**, for his proposal titled: *Glial Heterogeneity in Health and Huntington's Disease*
- 2018 - **Paul (Chun Chieh) Lin**, for his proposal titled: *Deciphering Multifactorial Genetic Contributions for Motor Neuron Development*
- 2020 - **Marie Smithgall**, for her proposal titled: *Investigation of Discrepant MMR IHC and MSI PCR Test Results for Gynecologic Cancers*
- 2021 - **Michael Miller**, for his proposal titled: *Rosette-forming Glioneuronal Tumors (RGNT) Are Rare Brain Tumors Primarily Seen in Children and Young Adults*

For more information, please address all inquiries to tl2811@cumc.columbia.edu.

Other Honors and Awards

[Ibrahim Batal, MD](#), received a 2022 Irving Institute Precision Medicine Pilot Award for his proposal *"The Immunopathology of Donor-Derived APOL1 Nephropathy"*.

Wen-Hsuan (Wendy) Lin, MD, PhD, research pathway resident in pathology and cell biology, won a [Young Investigator Award \(YIA\)](#) for her project *"Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment by Duvelisib in Peripheral T-cell lymphomas"*. More info on the [HCCC Newsroom](#).

[Minah Kim, PhD](#), was awarded the 2022 MRFBC Pilot Translational Award from MRF for project: *"Identification of angiopoietin-2/Tie signaling molecules as a predictive biomarkers for ICI resistance in melanoma"*.

[Steven Spitalnik, MD](#), Executive Vice Chair for Laboratory Medicine and [Noah Ginsberg](#), Director of Clinical Lab Services, were named as part of the team of NewYork-Presbyterian Columbia University Irving Medical Center receiving the **New York State Obstetric Hemorrhage 2021 Quality Improvement Award**.

Staff Promotions

Milan Fredricks, MS, promotion to Administrative and Communications Manager

Yasmeen Majoka, MBA, promotion to Executive Director, Finance and Business Operations

Jeanette Rodriguez, promotion to Procurement Manager

Troy Lab Celebrates Graduation of Five Students



At the VP&S Hooding Ceremony on May 18, 2022, Professor [Carol M. Troy, MD, PhD](#) and her lab celebrated the graduation of five students, of which four were able to attend the ceremony. The students are James Belarde PhD (not pictured); Crystal Collier, MD, PhD; Crystal Colon Ortiz, PhD; Kendra Johnson, PhD; Anna Potenski, PhD.

The picture (left) shows the group of students with Dr. Troy at the reception afterwards.

Dr. Troy and her graduates. From left to right: Kendra Johnson, PhD; Crystal Collier, MD, PhD; Dr. Carol M. Troy, MD, PhD; Anna Potenski, PhD; Crystal Colon Ortiz, PhD.

Anniversaries

As of July 2022

40 Years

Kathleen M. O'Toole

35 Years

James Goldman
Lloyd Greene
Hanina Hibshoosh
Peter Hoffman
Ronald Liem
Ali Naini
Michael Shelanski
Carol Troy

25 Years

Glen Markowitz
Chang Shu

20 Years

Erika Balfour
Maria Belvis
Ping Feng
Helen Remotti

15 Years

Rebecca Haeusler
Odelia Nahum

10 Years

Claudia Castano
Jonathon Costa
Katherine Croce
Armando Del Portillo
Milan Fredricks
Jacinta Small
Yvette Tanhehco
Jack Ventimiglia
Dorothy Mee Wong

5 Years

Francis Allarey
Timothy Chapman
Diane Chen
Simona De Michele
Mitra Dowlatsahi
Amin Ghabriel
Yue Gu
Marquett Kennely
Taisha Lember
Kenneth Ofori
Craig Soderquist
Chi Zhang

1 Year

Abdullah Almuqate
Bilal Azab
Gregory Berry
Courtney Connelly
Bruce Culbertson
Niyati Desai
Jennifer Gamarra

Michelle Garlin Politis
Dominique Gordy
Yin Gin
Meng-Chang Hsiao
Xiaoyan Huang
Geetha Jagannathan
Alexandra Listwan

Samyukta Mallick
Kristina Markova
Irena Manukyan
Ian Mellis
Anabel Miller
Jessica Musacchio
Madhulatha Pantrangi

Priyaben Patel
Dino Robinson
Luke Sandoval
Maele Saliba
Courtney Tulli
Swikrity Upadhyay Baskota
Evan Waldron
Jiayi Wu



Columbia Pride Month Celebration



On June 14th, the CUIMC LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group (ERG) hosted "***We Are CUIMC: Unapologetically Us***" in Haven Plaza, along with Harlem Pride. Entertainment featured [Harmonica Sunbeam](#), [The Comedy Queen!](#) Ashely Mason (left), one of our own pathologists' assistants, was among those having fun!

Campus News

GI Pathology Global Outreach

Source: [CUIMC Newsroom](#)



[Stephen Lagana, MD](#), an associate professor of pathology and cell biology at CUMC, and director of surgical pathology, noticed that over the last few years, it became common for pathologists in under-resourced areas to post photos of their difficult cases to Twitter and Facebook in hopes of gaining insight from experienced pathologists at academic medical centers. There

are advantages and disadvantages to this. The main advantage is that it's quite convenient (probably a lot of opinions have been rendered from the toilet!). But the main disadvantages are that still photos only capture what the initiating pathologist considers the region of interest, and that these media do not really lend themselves to adequate explanation. In other words, a reply to a tweet may read "looks reactive," whereas a real time discussion may include teaching, e.g. "yes the nuclei are big, but there's abundant active inflammation, there are no atypical mitoses, and there is maturation at the surface, thus I consider this reactive." The latter helps the presenting pathologist understand the criteria experts use, and hopefully will allow them to apply the criteria themselves in the future.

So, because of this perceived need, Dr. Lagana organized a zoom conference called **GI Path 2nd Opinion Club** and spread the word on twitter under the hashtag #GIPSOC, in which he and colleagues at other major academic centers (notably Dr. Gonzalez of Emory and Dr. Bellizzi of University of Iowa) interact in real time with participants around the globe who share cases over zoom (usually through a camera program, availability of which seems to be widespread, or through scanned slides). Cases have been presented from Eastern Europe (including by a pathologist in Kyiv who was working alongside his colleagues despite the area being physically unsafe), India, Pakistan, Australia, and other places. They have run from the mundane to the highly esoteric. As the experts on the call, we always try to relay criteria and mental checklists, so that these conferences offer very practical educational benefit to the participants (including the experts!). The conference is meant to be an entirely stress free experience. Participants are not subjected to any form of "quizzing," everyone goes by first names, and jokes abound. Since the conference began, international (and some American) pathologists have been helped with about 50 cases which they were having trouble with, and provided educational insights on almost all of them. Dr. Lagana plans to continue the conference indefinitely.

Dr. Alex Rai Presents at ISOO 2022



On Friday, June 17, 2022, at the International Society of Ocular Oncology meeting in Leiden, Netherlands, [Dr. Alex Rai, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology, presented a talk on his work on new developments in circulating biomarkers for the management of patients with uveal melanoma. Columbia is well represented at the meeting, as he is with Dr. Richard Carvajal (Medicine/HemeOnc) and Dr. Brian Marr (Ophthalmology).

New Study Provides Insights into How Aging May Increase Risk of Severe Disease and Death from Covid-19



A new research article, which is peer reviewed and just released in preview form in JCI Insight, provides important insights into how aging may increase risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19. The study analyses 24 COVID-19 autopsy samples and 43 lung samples from uninfected organ donors across broad age spectrum, and it shows that a key progenitor cell in the lung, which the SARS-CoV-2 virus attacks at very early stages of infection, also becomes progressively depleted with human aging. The depletion of this key lung cell could leave older people with decreased reserve for lung repair and thus at higher risk for not recovering from COVID-19. The results underline the importance of early intervention to protect the lung in older individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection and have implications for designing strategies to protect the lungs of older individuals.

More Information

The article, titled: [“Immune and epithelial determinants of age-related risk and alveolar injury in fatal COVID-19”](#), was published in preview form in JCI Insight on April 21.

Authors: Michael Chait, Mine M Yilmaz, Shanila Shakil, Amy W Ku, Pranay Dogra, Thomas J Connors, Peter A Szabo, Joshua I Gray, Steven B Wells, Masaru Kubota, Rei Matsumoto, Maya MI Poon, Mark E Snyder, Matthew R Baldwin, Peter A Sims, **Anjali Saqi**, Donna L Farber, **Stuart P Weisberg**.

Recent publications:

Shigeo Hisamori, Junko Mukohyama, Sanjay Koul, Takanori Hayashi, Michael Evan Rothenberg, Masao Maeda, Taichi Isobe, Luis Enrique Valencia Salazar, Xin Qian, Darius Michael Johnston, Dalong Qian, Kaiqin Lao, Naoya Asai, Yoshihiro Kakeji, Vincenzo Alessandro Gennarino, Debashis Sahoo, **Piero Dalerba** & Yohei Shimono. [Upregulation of BMI1-suppressor miRNAs \(miR-200c, miR-203\) during terminal differentiation of colon epithelial cells](#). *Journal of Gastroenterology* volume 57, pages407–422 (2022).

(Notes from Dr. Dalerba: 1. This study reports that, in the human colon, as epithelial cells migrate from the bottom to the top of intestinal crypts, they up-regulate two miRNAs, miR-200c and miR-203, that act cooperatively in suppressing the expression of BMI1, a key component of the molecular machinery that enables self-renewal in stem cell populations. The study identifies one of the molecular mechanisms that are responsible for the “disabling” of stem cell properties and the “enforcing” of a terminally differentiated phenotype in the physiological turnover of colon epithelial cells. 2. Among the co-first authors are two members of my laboratory: Junko Mukohyama, PhD a post-doctoral fellow; and Sanjay Koul, PhD, an adjunct associate research scientist.)

Chiara Moriconi, Monika Dzieciatkowska, Micaela Roy, Angelo D'Alessandro, Philippe Roingeard, June Young Lee, David R. Gibb, Maria Tredicine5, Marlon A. McGill, Annie Qiu, Francesca La Carpia, **Richard O. Francis**, **Eldad A. Hod**, **Tiffany Thomas**, Martin Picard, Imo J. Akpan, Chance John Luckey, James C. Zimring, **Steven L. Spitalnik**, **Krystalyn E. Hudson**. [Retention of functional mitochondria in mature red blood cells from patients with sickle cell disease](#). *British Journal of Hematology*. First published June 7, 2022.

Li, J., Park, J., Mayer, J.P., Webb K.J., Uchikawa E., Wu J., Liu S., Zhang X., Stowell MHB.*, **Choi E.***, and Bai X-C*. (*co-corresponding authors). [Synergistic activation of the insulin receptor via two distinct sites](#). *Nat Struct Mol Biol* 29, 357–368 (2022).

Izquierdo MC, Shanmugarajah N, Lee SX, Kraakman MJ, Westerterp M, Kitamoto T, Harris M, Cook JR, Gusarova GA, Zhong K, Marbuary E, O-Sullivan I, Rasmus NF, Camastra S, Unterman T, Ferrannini E, Hurwitz BE, **Haeusler RA**. [Hepatic FoxOs link insulin signaling with plasma lipoprotein metabolism through an apolipoprotein M/sphingosine-1-phosphate pathway](#). (2022) *J Clin Invest* 132: e146219. PMID: 35104242 PMCID: PMC8970673.

Nischay Mishra, James Ng, Mark A. Strom, Komal Jain, Riddhi Thakkar, Shreyas Joshi, Marcus Pereira, Lori Shah, Marc E. Grossman, **Michael J. Lee**, **Simona De Michele**, David N. Silvers, **Phyllis L. Faust**, **W. Ian Lipkin**, Stephanie M. Gallitano. [Human Polyomavirus 9—An Emerging Cutaneous and Pulmonary Pathogen in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients](#). *JAMA Dermatology* 2022;158(3):293-298. doi:10.1001/

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

CUIMC Inclusive Hiring Effort, Project PossABILITY, Receives City AwardSource: [CUIMC Newsroom](#)

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and the Consortium for Customized Employment have recognized CUIMC for its inclusive hiring program, Project PossABILITY, with a 2022 Customized Employment Award. [Project PossABILITY](#), which launched in 2021, connects workers who have intellectual or developmental disabilities like autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy with employment opportunities at the medical center.

To date, the program has helped hire and onboard three employees, one each in the Department of Surgery, the [Department of Pathology](#), and the Center for Behavioral Cardiovascular Health in the Department of Medicine. Project PossABILITY was created by the CUIMC Disability Employee Resource Group, led by director Keith Diaz, PhD, assistant professor of behavioral medicine at VP&S. Diaz co-leads Project PossABILITY alongside Tonya Richards, chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for staff at CUIMC.

"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an untapped talent pool with enormous potential," Diaz says. "Research shows that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have high retention rates, are highly productive, dependable, and motivated, and have strong work quality that is as good and often better than their non-disabled co-workers. They are hungry for work, are good at their work, and stick around longer."

But according to the National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes, 63% of people with intellectual disabilities are unemployed. Another 17% work in sheltered workshops, where they are segregated from the community and often paid less than minimum wage. Only 20% have a paid job in the community.

Diaz, the father of a five-year-old son with an intellectual disability, wants to do his part in improving those statistics. "People with disabilities need more than charity, they need jobs," he says. "Not only can hiring individuals with disabilities improve your workforce, but it can help address a major societal issue: the marginalization of individuals with disabilities."

The program has been a success so far, and the Project PossABILITY team plans to greatly expand hiring efforts to other departments.

"Project PossABILITY and the Disability Employee Resource Group have added tremendous value to our community by advancing CUIMC's workplace inclusion and accessibility efforts," Richards says. "It is our goal to create and sustain dozens of placements within the next three years to help diversify and strengthen our workplace through varied perspectives."

CUIMC was one of two honorees at this year's Customized Employment Awards, alongside Contento, a Harlem restaurant. Past award recipients include the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn Prospect Charter School, The New School, and corporate partners like CVS, Shake Shack, and Trader Joe's.

The annual awards are hosted by [The Consortium for Customized Employment](#), a collaboration among 14 agencies in New York City that help adults with developmental disabilities obtain and thrive in mainstream jobs. The consortium was founded by Job Path in 2012 and has since collaborated with the [Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities](#) in stewarding employment opportunities around the city. The consortium is a community partner for Project PossABILITY.

References

For more information on Project PossABILITY or CUIMC's Disability Employee Resource Group, contact Tonya Richards, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for Staff at custaffdiversity@cumc.columbia.edu.

Pathology Women in Spotlight

Pathology Women Participate in Relay Marathon for a Cause



Fifty-five teams (376 participants!) signed up to run 26.2 miles each on The Armory's track for the CUIMC Team Relay Marathon Presented by NYRR on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. That's 211 laps per team! Proceeds from registration and sponsorship will benefit Armory College Prep and our youth programming.

Two teams of CUIMC runners set record times at the CUIMC Team Relay Marathon that took place at the Armory's New Balance Track & Field Center late last month. Dozens of teams completed 211 laps of the Armory's 200-meter track with proceeds from registrations and sponsorships benefitting youth programming at the Armory. As the title sponsor of the event, CUIMC put together a team called "We Are CUIMC," which set a record in the medical & health care women's division.

The members of team "We Are CUIMC" were:

Ashley Boyce, CUMC Human Resources
 Mary Ann Carlese, CU Human Resources
 Sherley Desulme-Willis, CUMC Human Resources
 Tamara Marie, CUIMC Faculty Practice Organization
Milan Fredricks, Pathology and Cell Biology
Angelic Pla, Pathology and Cell Biology
 Tonya Richards, CUMC Human Resources

Cheers to our own Angelic Pla (front left) and Milan Fredricks (rear, second from the right), who took part in the event as members of the "We Are CUIMC" team representing Columbia.

With the seven team members covering nearly four miles each, We Are CUIMC posted a finishing time of 4:32:58. As this was the first time in the five-year history of the event that an all-female team participated in the Medical and Healthcare Division, their finishing time is also a meet record in that category.

Congratulations to Angelic and Milan on this amazing accomplishment!

Useful Information

Updating online faculty profiles – Faculty members can update their online profiles at <http://columbiaprofiles.org/>. Regularly updating your profile is strongly encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact PathWebMaster@columbia.edu.

How to update website content – If you find any outdated, incorrect, or missing content on our department website (www.pathology.columbia.edu), and would like to have it updated, please contact PathWebMaster@columbia.edu.

How to post images on touchscreen directories – Have interesting images (research, events, people, celebrations, etc.) that you wish to post on our three touch-screen directories located near the main elevators of the P&S and PH buildings, please contact PathNews@cumc.columbia.edu.



COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
AND CELL BIOLOGY

BASIC SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

**MONDAYS
AT 12PM**

FALL 2022 / SPRING 2023

Contact seminar chairs Drs. Eunhee Choi &
Alison Taylor for more information.

Retirements

After Ten Years, Dr. Patricia Tiscornia-Wasserman, MD Says Farewell to CUIMC

BY RENU VIRK, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC



It is with heartfelt regret, but with warm wishes, that we announce the retirement of Dr. Patricia Tiscornia-Wasserman, MD effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Wasserman was recruited to the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology in 2012 to serve as the Director of the Division of Cytopathology. Dr. Wasserman came to the United States after receiving her medical degree

with Honors from The University of Buenos Aires, School of Medicine in Argentina. She completed her pathology residency and fellowship training at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Before joining Columbia University, she worked in leadership roles for many years and served as chief of the Division of Cytopathology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, followed by senior director of the Division of Cytopathology at North-Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System (Northwell).

Dr. Wasserman has had a remarkable career spanning a decade at Columbia University. She did an exemplary job in managing and improving the cytopathology service that receives huge volume per year. She mentored trainees and young faculty with great enthusiasm. Starting new cytopathology fellowships shows her commitment to the education and training of the new generation of cytopathologists. She was very eager to adopt new technologies to help advance the laboratory operations. She was a big advocate of cytotechnologists' education and organized an advanced cytopathology education course at Columbia University in collaboration with the American Society of Cytopathology. All the cytotechnologists shared the same sentiment that she has been extremely supportive of their continuous medical education, and they are grateful to her for

all the opportunities that she provided. She always encouraged and inspired them to do their best.

Dr. Wasserman was always actively involved in several national and international professional societies including the College of American Pathologists, American Society of Cytopathology, International Academy of Cytology, Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology, and the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology.

She was nationally recognized in the field of cytopathology and served in different roles in professional societies such as member of the Executive Board of the American Society of Cytopathology, ASC's Foundation Board Chair, ASC's Chair of the Guidelines and Position Statement Committee and Cytopathology Program Directors Committee, member of the Continuing Education Oversight Committee and Member of the Foundation Board, member of the College of American Pathologists Cytopathology Resource Committee, member of the Education and QA Committee of the International Academy of Cytology and member of the Pathology Committee of the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology.

She was given the ASC President's Award in 2015 for her contributions and commitments to the field of Cytopathology. She authored more than 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals, abstracts, and numerous book chapters. Her academic accomplishments merited promotion to the rank of professor of pathology and cell biology in 2016.

We are grateful to her for her vision and contributions that assured successful laboratory operations. We extend our best wishes to her as she embarks on new journey.

Useful Information

How to get your news story published on department website/newsletter – For interesting and relevant news stories that you wish to get published on our department website and/or in our newsletter, please use our online submission form at <https://form.jotform.com/pathnews/news-submission-form>. Contact PathNews@cumc.columbia.edu if you have any questions.

How to reserve a conference room – To reserve a Pathology conference room, please refer to our general room reservation and use policy at <https://www.pathology.columbia.edu/conference-room-reservation>.

