Fall
2023

COLUMBIA PATHOLOGY AND CELL BIOLOGY REPORT

Research

For Cancer Cells, Chromosome Loss is No Accident

Well-Being

Prioritizing Well-Being with New Committee

Community

Path to a Cure Rides for Cancer!

IN THIS ISSUE

3 From the Chair

4 Faculty Honors and Awards

7 Velocity 2023: Pathology Rides to Cure Cancer

8 Research: A Novel Discovery in Cancer Cell DNA

10 Education: Welcome New Grad Students

12 Well-Being: A New Committee Created

14 Campus News: Columbia President Inaugurated

Columbia Pathology and Cell Biology Report

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ON THE COVER:
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Inspiration and Resilience

I assume the helm as interim Chair of the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology with humility and a great deal of respect for the collective accomplishments of prior Chairs Kevin Roth and Michael Shelanski. Their legacy will be a challenge to live up to and maintain. My experience thus far has been one of exhilaration and inspiration as I have come to listen and learn about members of the department through small group meetings. I have personally found these sessions to be very rewarding and look forward to many future meetings with staff, faculty, and supervisors. Through these meetings, I have come to understand and appreciate the level of focus, dedication, determination, outstanding talent, and spirit of teamwork that the members of our department bring to work every day. I look forward to many more of these meetings, and I have been truly inspired by the level of cooperation, creativity, and initiative demonstrated by so many members of our department at every level. It is with great inspiration and admiration that I represent you as your Chair.

I would like to take this time to recognize the accomplishments of numerous members of our department. Congratulations to Dr. Hee Won Yan for receiving funding from the V-Foundation for Cancer Research for his melanoma research. In September, Dr. Stephen Spitalnik received the honor of delivering the Richard J. Davey, MD Lectureship at the 42nd Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion Symposium sponsored by the National Institutes of Health & American Red Cross. Kudos to Dr. Krystalyn E. Hudson for being inducted into the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies 2023 Hall of Fame for her achievements in the field of transfusion medicine. We would also like to congratulate Dr. Brent Stockwell for his election to the National Academy of Medicine, where he joins previously elected academy members from our department, including Drs. Michael Shelanksi, Carol Mason, and Dalla Favera. In addition, Dr. Murty Vundalli, a distinguished professor and co-director of cancer cytogenetics at the Institute for Cancer Genetics, is set to retire this year, culminating 26 years of exceptional dedication to the department and the Columbia community. Dr. Vundavalli commenced his tenure in the department in 1997 and has earned recognition as a leading authority in unraveling the genetic and epigenetic underpinnings of cervical cancer and hematologic malignancies. He proudly holds memberships in esteemed professional organizations, including the American Society of Human Genetics, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the American Society of Hematology.

Finally, one of the giants of cell biology will be retiring this year. After over twenty years in our department, Dr. Richard Vallee will be retiring. Dr. Vallee is a pioneer in the study and analysis of microtubule-associated proteins who discovered, purified, and characterized the cytoplasmic microtubule transport motor protein dynein. His work has and will continue to impact the field of cell biology dramatically. As a graduate student, I often used the methods he developed to purify microtubules. Dr. Vallee will be appointed as Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Cell Biology in January of 2024 and will be honored on December 15th of this year at the Naidorf Lecture and Symposium, where we will celebrate his career with a series of lectures by colleagues, friends, past and present students, and post-docs.

Last month, many members of our department gathered for a memorial to celebrate the life of Teresa (Teri) Woods, whose tragic loss has impacted all of us. The many remembrances and tributes offered during the memorial were quite touching. Teri was a colleague and friend to many of us, and it was clear the pain of her loss was still felt by many. These sentiments were well conveyed to her family and friends. She will always be missed.

Finally, the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza has had a profound impact on many of us. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones and those who are suffering amidst the relentless violence. Although we may not be witnessing the discourse at CUIMC firsthand, it is important to acknowledge that our community is still impacted by these events. We sincerely wish that each person takes the necessary time to reflect on their emotions and identify their needs during this period. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those of us who have checked in with colleagues and offered support to one another. To assist individuals in navigating these difficult circumstances, Columbia University has compiled a comprehensive list of campus resources as well as policies and procedures regarding conduct and behavior that are the foundation of our values and our culture of empathy and respect at Columbia. I encourage you all to be aware of and use these resources. During times like these, our compassion, empathy, and humanity emerge as our most powerful assets. ◆

Best wishes,

Kevin L. Gardner, M.D., PhD

Kevin L. Gardner, MD, PhD
Interim Chair

FACULTY

Honors and Awards

Swarnali Acharyya and Markus Siegelin Among VP&S' 7 Newly Tenured Faculty

Source: CUIMC Newsroom

Seven professors joined the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons' tenured faculty in 2023, among them are our Dr. Swarnali Acharyya and Dr. Markus Siegelin. Tenure is a distinction that recognizes scholarly excellence, demonstrated capacity for imaginative, original work, and great promise for continued contributions at the leading edge of one's field.

Swarnali Acharyya, PhD

Swarnali Acharyya, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and cell biology, (in the Institute for Cancer Genetics), is a pioneering cancer researcher studying how cancer spreads to different parts of the body by a process known as metastasis, and how it impacts the host. Her research focuses on two areas of cancer biology: (i) cachexia—a wasting syndrome that leads to the loss of skeletal muscle and fat—and metastatic disease in end-stage cancer progression. She has several landmark papers that elucidate how cachexia is linked to accelerated cancer patient mortality, knowledge that points to potential anti-cancer therapeutics, (ii) how metastatic cancer can be reprogrammed and treated. Her findings have shown how intractable lung cancer that has spread to the brain can be treated by a combination of novel therapeutics.

One of her most notable findings is identifying how the elimination of a particular protein (ZIP14) can reduce muscle degradation and prevent cachexia in end-stage cancer. Acharyya's work has strong translational value and has resulted in novel clinical trials. Her papers have appeared in journals including Cell, Cancer Discovery and Nature Medicine, she was invited to write and edit the first textbook on metastasis and cachexia, Systemic Effects of Advanced Cancer: A Textbook on Cancer-Associated Cachexia, which was published in 2022 by Springer Press.

She received her PhD from the Ohio State University, and joined Columbia's faculty in 2014, receiving tenure in July 2023.

Markus Siegelin MD

Markus Siegelin, MD, associate professor of pathology and cell biology, (in the Institute for Cancer Genetics), is a leading expert on glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor that typically carries a bleak prognosis of only 12-18 months for patients receiving the standard of care.

Seeking to improve understanding and treatment options, Siegelin explores cell death mechanisms in tumors in order to overcome tumor resistance to therapy and identify new treatments for glioblastoma and other cancers.

One key discovery has been identifying how targeting a particular protein in the mitochondria of a cell inhibits tumor growth, a finding with the potential to lead to new treatments. Siegelin also studies the use of lactate for energy regulation and epigenetic gene regulation in tumors.

Dr. Siegelin received his medical degree from Goethe University Frankfurt before joining the Columbia faculty in 2013, earning tenure in 2023.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Michael Shelanski, MD, PhD, professor of pathology and cell biology, was elected as a fellow of the American Society for Cell Biology.

FACULTY

Honors and Awards

Dr. Krystalyn E. Hudson, Ph.D. Inducted to the AABB Foundation 2023 Hall of Fame

Source: Columbia Pathology Newsroom

Krystalyn E. Hudson, PhD

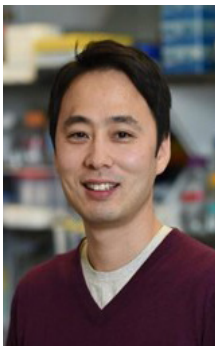
The AABB Foundation announced the induction of Krystalyn E. Hudson, Ph.D., as one of its newest Hall of Fame members. Dr. Hudson is an assistant professor of pathology and cell biology and co-director of the Laboratory of Transfusion Biology. Her research focuses on unraveling the intricacies of immune responses to red blood cells (RBCs), which is relevant for transfusion medicine, pregnancy, and transplantation. Dr. Hudson's research has earned prestigious accolades, such as the Puget Sound Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40, the AABB Foundation Award for Innovative Research, and the Scott Murphy Memorial Lecture. Additionally, her research has garnered extramural funding from the NIH NHLBI and private foundations. Currently, her team is investigating the mechanisms underpinning autoimmune hemolytic anemia secondary to immune checkpoint inhibitors; the newest findings were recently selected for presentation during the Plenary session of the 2023 AABB Meeting.

The AABB Foundation introduced its Hall of Fame in 2007 to recognize a prestigious and select group of Foundation grant recipients who leveraged their early-career grant funding into successful careers in transfusion medicine or biotherapies and who demonstrated exemplary leadership within the field.

"The AABB Foundation grant ignited my career, boosting my confidence as an early investigator and funding essential research. Its support paved the way for a successful NIH R01 grant, leading to new discoveries in tolerance to RBC autoantigens.", says Dr. Hudson.

Hee Won Yang Awarded 2023 V Scholar Grant

Source: Columbia Pathology Newsroom



Hee Won Yang, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and cell biology, will receive funding from the V Foundation for Cancer Research for his research project titled: "Deciphering mechanisms of RAS inhibitor resistance in NRAS-mutant melanoma." This research is centered around overcoming therapeutic hurdles for patients with NRAS-mutant melanoma by investigating potential resistance to novel pan-RAS inhibitors specifically targeting NRAS mutations. This research aims to uncover the factors causing resistance, paving the way for developing more effective treatments for these patients.

As of 2023, the V Scholar Grant is a three-year grant of $200,000 per year. It supports young tenure-track faculty early in their cancer research careers by funding laboratory-based fundamental research or translational research projects.

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 to the lectureship, please click the link **here.**

HONORS AND AWARDS

Professor Brent Stockwell Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

Source: Columbia Pathology Newsroom

Brent R. Stockwell, PhD

We are pleased to announce that the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) has just elected Brent R. Stockwell, Ph.D., the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences, and Professor of Chemistry and of Pathology and Cell Biology, and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, to the academy. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Dr. Stockwell received this honor for his discovery of ferroptosis, a form of iron-driven, oxidative cell death involving lipid peroxidation. He defined its features, mechanistic basis, the key genes and proteins and inhibitors that regulate it, and tools to study it. He identified the roles of ferroptosis in neurodegenerative diseases and cancer, suggesting novel therapeutic strategies.

Dr. Stockwell is also a newly appointed pathology and cell biology department faculty member. By receiving this honor, he joins the ranks of other Pathology and Cell Biology National Academy members: Michael Shelanski, MD, PhD, Carol Mason, PhD, and Riccardo Dalla Favera, MD.

Learn more at the CUIMC and Columbia Faculty of Arts & Sciences newsrooms.

OTHER HONORS AND AWARDS

Ronald Liem, PhD, professor of pathology and cell biology, will deliver a Keynote Lecture at the 2024 Gordon Conference on Intermediate Filaments in Castelldefels, Spain, in June 2024. Gregg Gundersen, PhD will be a speaker, and Howard Worman, MD is Co-Chair of the Conference. Click here for details.

Anette Wu, MD, MPH PhD, associate professor of medical sciences (in medicine) and pathology and cell biology at CUMC,

1. Invited to speak at a session by the Education Outreach Section from the United Nations Department of Global Communications and the German Center for Research and Innovation.
2. Invited by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to discuss transatlantic experiences and culture.
3. Invited to join the Editorial Board at BMC Medical Education.

Useful Information

Updating online faculty profiles – Regularly updating your profile is strongly encouraged. Department faculty can update their profiles by contacting **pathwebmaster@lists.cumc.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@lists.cumc.columbia.edu.**

How to post content on digital monitors – Have interesting content (research, events, people, celebrations, etc.) that you wish to post on our four digital monitors located near the main elevators of the P&S and PH buildings, and King Library, please contact **PathNews@cumc.columbia.edu**.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

New Faculty

Alireza Salem, MD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC

Alireza Salem, MD

Dr. Alireza Salem joined the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology in September 2023. He completed his Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and his surgical pathology and breast pathology fellowship training at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in Houston, Texas.

Prior to his residency training, he accomplished his Medical Degree (MD) at Azad University in Tehran, Iran. Dr. Salem has several articles published in peer-reviewed journals. His current research interest involves different types of breast cancers, their genomic and molecular underpinning, and their therapeutic vulnerabilities.

Welcome to the department, Dr. Salem!

RECOGNITION

Faculty Promotions

George Vlad, PhD, promoted to associate professor of pathology and cell biology at CUMC.

Tilla Worgall, MD, promoted to full professor of pathology and cell biology (in neurology).

CUIMC EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Amazing Path to a Cure Team Ride on Sunday to Help Cure Cancer

October 8, 2023 was an amazing day, and among the nearly 500 Riders, volunteers, and supporters that came together for the 7th Annual Velocity Ride to End Cancer, our department's team Path to a Cure was amazing! The photos included here attest to those unforgettable moments of community and collaboration!

To date, the Columbia community has raised $1 million to support groundbreaking cancer research and care at Columbia's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. And Team Path to a Cure has made great progress towards our own fundraising goal raising $4,176! Our gratitude to those who donated knows no bounds.

And it is not too late to help us reach and exceed our $5,000 goal! **We still have until December 31, 2023 to get there!** Donate to team Path to a Cure today and thank you for your support for Columbia's Cancer Center!

***Top Image**: Team Path to a Cure, Joann Li (left) and Michelle Disco (right), looking ready for their ride to end cancer.*

***Right Image**: (From left to right) Fred Arce, Joann Li, Joe Fernandez and William Pope*

RESEARCH

For Cancer Cells, Chromosome Loss is No Accident

Source: Columbia Pathology Newsroom

Using a clever combination of new computer algorithms and cell culture techniques, scientists in Columbia University's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC) have addressed a question that's long troubled researchers: why do cancer cells often lose huge chunks of their DNA? The results, published in this week's issue of the journal Nature, reveal how these losses can help the cells survive, and point toward novel strategies for detecting and attacking tumors.

Cancer cells often develop aneuploidy, losing all or part of one copy of a chromosome. Investigators have known that for decades, but they've been unable to get a definitive answer to an obvious question: does aneuploidy provide any advantage to the rogue cells, or is it simply an accident or a byproduct of the other changes that allow them to multiply out of control?

Alison Taylor, PhD

"There haven't been good systematic ways to study the effects of specific changes, meaning that a specific chromosome or a specific piece of a chromosome gets deleted or gained," says Alison Taylor, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology in the HICCC. To address that, Taylor and a multidisciplinary team of collaborators at several other institutions combined a new computational biology algorithm, cutting-edge wet lab experiments, and a massive cancer genome database.

First, the team developed a new algorithm to analyze the patterns of genome breaks in aneuploid cells, then applied it to data from the US National Institutes of Health's Cancer Genome Atlas. Looking at more than 10,000 unique cancers spanning numerous tissue types, they found that the breaks occurred with different frequencies across different parts of chromosomes. "So it kind of looks like a waterfall, or going down steps," says Taylor. Those steps, chromosomal regions where the frequency of breaks changes precipitously, suggest that there are some chromosome regions that are important for the cells to keep, and others that they are keen to get rid of.

Taking the results into the lab, the team confirmed that in evolutionary terms the cells are preferentially keeping chromosome segments that give them selective survival advantages and deleting those that inhibit or halt their growth.

Drilling deeper, Taylor and her colleagues then looked at specific genes inside the affected genome regions. "Many of the genes that we found were genes that were already known [to be involved in cancer]," says Taylor. That provided a reassuring confirmation of the approach. Other genes that they found, however, had never been linked to the disease before, so the new work has significantly expanded the list of likely cancer-driving genes.

Serendipitously, a colleague down the hall from Taylor's lab works on one of those newly highlighted genes, called WRN. Mutations in both copies of the WRN gene cause a condition called Werner syndrome, characterized by premature aging and an increased risk of cancer. The cells in the Cancer Genome Atlas that had lost WRN, however, had lost only one copy. That finding alone opens an entirely new avenue of inquiry. "What exactly is happening when you're knocking down 50% of this gene?" says Taylor.

Besides gleaning more details about the biology of individual genes, Taylor hopes the work will spur new clinical research. "I really foresee the day where specific aneuploidy is a biomarker, or it could be a precision medicine target the same way that different mutations are now," she says.

HONORS AND AWARDS

On September 20, 2023, Dr. Steven Spitalnik was honored to give the Richard J. Davey, MD Lectureship at the 42nd Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion Symposium sponsored by the National Institutes of Health & American Red Cross. His lecture was entitled, "Worldwide Eradication of Rh Disease: the WIRhE Project."

RESEARCH

New Grants

Source: CUIMC Update

Yueqing Peng, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology in the Institute for Genomic Medicine: $2,056,250 over five years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for "Neural control of NREM sleep in the medulla."

Hee Won Yang, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology: $792,000 over three years from the American Cancer Society for "Therapeutic Resistance to BRAF/MEK inhibitors in BRAF-mutant Melanoma."

Krystalyn Hudson PhD, was recently awarded $3.5M from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to unravel the molecular mechanisms of autoimmunity onset in AIHA.

Recent Publications

- Lee E*, O'Keefe S*, Leong A*, Park HR, Varadarajan J, Chowdhury S, Hiner S, Kim S, Shiva A, Friedman RA, **Remotti H**, Fojo T, **Yang HW**, Thurston G, **Kim M**. Angiopoietin-2 blockade suppresses growth of liver metastases from pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors by promoting T cell recruitment. *J Clin Invest*.2023 Oct 16;133(20). doi: 10.1172/JCI167994. PubMed PMID: 37843277

- S Kim, J Armand, A Safonov, M Zhang, R Soni, G Schwartz, J McGuinness, H Hibshoosh, P Razavi, **M Kim**, S Chandarlapaty, and **H Yang**; Sequential activation of E2F via Rb degradation and c-Myc drives resistance to CDK4/6 inhibitors in breast cancer. *Cell Rep*, In Press, 2023

- Kenneth Ofori, **Diane Chen**, Jorge Sepulveda, **Govind Bhagat**, **Bachir Alobeid**; Normoblastemia in COVID-19 patients is associated with more severe disease and adverse outcome. *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Pathology* 2023;16(9):235-242

- Park J., Hall C., Hubbard B., LaMoia T., Gaspar R., Nasiri A., Li F., Zhang H., Kim J., **Haeusler R.**, Accili D., Shulman G., Yu H., and **Choi E.** (2023) MAD2-dependent insulin receptor endocytosis regulates metabolic homeostasis. *Diabetes*. db230314 https://doi.org/10.2337/db23-0314

- Liwei Wang#, Catherine Hall#, Emiko Uchikawa, Dailu Chen, **Eunhee Choi***, Xuewu Zhang*, Xiao-chen Bai*. Structural basis of insulin fibrillation. *Science Advances*. 9, eadi1057(2023). (#Co-first, *Co-corresponding author).

- **Courtney F. Connell**, Nikosa Collins, **Adela Cimic**, **Swikrity U Baskota**. Significance of concurrent HPV testing with unsatisfactory Papanicolaou test for prediction of follow-up HPV, Papanicolaou test, and biopsy results. *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, aqad070, https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqad070

EDUCATION

New Graduate Students

Ira Berli

Irla Belli graduated from Harvard College with a BA in History and Science. As an undergraduate, she did research in the laboratory of Dr. Karmacharya at MGH. She studied the dopamine hypothesis of schizophrenia. Irla came to Columbia as a research technician, working in Clarissa Waites' laboratory studying exosomes in Alzheimer's Disease. She is doing her first rotation with Dr. Chris Makinson in the Neurology Department. Irla is well known to us, since she has been organizing the Pathology department Happy Hour, first as a Research Technician and continuing now as a Graduate Student!

Weronika Budek (Ronny)

Weronika Budek (Ronny) did both her BS and MS at UCLA in Physiological Science. She did her Masters research in the laboratories of Dr. van Veen and Correa. As part of her Masters program, she also was a teaching assistant in Physiological Science and Systems Anatomy. Her research interest is in Neuroendicronology and she is doing her first rotation with Dr. Amy Rumora in the Department of Neurology.

Alex Eaker

Alex Eaker graduated from the University of North Carolina with a BS in Neuroscience. He did research as an undergraduate in the laboratory of Dr. Schisler, where he studied spinocerebellar ataxia. Following graduation, he worked as a Research Technician/Lab Manager in the laboratory of Dr. Baldwin in the Neuroscience Center at the UNC School of Medicine, where he investigated the function of a protein phosphatase in astrocytes. Alex continues his interest in glial cells and is now doing his first rotation in the laboratory of Dr. Osama Al-Dalamah.

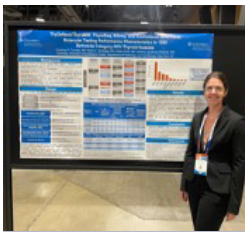
Kennedy Stacy

Kennedy Stacy is a graduate from Columbia University, majoring in Biological Sciences, where she did research in the laboratory of Dr. Iva Greenwald. Following graduation, Kennedy obtained an MSc degree at the University of Wisconsin, continuing her research in C.Elegans with Dr. de la Cova. Kennedy is interested in the relationships between genetics, disease and therapeutics, and is doing her first rotation with Dr. Ken Olive.

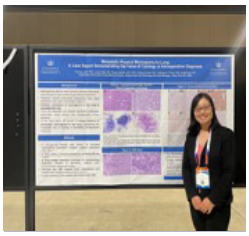
EDUCATION

Two Pathology and Cell Biology Residents Present at ASCP 2023

Our chief residents Courtney Connelly, MD and Yin Guo, MD, PhD presented their abstracts at ASCP 2023 at Long Beach, California. Courtney's abstract was also selected as a blue-ribbon finalist!



Courtney Connelly, MD



Yin Guo, MD, PhD

Graduate Program

Recent Theses Defended

Sebastian Quintremil, Vallee Lab, August 1, 2023
"Micron Scale Analysis of Microbial Communities"

Dinara Usmanova, Vitkup Lab, August 10, 2023
"*Determinants of protein evolutionary rates across scales of biological organization*"

Dierdre Ricaurte, Wang Lab, August 16, 2023
"Micron Scale Analysis of Microbial Communities"

Miles Richardson, Wang Lab, August 30, 2023
"Micron Scale Analysis of Microbial Communities"

Useful Information

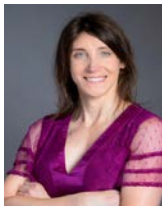
There are many tax advantages to giving appreciated stock to the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. In donating appreciated securities, you avoid capital gains tax and qualify for a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the securities.

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

WELL-BEING

Pathology and Cell Biology Well-Being Committee Established


Serge Cremers, PhD, PharmD


Tiffany Thomas, PhD


Maria Barros De La Hoz


Peter Canoll, MD, PhD


Enlin Carow

***Not Pictured**: Eugene Kalyuskin, Sarah Pichon, and Shatiqua Williams-Solis*


Johanna Collado


Chris Freeman


Amanda Gamboa


Michelle Garlin Politis


Eunhyeong Lee


Anette Wu, MD, MPH, PhD

In the summer of 2023, the department formed the Pathology and Cell Biology Well-Being Committee in line with the CUIMC-wide Well-Being initiative. Co-chaired by Drs. Serge Cremers and Tiffany Thomas, the committee aims to enhance workplace well-being throughout the department and, ultimately, the medical center.

Utilizing the CUIMC Well-Being Survey data, their collective efforts aspire to create an environment where all members flourish, with well-being at the core of their mission, as expressed by committee member Maria Barros De La Hoz. Shatiqua Williams, another member, emphasized that fostering well-being is not just noble but essential for organizational success, advocating for a culture of compassion, connection, and care.

The committee looks forward to working on behalf of the department to identify the practical and necessary changes needed for impactful well-being to occur in the department.

Let's all wish them success in this crucial task!

EVENTS

Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun:: A Haunted Halloween 2023

Photos from Anatomic Pathology, Laborary Medicine, and Central Administration divisions at their annual Halloween Costume parties.

COMMUNITY

2023 Summer Visitors

Each summer CUIMC partners with the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and welcomes students from the community to work with various departments and offices over the summer. The SYEP is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer.

During the summer of 2023, our department hosted several students in the offices of IT, HR, and Accessioning. To help foster community and understanding of the work that happens in our department, the central admin SYEP employee, Chris, interviewed one of the students working in the Accessioning office, and explored their daily routine, motivations, and the aspirations of a promising young professional.

Typical Work Day
Each day starts with a briefing with their supervisor Anita Sandeva, followed by collaborative tasks such as organizing cassettes and ensuring the pathologists have the necessary resources to complete their work.

Excitement in the Role
It's the opportunity to learn and give back, driving [me] to explore the field of pathology. [My] favorite moments include witnessing histology slides being made and participating in an autopsy conference, showcasing [my] deepening interest in the field.

How has your experience at Pathology and Cell Biology shaped her potential next steps?
"I feel as though it does advance my career development in a way. I am not sure what I want to do yet, but doing this internship is a push into the medical field."

Stay tuned for more inspiring stories from the dedicated professionals shaping the future of CUIMC!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Saying Goodbye with Gratitude: Dr. Roth's Farewell Breakfast

Goodbyes are never easy, and bidding farewell to someone as remarkable as Dr. Roth, our outgoing chair of eight years, was no exception. While we formally celebrated him on July 25, 2023, it became evident that one farewell wasn't enough to encapsulate the depth of our gratitude and affection.

To give him one last heartfelt send-off, on August 31, 2023, our department's central administration hosted an intimate farewell breakfast reception for Dr. Roth, marking his official departure. It was a morning filled with warmth and camaraderie, providing Dr. Roth with the opportunity to regale us with his final jokes, recount his cherished stories, and express his deep appreciation for the central administrative staff's unwavering dedication to their work. They are the backbone supporting our department's research, clinical, and educational endeavors day in and day out.

During the event, Joann Li, our esteemed department administrator and CFO, presented Dr. Roth with a beautifully crafted photo book, a lasting memento. As the morning unfolded, heartfelt speeches were delivered by several individuals who wished to convey their gratitude for Dr. Roth's eight years of exceptional leadership. Milan Fredricks, Dr. Roth's steadfast executive assistant throughout his chairmanship, spoke with profound emotion about how he had not only guided the department but also supported her own academic aspirations and professional growth.

As we bid adieu to Dr. Roth one last time, we wish him the best in this next phase of life. Thank you once again, Dr. Roth for your exemplary leadership and dedication to the department. Your impact has been immeasurable, and you will be greatly missed.

***Photo**: Dr. Kevin Roth, wearing the bowtie gifted to him by Dr. Michael Shelanski, former chair, making us laugh one last time.*

CAMPUS NEWS

Columbia University Inaugurates President Minouche Shafik

Source: Columbia News

Photo Credit: Allison Michael Orenstein

It was a beautiful autumn day on October 4th, when Columbia University formally inaugurated its twentieth president, Minouche Shafik. Succeeding Lee C. Bollinger, President Shafik brings a rich background to her new role. Born in Egypt and raised in the United States, she boasts an impressive academic journey, having earned degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the University of Oxford. Beyond academia, Shafik's dedication to international development is commendable, having served in leadership roles at the World Bank, the UK's Department for International Development, the International Monetary Fund, and the Bank of England.

In her early interactions with the Columbia community, President Shafik shared her appreciation for the warm welcome she received from the Columbia. She emphasized Columbia's unique position as a cosmopolitan institution and sees its potential to drive positive change in New York City and globally. Drawing inspiration from her personal experiences, from her roots in Alexandria, Egypt, to her extensive work in international development, Shafik expresses a fervent belief in the transformative power of ideas and knowledge and is keen on strengthening the connection between academic scholarship and real-world solutions.

President Shafik downplays the milestone as the first woman to lead Columbia, instead emphasizing her focus on the work ahead. She aims to position Columbia University as a contributor to tackling the challenges of today's changing global landscape, from rising nationalism to the pervasiveness of anti-intellectualism. Embodying Nelson Mandela's leadership philosophy, she aims to guide the university in a collaborative spirit, championing the value of diverse thoughts and ideas.

We look forward to this new chapter under President Shafik's leadership, embracing the innovation and growth she's sure to bring. Welcome aboard, President Shafik!

For the full inauguration interview and article, visit Columbia News.

CUIMC Introduces Dr. Alade McKen as Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Source: CU Staff Diviersity

Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) proudly announces Dr. Alade McKen, Ph.D., as the new Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for staff, effective September 1, 2023. This appointment underscores CUIMC's commitment to diversity, equity, and belonging.

Previously serving as Assistant Dean of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation since 2021, Dr. McKen brings years of expertise from higher education and non-profit sectors.

In his new role, Dr. McKen will partner closely with CUIMC's schools, the Provost's office, and leadership teams to fortify and enhance diversity-centric best practices on our campus. Dr. McKen boasts a Ph.D. from Iowa State University, an MSEd from Baruch College, a BA from Binghamton University, and a Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University.

Join us in welcoming Dr. McKen to this pivotal position as we champion a more inclusive CUIMC.

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