New Pathology Leadership Appointments

Four Pathology faculty members have stepped up into major Departmental and system-wide leadership roles since the start of 2017. Professor John Roback, M.D., Ph.D., is now the overall Medical Director of Emory Medical Laboratories (EML), with primary clinical and regulatory responsibilities as the CLIA license holder for all of EML’s constituent labs. A specialist in transfusion medicine, Dr. Roback continues also to serve as our Vice Chair for Laboratory Medicine and as Director of our Center for Transfusion and Cellular Therapies; he replaces Professor Jim Ritchie, Ph.D., who served as EML Director since 2013. Sharing duties with Dr. Roback is Professor Jeannette Guarner, M.D., a specialist in infectious disease pathology who now extends her oversight of the diagnostic labs at Emory University Hospital-Midtown to include other EML sites as well, in the newly created post of Associate Medical Director of EML. Meanwhile, Professor Charlie Hill, M.D., Ph.D., who continues to direct both our Pathology Residency Program and EML’s Molecular Diagnostics lab after completing a yearlong term as national President of the Association for Molecular Pathology, now also serves as our first-ever Vice Chair for Education, charged with coordinating all facets of our Department’s educational mission. All three of them began their new duties on New Year’s Day. Most recently, the leadership of our cytopathology clinical and training programs also changed hands, with Associate Professor Michelle Reid, M.D., M.S.C.R., taking on the role of Service Chief for Cytopathology on April 1. She replaces Professor Momin Siddiqui, M.D., who capably filled that position since 2005. Congratulations to them all!

COMMENT: We’re all deeply grateful to Drs. Ritchie and Siddiqui for their dedicated, selfless leadership, and we’re especially glad we had outstanding new leaders ready to take their places.

To contribute to the next newsletter, send an email to Donna Martin (dmart06@emory.edu).
New Faculty—Steve Bosinger, PhD

He’s in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. As founding Director of the Genomics Core facility at Emory’s Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Dr. Steve Bosinger has unparalleled opportunities to study diseases and to search for cures in the animal models that most closely mimic human biology, and he also has all the latest genomic, molecular, and informatic tools to study biological processes. So it’s no wonder he’s been doing unique, high-impact research. Born in Thunder Bay, Canada, he came to Emory six years ago after earning his bachelor’s degree and a doctorate in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Western Ontario and then completing a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied AIDS immunopathogenesis in monkey models. That training gave Dr. Bosinger deep knowledge of immunology and rare expertise in studying non-human primates, which remain major themes of his research today. But he also realized the power of genomics, transcriptomics, and systems biology very early in his career, and his skill with these emerging technologies soon made him a sought-after collaborator for research on a wide range of diseases. So when Yerkes was ready to launch its cutting-edge genomics facility, Dr. Bosinger was exactly the right person to lead it. He moved here in 2010, and the world beat a path to his door.

Today, with a unique set of skills, major grants of his own, more than 50 publications, and collaborations around the US, Europe, and South Africa, Dr. Bosinger is busy helping unlock the secrets of graft rejection, malaria, hepatitis C, depression, Huntington’s disease, and drug metabolism, with a major emphasis on HIV pathogenesis, prevention, and cure. All of which made him exactly the right candidate to join our Pathology faculty as an Assistant Professor this year.

Case Report

Emory Pathology Ranked #3 in NIH Funding

Our Pathology Department continues to rank among the very top programs of its kind, as measured by the funding we receive from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). With more than $34 million in total NIH research and training support in the 2016 federal fiscal year, Emory ranked #3 by this metric among the more than 100 Pathology departments nationwide, trailing only Johns Hopkins and the University of Pennsylvania. This marks our eighth consecutive year among the top 4 Pathology programs, and our fourth as the top-ranked program in Emory’s School of Medicine, which itself ranked 18th in NIH funding among all U.S. medical schools in 2016. The rankings are compiled annually by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, based on data released by the NIH. A broader measure, compiled by the School of Medicine, shows that 40 Pathology faculty and trainees together attracted research and training funds totaling $46.8 million from all extramural sources combined in 2016.
Two pathologists were among the "Featured Faculty" of Emory’s Doctors’ Day festivities on March 30 this year, honored by their peers and colleagues as outstanding physician faculty. Assistant Professor Krisztina Hanley, M.D., is a surgical pathologist and cytopathologist who sub-specializes in breast and gynecologic diseases; Associate Professor Colleen Kraft, M.D., is an infectious disease physician and clinical microbiologist who studies the gut microbiome. Associate Professor Melinda Lew, M.D. (not pictured), the cytopathologist who founded our fine-needle aspiration diagnostic service, was similarly honored in 2015.

Why is this man smiling? Could it be because he just got a perfect score on his application for an NIH R35, a new type of research grant that merges two of his existing NIH RO1s and renews them for another five years? Or because the reviewers recommended increasing the combined budget by 20%, rather than reducing it 10%, as R35s ordinarily do? Or because they called his project, on the evolutionary origins of adaptive immunity, "highly innovative" and "paradigm shifting"? Or is it because he’ll now be inducted into "The Emory 1%", a club for those whose grants score in the top percentile? Professor and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar Max Cooper, M.D., has plenty to smile about, it seems.

To contribute to the next newsletter, send an email to Donna Martin (dmart06@emory.edu)
Pathologists
in the News

Carlos Moreno
Nature—April 5, 2017
CRISPR studies muddy results of older gene research
  · http://www.nature.com/news/crispr-studies-muddy-results-of-older-gene-research-1.21763

Colleen Kraft
Emory News Center—April 11, 2017
Video—Fecal microbiome transplant program

Carlos Moreno
Emory Report — April 2017
Emory March for Science Atlanta

Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Emory News Center
Emory Ranks among top 10 Universities worldwide for publication impact in Pathology

Bali Pulendran
Emory News Center — February 13, 2017
Scientists devise novel way to predict efficacy of malaria vaccine

Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow
Omid Rouhi, M.D., Ph.D., received a "Global Young Investigator Award" for his poster presentation at the first international congress of the Association for Molecular Pathology, which was held in Berlin last month.

Dr. Rouhi’s award-winning study of genomic profiling in cancers from unknown primary sites was co-authored by Assistant Professors Krisztina Hanley, M.D., Carla Ellis, M.D., M.S., Geoff Smith, M.D., and Michael Rossi, Ph.D., along with Professor and Vice Chair Charlie Hill, M.D., Ph.D.

Interested Links

Interesting Links
It all began nearly two years ago with an unexpected email from the Editor-in-Chief of the Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the flagship journal of the College of American Pathologists (CAP):

"Dear Tris: ... I would like to know if you would be interested in having a Special Section in Archives ... written by faculty from your department at Emory?"

By the time it was finished, the project had blossomed into a two-part tour-de-force in the journal’s March and April editions. Altogether it comprised ten authoritative, state-of-the-art reviews that illustrate how emerging new concepts and technologies are re-shaping the daily clinical practice of our profession. The articles each focused on one or two subspecialty fields and together spanned a gamut of topics in laboratory medicine and surgical pathology, as exemplified by the two cover articles on genomic analyses in diagnostic neuropathology and on digital image analysis. Three other articles in the Special Section—on breast, genitourinary, and hematopathology—were selected to be part of the CAP’s “Archives Applied” program, which offers continuing medical education resources to the CAP’s 17,000 members and subscribers worldwide.

A total of 50 Emory Pathology faculty contributed as authors of this major collaborative effort.