From the day I arrived as the new department chair in July 1999, it was clear that Bill Donnelly was one of the living legends of the department. Besides being a tireless advocate of the Pathology Residency Training Program and a superb pediatric and autopsy pathologist, Bill also was the raconteur of departmental history. If I needed any information about how the department ‘used to be,’ Bill could surely fill me in. I strongly feel that the department’s past history (and mythology) is central to who we are and where we are going. Bill was a sage counselor about the temperament and potential of our wonderful department. I have continued to take advantage of Bill’s unique and valuable perspective on the department in the years since.

On a day-to-day basis, Bill’s expertise on the clinical service has been of immense value. I know from around the country that Bill Donnelly is one of the ranking pediatric pathologists of the age, having contributed directly to the growth of this important subspecialty. Put differently, there seems to be no mid-level to senior pediatric pathologist nationwide who is not immediately familiar with Bill and his contributions to pathology. In my six years at UF, I have benefited greatly from Bill’s knowledge in pediatric liver and gastrointestinal pathology, and many times I have been totally dependent upon his expertise in perinatal autopsy pathology.

William H. Donnelly, M.D.: Pathologist Extraordinaire
by James M. Crawford, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair

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Highlight of the Year: Resident Research Day 2005
by Samantha Butler, M.D.

Anticipation was in the air as the Department of Pathology's premiere event, the twenty-third annual Resident Research Symposium (Resident Research Day), began the morning of Saturday, May 8, 2005. Many distinguished pathologists from around the state of Florida were in the audience, including former University of Florida AP directors Dr. Raymond Hackett, Dr. William Murphy and Dr. Kendall Pierson. The prospective resident speakers brimmed with excitement and anxiety at the opportunity to share their research advances with the eager audience. Dr. James Crawford, the University of Florida Pathology Chair, began with an introduction outlining the importance of residents’ pursuit of knowledge through research.

The presented researchspanned many topics in pathology, including breast, gynecologic and genitourinary pathology, hematopathology, dermatopathology, and microbiology. A poster session held during an intermission session, further defined the research endeavors presented during the day. "I believe that most in attendance were able to extract practical information from the wide variety of research that was presented," commented current chief resident Dr. Dominique Coco. Following a catered lunch, the department welcomed the guest speaker, Dr. Richard Levenson, Director of Research and Development for Biomedical Systems at Cambridge Research and Instrumentation. Dr. Levenson engaged the audience with the future prospects of imaging in diagnostic pathology focusing on spectral light polarization. According to Dr. Crawford, "Dr. Levenson’s work challenges us to expand our sensorium as pathologists, and to think of our morphological images as more than spatial features with contrasting colors. Detailed analysis of the color spectrum in pathology images, and of our logic for interpreting spatial features, gives us new opportunity to enhance our diagnostic contributions to patient care."

In the evening, a banquet honoring the residents and faculty sparked a more festive atmosphere. The outstanding faculty award was given to Dr. Luis Alvarez for his excellence in teaching. "I was surprised and honored," stated Dr. Alvarez upon acceptance of his award.
The Faculty Buzz
by Dominique Coco, M.D.

As we start a new academic year, there are a number of familiar faces that have changed roles within our department. Dr. Lisa Dixon joined our Gastrointestinal and Liver pathology division as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Dixon completed her formal AP/CP training at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and entered our department last year as our first GI/Liver pathology post-doctoral associate. She served a dual role of both fellow and faculty member over the course of the 2004-2005 academic year. She will be filling a much needed role in our busy GI/Liver pathology service.

Two new post-doctoral associate fellowships were established this academic year. Having recently completed her clinical pathology training here at UF, Dr. Tisha Nettel has taken on a fellowship position in the Blood Bank division. She is working with Dr. Juan Scornik in managing the Shands & UF Blood Bank. This has been a greatly anticipated move as Dr. Scornik has been serving as the interim Blood Bank Director while continuing to serve as the Director of HLA and Immunology. Dr. Nettel plans to complete her formal blood bank fellowship training by the end of the 2006-2007 academic year.

Dr. Samer Al-Quran has also started a post-doctoral fellowship in the UF Hematopathology division. Dr. Al-Quran recently completed his AP/CP training as well as a hematopathology fellowship here at UF. He will have the role of both fellow and faculty member over the course of this academic year providing additional expertise for a busy service.

Dr. Luis Alvarez has temporarily joined the Dermatopathology division as a part-time faculty member while continuing his part-time status within the VA Pathology Department. Dr. Alvarez has been part of our VA staff for two years after retiring from his position in Miami. He is able to provide much needed relief in our Dermatopathology division, as well as enhance resident and fellow teaching. He recently won our coveted residency teaching award.

New Residents

Dr. Manette Monroe returns to Florida from her hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to graduating from Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University, she lived and worked in Sarasota. Her interest in pathology developed while working at the Sarasota Community Blood Bank, where she served as Education Coordinator from 1991 to 1996. In addition, she was an adjunct professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Manatee Community College in Bradenton. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and continued her academic pursuit at Virginia Tech where she earned a Masters in Education. Though she professes no strong allegiance to the Volunteers, her family does bleed orange and will be here for all UT-UF games! Outside of work, she enjoys riding her dressage horse and is looking forward to a winter with no mud or snow!

Dr. Jeremy Archer grew up in Gainesville, Florida, and became a die-hard Gator fan at an early age. He attended college at Princeton University, where he studied Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, as well as Computer Science. After two years as a high school teacher and an outdoor educator, he returned to Gainesville, where he graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine. Prior to starting his residency training here in pathology, he completed an internship in family medicine at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. In his spare time, Jeremy enjoys running, hiking, mountain climbing, competing in triathlons and woodworking. We would like to congratulate him and his wife, as they are expecting their first child this year.

Dr. Bradley M. Turner is a native New Yorker who practiced Family Medicine for 5 years prior to returning "to school" to begin a residency in pathology. He completed a combined MD/MPH degree at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey followed by a Family Medicine residency at Duke University/SRAHEC in North Carolina. After working for a year in rural North Carolina, Brad and his wife, Dr. Stella King, were blessed with a partnership in a multi-specialty group in Sarasota, Florida. After four successful years, Brad decided to gain training in pathology which he feels will help him to better contribute to the prevention, diagnosis and cure of disease. In addition, Brad is working to complete a Masters of Health Administration during his residency at UF. To relax, he remains active in church and enjoys exercise, sports, music and reading.

Rose Ann Jesse has been promoted to Residency Program Secretary. She has been with our department for nearly eight years serving as a departmental secretary and personal secretary for Dr. John Reith, who took over the role of Resident Director in 2004. The change brings the resident secretary in much closer proximity to our residents and faculty. She is replacing Betty Douglas who served in this position for the last six years. Thank you Betty for the years of service you gave to our residency program.

We continue to have exciting changes within our department and would like to thank the entire faculty for their continued hard work and dedication, making UF the place to be!
Pathologist Extraordinaire

(Continued from page 1)

It is worth pointing out that Bill has been instrumental in our department’s contributions to the ‘Pediatric Oncology Group’ national effort. He has been named repeatedly among the ‘Best Doctors in America.’

In teaching and scholarship, Bill has made major contributions. Over the years, Bill has received The Outstanding Teacher Award from the Department of Pediatrics (1976); The Outstanding Basic Science Teacher Award from the graduating senior class of the College of Medicine (1981 & 1990), and Teacher of the Year from the College of Medicine (1988). Over-and-above his published works in diseases of children, Bill has been a leader both locally and nationally in data management. Recently, he has led a project to database the last 30 years of anatomic pathology reports from our department (approximately 500,000 cases), to enable scholarly work on our vast archive. The methodology for the parsing and databasing function has garnered national attention.

I should also note Bill’s strong sense of citizenship. On entering his office, one immediately encounters a framed photo (and embroidered hat) attesting to his naval service on the U.S. Submarine Ethan Allen (SSBN 608). Given the frequency with which naval metaphors – and expressions – pop up in Bill’s everyday conversation, it is clear that he is a Navy man through and through. Bill also has shown tremendous dedication to the University of Florida. The committees and task forces he has served on through the years are too numerous to list. I give one example. In 2002, the department took on regular weekend call coverage of the District 8 Medical Examiners Office. I asked for faculty volunteers for coverage and Bill was the one individual who stepped forward. In the 3 1/2 years since, Bill has regularly performed Medical Examiner duties at a time in his career when one could argue that there is no need for taking on additional call duties. More over, Bill volunteered for, was trained in, and is now a standing member of the ‘Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System’ (FEMORS), a statewide mass casualty response organization directed out of our department by Dr. Bruce Goldberger. Dr. Donnelly was activated four times in 2004, thanks to Florida’s four hurricanes, all of which resulted in casualties. At the time of this writing, FEMORS is on standby for deployment to assist in the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. I give this as testimony to Bill’s extraordinary commitment to our profession, and to the people we serve.

On the occasion of the College of Medicine’s 50th anniversary (culminating in a March 2006 celebration weekend), Bill spearheaded an effort to compile a formal history for the Department of Pathology. This document is a work-in-progress, and already is well populated by facts and stories about our wonderful past. Bill’s own contributions to this department over a 40 year period have been stupendous, and have clearly helped bring us to this point and to the great future we have before us. I extend my deepest thanks to him and his wonderful family – his wife Michelle and children Carolyn and Christopher – for their dedication and service to the University of Florida.

A Time For Everything

by William Donnelly, M.D. and Manette Monroe, M.D.

1936 Born in Jersey City, New Jersey
1958 College of the Holy Cross graduate, Massachusetts
1963 Sent by FEMORS to work for District I Medical Examiner after Hurricane Ivan
1964 Married Michelle Marie Emond in Kingston, Ontario
1965 Named to list of “Best Doctors in America” (S.E. Region)
1966 Married Michelle Marie Emond in Kingston, Ontario
1967 FEMORS activated
1968 Elected president of the UF College of Medicine Faculty Association
1971 First involvement with SNOMED Committee of the CAP
1973 Appointed to the Governor’s Task Force on Child Fatalities
1975 Elected president of the UF College of Medicine Faculty Association
1977 “Residency recruiting coordinator 1974 until 2003
1979 “Teacher of the Year” College of Medicine
1981 Honored with 20 Year Service award by Pediatric Oncology Group
1982 Developed the database format used statewide for all reviews of child deaths
1983 Elected to list of “Best Doctors in America” (S.E. Region)
1985 “Teacher of the Year” College of Medicine
1986 “Basic Science Teacher of the Year” College of Medicine
1987 Knee surgery in August with 6 months of rehab
1988 Wife diagnosed with breast cancer (currently 8 yrs. cancer free!)
1989 Honored with 20 Year Service award by Pediatric Oncology Group
1990 “Teacher of the Year” Department of Pediatrics
1991 Received IRB approval to develop the anatomic pathology database
1992 Appointed as an Associate Medical Examiner for District 8
1993 Appointed as an Associate Medical Examiner for District 8
1994 Named to list of “Best Doctors in America” (S.E. Region)
1995 Cut back his clinical service to 80% in December
1996 Honored with 20 Year Service award by Pediatric Oncology Group
1997 Knee surgery in August with 6 months of rehab
1998 Appointed to the Governor’s Task Force on Child Fatalities
1999 “Basic Science Teacher of the Year” Department of Pediatrics
2000 “Teacher of the Year” Department of Pediatrics
2001 Retired to Emeritus status and returned at 0.3 FTE
2002 Developed the database format used statewide for all reviews of child deaths
2003 Appointed as an Associate Medical Examiner for District 8
2004 Named to list of “Best Doctors in America” (S.E. Region)
2005 Retired to Emeritus status and returned at 0.3 FTE

See page 4 for more information...
Friends Reminisce

“When I interviewed as a transferring senior resident in 1990... the hotel across the street was actually the hotel that everyone used to stay at when interviewing. I remember Dr. Donnelly came to pick me up at the hotel and walked me over to my first morning interview. My first impression was how well-regarded expert in pathology coming over to pick up a ‘lowly resident.’ Not many attendings would do that back then. He made me feel like this was my home, before I even got to my first interview. When I left, I remember him saying, ‘See ya soon.’ I knew then that this was the place I wanted to be. Dr. Donnelly is truly one of the best!”

Christine Orlando, DO

“Dr. Donnelly first became known to me in the early 1970’s. Dr. Donnelly is a true friend to his coworkers and employees. Over the years he has shown great compassion for people with any kind of problem and would go out of his way to help in any way he can. None of us will ever know anyone like him again. It won’t be the same coming to work without a blessing from Dr. ‘D.’ To say he will be missed is an understatement.”

Kathleen Brill

“When my younger son was diagnosed with H. flu meningitis at the age of 3, Bill became a great liaison between the pediatric clinicians and my wife and me. He kept us sane through the whole ordeal (7 days in Shands ICU). We would have gone nuts if he had not kept us in touch with what was happening and alleviated our fears.”

Robin Foss, PA

“In all the years that I worked with Bill, I do not remember one occasion in which he was on time. However, one Saturday he was to meet me at my house at 1000 hours (an obstinance to his submarine years), I almost decided to go to a noon movie figuring I had plenty of time. Nonetheless, upon arriving in my drive way at 1003 hours, there he was ‘booted, spurred and ready to ride’. Mary and I were awestruck! The only other time that he was on time was at his birth (thank you for the info Michelle). We figured he was anxious to come out so that he could become a pediatric pathologist and figure out why his cord blood was kelly green rather then red.”

Ray Hackett, MD

“It is hard to think of stories about Dr. Donnelly because he tells the stories. He has enriched and warmed people’s hearts by his many stories. They respond, and love to see him because he will share himself with them. What I think best describes Dr. Donnelly is that he shares his humanity and makes us all better for it. Dr. Donnelly is the example of the compassionate physician who always puts others above himself. His heart is pure, his intentions genuine, his motives perfect. He teaches all of us with his humanity and motivates us by his example. I will always remember his enthusiasm for teaching and the way he makes pathology real, alive, and interesting to all students. He was never a textbook, it was real life for him!”

Sig Normann, MD

“Dear Bill, many thanks for all your help, wise advice, and support over these many years that we have been colleagues and fellow faculty members. You were a major influence on my decision to join the University of Florida Department of Pathology Faculty in 1980, and you helped prove that it was an altogether good decision as far as I am concerned. We have had some remarkable times since then! Kate joins me in wishing you and Michelle every joy and happiness.”

Edward J. Wilkinson, MD

“Dr. Donnelly was early in his career at the start of my training in ’74, but was already the Residency Program Director. As with everything he touched, Dr. Donnelly went at the mission full speed ahead, convincing so many extraordinary young physicians to join the Department. Dr. Donnelly, even then, had a knack to bring out the best in an aspiring pathologist – his faith in his residents’ ability and motivation was unconditional and not open to question. We all understood his attention to detail and great curiosity – sometimes led us down unexpected paths! I’ve been back to Gainesville three times over the decades, the last visit in January 2005 – and each time, there was Dr. Donnelly – a little older, but uncorrupted, pretty much doing the same thing, except probably better. Thank you, Bill.”

Richard J. Hausner, MD

“Dr. D has a heart of gold. He is known and loved by many. When someone hears I work in pathology, they always ask about one person... Dr. D. He’s helped many medical students, residents, faculty and friends through rough times in their lives; often while going through those of his own. His warm and nurturing personality can be felt with every encounter. However, he is also well known for a few other characteristics. Dr. D is a busy person (to say the least) and acquiring time to review cases with him can often be difficult. As a resident, it was challenging at times, but I found ways around his tendency to get preoccupied. The key was chocolate and cheese; his favorite foods. When it was time to review cases, I used chocolate or cheese to lure him to the microscope. This worked almost every time (plus, it helped him remain focused). As the years go by, I continue to pass this little bit of advice on to the incoming residents.

Dr. D will be Dr. D. He will FOREVER be Dr. D. And people will always remember and love him.”

Jackie Knapik, MD

“I would like to thank you, Dr. Donnelly, for all your help through the years, from dealing with family deaths to the birth of my triplets. You have always been there. You were there when my grandmother died. You were there for my son Jay when he was burned. I remember calling you at church that Sunday morning. They were going to send him to Tampa and instead, you arranged it so that he could stay here at Shands. I will be eternally grateful. When my triplets were born, I had to be at home while they were in the NICU for two months. Every morning you checked on them and called me to let me know how they were doing. You were there so often that one of the nurses asked what relation you were to them. You said you were their ‘surrogate uncle’ and so you have been and will always be for all of us.”

Angelia Perry
A Unique Class of Fellows Ensures a Distinct Academic Year

by Chris Price, M.D.

Fellows have a unique role in medical training. They have completed the general pathology training and now seek an in-depth and more complete understanding in a subspecialty. They are essentially on their way to becoming experts in their respective fields.

July marked the return of a neuropathology fellow to the department; an event that neuropathologists Drs. Thomas Eskin and Anthony Yachnis have long anticipated. Dr. Jingxin Qiu continues to progress through his anatomic pathology and neuropathology (AP/NP) curriculum. In this, his third year, he has officially made the transition from AP resident to NP fellow. His research in gliomas has already started, and he is anticipating NIH support.

The other two positions have brought new faces to this department. Dr. Brian Yoder joins us from the Cleveland Clinic to be this year’s cytopathology fellow. He has previous training in molecular diagnostic techniques and looks to further his knowledge and experience within our renowned cytopathology department.

Finally, Dr. Steven Proper from the Tampa area is this year’s dermatopathology fellow. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from his years as an established dermatologist, and Mohs surgeon. In addition, he can contribute to interesting discussions with his J.D. and M.P.H.

The cast is set and the department can be assured of no less than an outstanding performance from these new players.

The graduating residents and fellows were recognized and awarded their pathology training certificates. Several residents were also recognized for their involvement in various committees throughout the year, including the newly formed Residency Recruiting Committee and the Resident Research Day Committee. Awards were given to outstanding faculty members that included: Dr. Jacquelyn Knapik, recipient of the “Attending Ironman Award” for her availability and dedication to residents; Dr. John Reith, recipient of the "Hydra Award" for his excellent instruction at microscope sessions; and Dr. Byron Croker, recipient of the "Point-Counter Point Award" for his stimulating debates with both himself and the residents.

Following the presentation of awards, Drs. Diana Cardona and Dominique Coco presented a slide show reflecting on the history of the Department of Pathology and honoring current and past faculty and residents. The night concluded with a competitive, yet entertaining, game of Jeopardy between the faculty and residents. Unfortunately (or fortunately... depending on how you view the situation), the residents lost... overwhelmingly. The residents will persevere and plan a huge upset at next year’s Jeopardy competition!

Of the day’s events, Dr. John Reith, Residency Program Director, commented, “This was easily our most successful Resident Research Symposium to date. The residents’ presentations were all excellent, and definitely raised the bar for future presenters. Dr. Levenson’s lectures certainly challenged us to think about surgical pathology in a new and unique way. And of course, the faculty victory in the Jeopardy game following dinner capped a great day."

Special Thanks

The department would like to thank the following Resident Research Day sponsors:

Travis White with CYTYC

And

George Lehan with Bayer Diagnostics

POP QUIZ: What task did Dr. Donnelly assign these first year residents?

Answer: During the flood of 2000, these first year residents got to “swab the deck.” Dr. Donnelly runs a tight ship!
The new Journal club schedule for this academic year is finalized and EVERYONE is welcome to attend. Following dinner, 2-3 articles are presented and discussed at a sponsoring attending’s house. Subjects will include GYN cytology, GI/Liver, Renal, Breast and Bone/Soft tissue. If you are interested in more information please refer to our website, www.pathology.ufl.edu under “Resident Calendar” or contact Dr. Samantha Butler at butles@pathology.ufl.edu.

This academic year we are honored to be welcoming Dr. Steven Karch, the Assistant Medical Examiner of San Francisco, who will spend time teaching and discussing pertinent topics within forensic toxicology on February 1st and 2nd. Dr. Karch is a well known author of nearly 100 books covering topics in toxicology and is a leading expert on the effects of drug abuse on the heart.

Please stay tuned for the announcement of our 2nd annual alumni dinner to be scheduled during the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting being held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 11-17. After last year’s success, Dr. Crawford is eager to host a similar event in hopes to attract and meet even more department friends.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the University of Florida College of Medicine. Plan on attending the festivities organized by the college and please do not forget to stop by the department to say hello. (http://www.50years.health.ufl.edu)