Over the past decade, the pathology department at the University of Florida has seen many changes in both administration and facilities. In July 1999, Dr. James Crawford was appointed as Chairman of the Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine. He came to us from Yale University School of Medicine, where he held the position of Associate Professor of Pathology and Director of Gastrointestinal Pathology. The position had been open since the departure of Dr. Noel Maclaren in 1996 with Dr. Edward Wilkinson serving admirably in the role of Interim Chairman until Dr. Crawford’s arrival. Additional changes took place in July 2004, as Dr. John Reith became the Resident Training Program Director; Dr. Jacquelyn Knapik, the Director of the Autopsy Department; and Dr. William Winter, the Director of the Medical School Pathology Course. Most recently, in March 2006, Dr. Anthony Yachnis was appointed as the new Director of Anatomic Pathology. We also have three pathology assistants that are on faculty for the department; Robin Foss, Trevor Jorgensen and Gerald Phipps.

In April 2002, with the need for additional space for future expansion of the Shands Hospital surgical suite, the main clinical laboratory was moved to a new facility called Rocky Point. This new facility has 40,700 sq ft and is set on over 3 acres, giving the lab the potential for future growth. A smaller core lab remains on site to handle in-house patient testing. In conjunction with changes to the clinical lab, the main anatomic pathology

A Decade of Change
By Jacquelyn Knapik, M.D., Autopsy Director

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USCAP 2006, What a Success!
By Constance Yuan, M.D., Ph.D.

We were excited to see that this year’s 95th annual USCAP meeting was so well-represented by our department. This year’s event was held in Atlanta, Georgia, and many of our residents, fellows and faculty participated in the following presentations:

Platform Presentation

Poster Presentations
David Grier, Samer Z. Al-Quran, Ying Li, Raul C. Braylan. Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Expression in B-cell Lymphomas and Reactive Lymph Nodes Analyzed by Flow Cytometry.

Tisha C. Netzel, Ying Li. Using Flow Cytometric Analysis to Detect Early Stem Cell Disease.


Brian J. Yoder, Nicole A. Massoll, Edward J. Wilkinson. A Proposed Classification of Invasive Patterns in Vulvar Squamous Carcinoma and Their Influence on the Depth of Tumor Invasion and Disease Recurrence.

Case Presentation

Presenter

Additionally, senior resident Rachel Redman was awarded a stipend by the American Society of Clinical Pathology, providing her with the opportunity to participate in a specialty senior externship in Dermatopathology at the University of Arkansas with Dr. Bruce Smoller.

On Sunday, the department joined with alumni for a fantastic evening of
Research Symposium’s Speaker
By Diana Cardona, M.D.

This year’s honored Resident Research Day guest speaker is Dr. William S. Black-Schaffer, the current Associate Chief of Pathology and Pathology Residency Training Program Director at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, he holds a position as Assistant Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School. As an undergraduate at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, he began his accomplished career by graduating with a B.A. in physics and English literature. At Indiana University, he earned an M.A. in anatomy and an M.D. At this point, he began his residency in pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, eventually specializing in cytopathology. Following his training, he returned to Indiana University as an Associate Instructor for 4 years and then moved back to Boston, where he has remained.

Over the years, his responsibilities have grown to include administrative activities such as Executive, Anatomic Pathology Steering, and Quality Assurance Committee membership, as well as Associate Chief of Pathology for Education, and chair of the Residency Training Committee. These latter positions include primary responsibility of the anatomic and clinical pathology residency program with thirty-five approved positions and several fellowships. Additionally, he is responsible for the coordination and ongoing evaluation of the department’s other internal and external educational offerings.

In the 1990’s, Dr. Black-Schaffer’s eventual areas of expertise became evident with his contributions to the Massachusetts Society of Pathologists (including time served as president) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP). His participation within the CAP includes being an active member of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Negotiated Rulemaking.

The Practice of Fine Needle Aspiration
By Rachel Redman, M.D.

Fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNA) is the method of choice for most clinicians in the diagnosis of thyroid nodules. With the incidence of thyroid nodules approaching 7% in the US, thyroid FNA has become an indispensable tool. Most cytopathology fellowships offer training in FNA, and UF is no exception. Under the direction of Dr. Nicole Massoll, the FNA service has expanded to cover most of the superficial nodule FNAs, thyroid or otherwise, performed at UF/Shands hospital. Currently, Dr. Massoll and the cytopathology fellow run a separate FNA clinic, performing FNAs with and without ultrasound guidance. They also provide technical and adequacy support for the Endocrine and ENT clinics. Over 300 FNAs have been done this academic year.

“Dr. Massoll is ably demonstrating the critical role that pathologists play in providing first rate patient care, through her fine needle aspiration clinic,” comments Dr. James Crawford, department chairman. “The Thyroid FNA Clinic at the University of Florida is rapidly becoming recognized internationally as an outstanding diagnostic clinic, with a strong academic bent. Dr. Massoll performs both the FNA procedure, and the diagnostic interpretation thereof. Over and above the outstanding patient care she provides, her clinic is a major educational asset to the pathology residency and cytopathology fellowship training programs.”

Performing FNAs has become a major part of cytopathology fellowship training at UF. Dr. Brian Yoder, the current fellow comments, “Doing FNAs provides patient contact and allows for training on-site adequacy in a real time setting. This was something I was definitely looking for in a fellowship program.”

Dr. Edward Wilkinson, Director of the Cytopathology Fellowship, says of the experience, “Dr. Massoll, as the founder and director of the department of pathology’s FNA clinic, has contributed to the education of the residents and fellows in the performance and interpretation of diagnostic fine needle aspiration cytology. It is now possible for the fellow in training to perform, with direct supervision, over 300 FNA procedures in their year of training. This experience places our program among the leading programs providing FNA training and experience.”

Both cytopathology fellowship training and patient service are becoming a strong point here at UF. “I am just happy to be here doing what I love to do,” says Dr. Massoll. “If I can inspire residents and fellows to love it, that’s great too.”

A Day of Recognition
By Diana Cardona, M.D.

It is nearing the time of year when the recent accomplishments of our residents and fellows are recognized. The 24th Annual Resident Research Day Symposium is quickly approaching. The excitement is growing among our residents and fellows as this event provides them with the opportunity to share their work with the department, alumni and area pathologists. A variety of topics will be covered, including:

- Stem Cell Transplantation for Multiple Myeloma- Constance Yuan, MD, PhD.
- Trials of New Germ Cell Immunohistochemical Stains in Extragonadal and Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors- Samantha Butler, MD.
- Identification of Hepatocyte Paraffin 1 (Hep par 1) Antigen- S. Butler, MD.
- The Utility and Sensitivity of Direct Gel Testing in the Evaluation of Fetomaternatal Hemorrhage in RhD Negative Mothers- Steven Goldstein, MD.
- Flow Cytometric Assessment of T-cell Clonality in Bone Marrow, Peripheral Blood and Lymphoid Tissue Using TCR-Vbeta Expression Analysis- Diana Cardona, MD.

The presentations will conclude with a talk from our honored keynote speaker, Dr. William S. Black-Schaffer from Massachusetts General Hospital. In keeping with tradition, the end of the year banquet will be held that evening at the beautiful Savannah Grande. There, the theme of recognition will continue with the acknowledgment of the accomplishments of our graduating residents and fellows. In addition, several awards will be presented in appreciation of another successful academic year. Alumni and area pathologists are invited to attend the day’s events. For more information regarding the Resident Research Day Symposium to be held on June 10th, please contact Roseann Jesse at 352-265-0238, ext. 45215.
Decade of Change
(Continued from page 1)

The department was renovated. Changes included a department conference room, new sign-out areas, and fully renovated faculty, secretarial and transcription offices. In addition, a dedicated media room was created with facilities for faculty and residents to prepare for presentations and publications. The overall cost of the move to Rocky Point and renovation of the pathology department was approximately $10 million.

In July 2005, Dr. Martha Burt joined our department from Miami, bringing considerable expertise in Forensic Pathology. She predominately covers medical examiner cases, but also has scheduled time on the autopsy service at UF. In addition, she is in the process of establishing a forensic medicine rotation in Gainesville (District 8). This will eventually eliminate the need for residents to travel to Jacksonville in order to fulfill their rotation requirement.

Over the past year, the autopsy department, including the resident office area, received a major facelift. The resident cubicles, first installed in the 1980’s, were replaced with more modern furniture of better quality. The desks are larger, with a wood grain finish, and each has a hutch for books and other items. New carpet was installed and the hallway tile was replaced. Most of the area was repainted in two complementary shades of blue giving the department a whole new look. With future plans to increase the number of residents in the program, the wall bookcase in the library was removed to allow for additional desks and the library/sign-out area was moved to Dr. Baer’s old office. A new phone system was installed in order to match the current technology used in the Health Science Center. The computers were upgraded and an additional computer was put into service, giving a total of 5 resident computers in the autopsy area. Finally, seventeen new microscopes were purchased for each resident’s personal use. With these renovations, we now have the capacity to increase our program to 18 residents. The overall cost of the renovations in the autopsy area was approximately $60,000.

In the near future, Shands will begin construction of a new cancer hospital. This will be located across the street from the main hospital where the University Center Hotel is currently located. The 200 bed facility will have 12 operating rooms to support a range of surgical oncology subspecialties, including ENT and orthopedic surgery. The hospital will also house a new bone marrow transplant unit. Pathology will staff a frozen section suite and new blood bank, as well as provide fine needle aspiration cytology. The dynamic state of the hospital, College of Medicine and the Department of Pathology creates a stimulating environment, one full of continual growth and improvements.

International Liver Experts Convene in Gainesville For Annual Meeting

By Chris Price, M.D.

The International Liver Pathology Study Group, also known as the ‘Elves’ converged upon Gainesville this year for their annual meeting. To understand the significance of the group, one must look at its history, and the origin of the Elves.

Throughout the 1960’s, a group of liver pathologists and hepatologists met to refine the definition of chronic hepatitis. One of the members of this original group, Sheila Sherlock, likened themselves to the fabled ‘Gnomes of Zurich,’ a tongue-in-cheek reference to a small, influential group of people who allegedly are responsible for worldly affairs and events including the value of the British pound, the Kennedy assassination, and the International Monetary Fund/World Bank. Pathologic features of chronic hepatitis can now be added to that list.

As a new generation of pathologists and hepatologist grew, they felt the need to form their own closed membership group to discuss current topics in liver pathology. In the eighties, this new group formed to discuss interesting cases and challenge each other to define and classify other diseases of the liver. That group, naturally, named themselves the Elves.

Today, these 17 pathologists keep each other abreast of current issues that face hepatopathologists and how they can better serve their clinical counterparts, chiefly hepatologists and surgeons. University of Florida’s own Dr. James Crawford, a founding member, was host of this year’s event. The guest list included individuals from places such as San Francisco, New York, England, France, Greece, China, Italy, and Japan. This was truly an international affair. Various UF clinicians attended the sessions, including Drs. Fujita, Soldevilla-Pico, Nelson and Gonzalez-Peralta. Their insight and contributions to the discussions were especially valuable.

Pathology residents also had the opportunity to sit-in on the sessions. Additionally, the study set of cases was made available to them in advance as “unknowns.” While they may not have solved any burning mysteries in liver pathology, the educational opportunity of participating was much appreciated.

By the time the Elves had left, they were all impressed with our quaint town, and especially our academic facilities. For all those who participated, it was time well spent. For non-Elves, it was a unique insight into the work of a group that is defining hepatopathology for the world. It would seem that the Elves have come of age.
The University of Florida Department of Pathology is in a continual flux of change; however, several faculty members have formed firm anchors in our academic institution. Among those faculty are our three hard-working Pathology Assistants, Robin Foss, Gerald Phipps and Trevor Jorgensen. Their presence in the department is felt on a continual basis. They are the gatekeepers for specimen processing, authorities for proper grossing techniques and key participants in resident education. Most importantly, they are colleagues and close friends. This article is a tribute from the residents and faculty for the hard work and dedication these gentlemen give to our department.

Robin Foss, PA is the Associate Director of Surgical Pathology Services and oversees the grossing room and frozen section operations. He graduated in 1979 from the PA program at Duke University. Pathology interested him from a young age, though he might not have realized the significance at the time. He reminisces, “As a kid, my dad bought me a microscope, so I looked at all sorts of things, no clue what they were, but I used to keep a notebook with drawings of what I had seen.” Florida and has been supervising the gross room ever since. Robin enjoys the active pace and the breadth of specimens seen within the academic environment. He says the most challenging aspect of his job is balancing instruction for the residents with the overall service requirements. From a resident’s perspective, Robin is a key source of information about any specimen and he helps create an exceptional learning environment.

Gerald Phipps, PA is a fellow graduate of the PA program at Duke University. Following graduation, he stayed and taught the PA students at Duke for three years. He then worked for five years at the Medical Examiner’s office in Dayton, OH. In 1985, Dr. Ken Pierson recruited him to the University of Florida. The academic environment is exciting to him because it allows exposure to a wide variety of complex specimens. He also enjoys being able to teach residents and medical students. Since his training experience was restricted to the VA hospital in Durham, his greatest challenge at the University of Florida was learning gynecologic and breast pathology. Jerry’s patience and clarity in explaining concepts makes him an exceptional resident teacher.

Trevor Jorgensen, PA began his career as a Medical Technologist in 1990 after obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Alberta in Canada. In September 1992, he came to the University of Florida and worked in a research lab investigating V and J chain patterns in lymphoproliferative disorders. In 1994, he became a certified Histotechnologist (HTL) with the ASCP. He worked as a histotech in both New Hampshire and Virginia before returning to work in the histology lab at Shands in 1999. In July 2000, he was given the opportunity to undergo ‘on the job’ training as a Pathologist’s Assistant under Robin Foss. He became a licensed PA by the AAPA in September 2003. His greatest challenge in becoming a PA was learning the “language of pathology.” According to Trevor, “Each specimen has its own particular template or combination of words that are best used to describe a particular disease entity. Once you become familiar with the required jargon grossing is like following a recipe. I believe my first Whipple took an hour and a half. Dr. Ron Lee, an alumnus, gave me the best advice when I was struggling early on. He said ‘Don’t worry, one day it will just click and everything will be easy.’ He was right. It took about 2 years but one day it just ‘clicked.’ It is advice I pass on to any new struggling resident.” As his career advances, he hopes to eventually hold a lab manager position.

The PA’s at the University of Florida are second to none and are invaluable to the practice of pathology in our department. We appreciate their hard work and value their friendship.

A Year of Many Honored Guests

By Manette Monroe, M.D.

What a year for guest lecturers! The department has already had the honor of hosting two speakers, with two more scheduled before the academic year ends. Drs. Gerald Turner and Steven Karch visited in November and January, respectively. Dr. Alan Schiller will speak to us in May and Dr. William S. Black-Schaffer is our Keynote speaker for Resident Research Day.

Dr. Turner is currently an Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL. He completed his undergraduate studies at Washington University, St. Louis, MO in 1984 and earned his M.D./Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH in 1990/1991. Dr. Turner then went to Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA, where he completed an internship and pathology residency in 1993. This was followed by fellowships in surgical pathology and gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary pathology.

His research focuses on three main topics: first, tight junction regulation secondary to physiologic, pharmacologic, and pathophysiologic stimuli; second, cytoskeletal regulation of cellular function, with particular emphasis on actomyosin and myosin light chain kinase; and third, intracellular signal transduction pathways that control coordinated activation of intestinal nutrient transporters.

The day of lectures with Dr. Turner began with a challenging GI unknown conference for the residents, entitled “Diagnostic Dilemmas in GI Pathology.” The diagnoses were indeed difficult, ranging from signet ring carcinoma to melanoma in the rectum. The residents enjoyed an opportunity to talk informally at
Keynote Speaker

As the academic year winds down, some of us will begin preparing for our matriculation. This, of course, is a much anticipated but formidable task. Although it sometimes feels like residency will never end, the expectations of our colleagues and mentors grow with each year, as do our responsibilities. As July approaches, the reality of completing our training begins to circulate within our heads. It is a sobering moment for many. Boards, beginning a professional career, and relocating can overwhelm the strongest planner and put fear into the defiant stoic.

This year, a significant number of us will make this sobering thought a reality. It is a rather unique year in that it marks the first graduation to be affected by the recent reduction in training length (five to four years). Therefore, within our program and throughout the country, two classes of residents will be graduating simultaneously. This will yield a mass exodus of residents into the fellowship and job market. But there is good news, according to information reported at the Program Directors meeting last year, there are enough jobs and fellowship positions for all. Although we won’t know the full effect of the dual graduation until later into the year, so far it looks good. All six of our graduating seniors have secured either a fellowship or job. This, of course, is a much anticipated year in pathology.

Besides his many career accomplishments, Dr. Black-Schaffer is the proud husband of Dr. Randie M. Black-Schaffer, the current Medical Director of Young Stroke Services at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. Together, they have reared 4 wonderful children, 2 boys and 2 girls between the ages of 16 and 28, whose interests range from electrical engineering to music.

It is with great enthusiasm that the Department of Pathology at the University of Florida welcomes Dr. Black-Schaffer as this year’s Resident Research Day Keynote speaker. His knowledge and experience in practice management, clinical application and education is sure to stimulate a presentation that will appeal to all audiences.

By Dominique Coco, M.D.

USCAP 2006

The evening was a time of reconnecting with colleagues and rekindling old friendships. We offer our most sincere thanks to Dr. James Crawford, who graciously hosted this event to celebrate another successful year in pathology. The department is proud of all who participated in this year’s events, and would like to thank those alumni who attended the dinner. We hope to see you at next year’s USCAP meeting in San Diego!

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lunch with Dr. Turner about GI pathology and general residency training issues. The day concluded with a lecture on "Pathophysiology of Mucosal Barrier Function" that focused strongly on the findings of Dr. Turner’s current research.

Our guest speaker in January, Dr. Steven B Karch is a forensic pathologist and toxicologist, as well as the former assistant Medical Examiner for the City and County of San Francisco. His undergraduate training took place at Brown University in Providence, R.I., where in 1964 he earned an A.B. in Philosophy. In 1965, he matriculated from Stanford University with a degree in Cell Biology. It was on to Tulane University in New Orleans, where he earned an M.D. in 1969. His internship in 1970 at the Kaiser Foundation in Oakland, CA was followed by a research fellowship in Neuropathology at the Barnard Baron Institute, London in 1971. He returned to Stanford in 1972 to complete a residency in Neurology. From 1983 to1989, Dr. Karch was a Visiting Scholar in Cardiac Pathology, also at Stanford University Medical School.

Dr. Karch began his visit with a morning conference addressing "The Pathology of Drug Abuse." At midday, the residents shared an informal luncheon with our guest speaker. A diverse group of topics were discussed with Dr. Karch, such as medical/legal matters, his upcoming appearance on 20/20 and general thoughts on the state of modern pathology. The day concluded with a presentation discussing "Advances in the Molecular Biology of Sudden Cardiac Death."

Our speaker scheduled for May, Dr. Alan Schiller, is the Chairman of Pathology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He earned a B.A. from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine in 1963 followed by his M.D. from Chicago Medical School in 1967. From 1967 to 1971, Dr. Schiller was a Clinical and Research Fellow/Acting Intern in Pathology/Teaching Fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard. His area of expertise is Orthopaedic pathology. We are looking forward to another day of enlightening lectures.