In the past, pathology residents at the University of Florida were forced to travel to and reside in Jacksonville, Florida, for their required one month forensic pathology rotation. Dr. William Hamilton, District 8 chief medical examiner, had worked solo as the only medical examiner since the early 80’s, with cross-coverage from his working partner, Dr. Carolyn Hopkins. The University of Florida assumed management of the District 8 Medical Examiner’s Office in 2005, and recruited a second medical examiner (Dr. Martha Burt, associate medical examiner). The District 8 Medical Examiner’s Office then became available to third year pathology residents for their required one-month experience. Both Drs. Hamilton and Burt are board certified in forensic pathology and are faculty members in the pathology department, with Dr. Burt also serving as the director of autopsy services at Shands/UF. The availability of the District 8 Medical Examiner’s Office provides an option for those wishing to stay in Gainesville rather than temporarily relocate for one month for their forensics rotation.

While at the Medical Examiner’s office, residents are involved in all aspects of death investigation, including scene investigations, autopsies, toxicologic interpretation, forensic photography and case file preparation. After orientation, residents are assigned appropriate cases to follow as their own, including complete prosection, closely supervised by an attending pathologist. The Medical Examiner’s Office provides death investigative services (Chapter 406, Florida Statute) to seven counties in north central Florida, including Alachua County, the largest population center. Scene investigations, autopsy examinations, court room testimony and consultative work are all a part of the services provided. The counties served cover a wide range of socioeconomic populations, including urban, suburban, rural, collegiate and prison populations, each with its own unique set of natural and non-natural death spectra.

Although the total volume of medicolegal cases at the District 8 Medical Examiner’s Office is less than large urban population centers, the variety of cases covers the entire spectrum of forensic pathology. In 2006, the office investigated 386 violent deaths, of which 30 were homicides and included gun shot wounds, sharp force injuries, blunt trauma and poisoning. For the population served, District 8 has a very high violent death rate (1.054 deaths per 1000 people), which is second only to District 16 (Monroe County, Florida Keys). Unfortunately, District 8 has the highest motor vehicle death rate of all the Florida Medical Examiner Districts, related in part to a particularly dangerous stretch of I-75 between Gainesville and Ocala, and in part to the presence of the Trauma 1 Center at Shands / University of Florida.

The medical examiner’s office is staffed by three death investigators, two autopsy technicians, an operations director and a secretary (a lifeline in so many ways). In addition, the office offers rotations to medical students and interns, and has a number of volunteers, all of whom do a tremendous amount of work to keep the office running. In early February 2008, a long-awaited adjacent modular building was ready for occupancy, providing much needed relief to the very tight administrative office space. Amenities now include a small break room, a dedicated desk for residents, and a small conference area. Additionally, many other exciting additions are around the corner, including on-line case management and digital x-ray. More information can be obtained from: http://www.district8me.com/.
Continued from page 1

Presentations at this year’s Resident Research Day will include:

CD117 Immunoreactivity in AFX. By Keira Barr, MD

Is Myeloid Antigen Expression a Marker of ALK+ Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphomas (ALCL)? By Ian Bovio, MD

Tumor Associated Sphase Fraction Correlates with the Presence of C-myc Translocation in Aggressive CD10 Expressing B-cell Lymphoma. By Christopher Carter, MD

Oncogenic Human Papillomavirus Testing in an Adolescent Population with Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance. By Andrew Fletcher, MD

Acute Erythroid Leukemia Revisited: Diagnostic Role of Immunophenotyping. By Andrew Fletcher, MD

Histologic and Serologic Characterization of Autoimmune-type Sclerosing Pancreaticobiliary Lesions. By Anne Herdman, MD

The Utility of C4d Immunohistochemistry in Acute Myocardial Infarction. By Crystal Jenkins, MD

The Potential Molecular Mechanism of Structure-based JAZ Inhibitor J1’s Glioma Cytotoxic Effect. By Nicholas Lancia, MD

Perceptions of Dysplastic Nevi in Private vs. Academic Institutions. By Mike Magill, MD

Ecadherin Immunohistochemical Stain is a Useful Specific Marker of Early Erythroid Elements in Bone Marrow Core Biopsies and has Utility in MDS and Erythroleukemia. By Christian Morosan, MD

CD10 Immunoreactivity in Atypical Fibrous Xanthoma and Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma. By Jacqueline Russo, MD

High-Risk Human Papillomavirus Testing in Women with ASC-H. By Sara Shunkwiler, MD

As you can see, this promises to be a day of excellent educational value. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Rose Ann Jesse at 352-265-0238, x 43215. CME credit is available to attendees.

What the Future Holds for Graduating Residents and Fellows

by Jennifer Bowers, MD

This year’s outgoing fellows and residents have bright futures ahead of them. We are enthusiastic to have three of our senior residents staying at UF for fellowship training, and we will truly miss those moving elsewhere.

OUT-GOING FELLOWS:

Dr. Keira Barr, our current dermatopathology fellow, came to the University of Florida from Altman Dermatology in Arlington Heights, IL. She completed her residency training in dermatology with melanoma specialty training at the University of Michigan, and has participated in skin cancer screenings at Northwest Community Hospital and at the Cialis Western Open Championships during the 2006 PGA Tour. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Dermatology and fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology. Dr. Barr will join the Dermatology Department at the University of California at Davis in Sacramento upon completion of her fellowship training.

Dr. Anne Herdman is our current gastrointestinal/liver fellow. She earned a Bachelor of Arts and Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Medicine. She continued her training as a pathology resident at the Medical College of Georgia, where she held the position of chief resident. She completed a surgical pathology fellowship at Emory University before her arrival in Gainesville. Her most recent paper titled “Vascular Pseudoinvansion in Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Specimens: A Diagnostic Pitfall” is pending publication in the AJSP. She starts private practice this summer in Raleigh, NC, specializing in GI/liver pathology.

Dr. Cristian Morosan, our hematopathology fellow, completed his Doctorate of Medicine in Romania at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest. After pursuing interests in medicine and neurology, he began research on the molecular mechanisms of cerebral ischemia. He presented his findings at the 2002 Neuroscience Conference and completed a publication entitled, “Ischemic Preconditioning: Neuronal Survival in the Face of Caspase-3 Activation.” Before coming to the University of Florida, Dr. Morosan completed an AP/CP residency at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. He will continue his career in pathology at US Labs in Nashville, Tennessee, specializing in hematopathology.

Dr. Andrew Fletcher is our outgoing cytopathology fellow who most notably, recently won the 2008 ASCCP/Cytc Young Investigator's Award for his paper entitled “Oncogenic Human Papillomavirus Testing in an Adolescent Population with Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance.” Coauthors include Drs. Edward J Wilkinson and Jacquelyn A Cardona.

OUT-GOING RESIDENTS:

Dr. Mike Magill will be pursuing a unique opportunity at Orlando Regional Medical Center. This group has the benefits of being a private practice that also teaches residents. Dr. Magill completed a fellowship in dermatopathology in 2007, and will be putting his expertise to work at this new practice.

Our remaining senior residents will pursue fellowship training at UF during the upcoming academic year. Current chief resident, Dr. Samantha Butler, will continue her training as the cytopathology fellow, while Drs. Diana Cardona and Steven Goldstein will be the new GI/liver and hematopathology fellows, respectively. We are looking forward to one more year of working with these outstanding individuals.
USCAP 2008 — Taking Us A Mile Higher

by Bradley M. Turner, MD, MPH

The 97th annual 2008 USCAP meeting, the largest gathering of physician-pathologists in the world, was held in the “mile high city,” Denver, Colorado in March. Our program was well represented by 5 residents, 1 fellow and several faculty members presenting a total of 8 posters.

Our faculty and residents were also represented during the specialty conference presentations and forums. Dr. Yachnis gave an informative presentation regarding a case of Langerhans cell histiocytosis at the neuropathology specialty conference. Of special note, our future chief resident, Dr. Crystal Jenkins (2008-2009), was recognized for her poster presentation entitled “Utility of C4d Immunohistochemistry in Acute Myocardial Infarction” with the prestigious Stowell-Orbison Award. Her coauthors include our former chief resident, Dr. Diana Cardona, and Dr. Sigurd Normann. We offer our most congratulations for this honor! This topic, along with many others featured on posters at the USCAP convention, will be presented at this year’s annual Resident Research Day.

We offer sincere appreciation to Dr. James Crawford, who hosted the 4th annual alumni dinner at Le Central Restaurant on Sunday evening. This has become a favorite tradition for us as a time to reconnect with colleagues and rekindle old friendships.

Overall, the 2008 USCAP conference was a great success, taking us all a mile higher! The department would like to thank everyone who attended and participated. Next year’s conference is located in Boston, Massachusetts, and we look forward to another productive meeting.

Guest Lecturer Series

by Kelly Gilliland, DO

At the University of Florida, our department has a history of inviting prominent individuals to speak as part of our guest lecturer series. The visiting professor spends the day at our campus providing a valuable experience for everyone in our department. This is particularly useful for the residents who have an opportunity to meet with an expert in a specific field, participate in case discussions, and learn about resident training practices at other institutions. This year we have had the pleasure of meeting with two exceptional lecturers, Dr. Bruce Smoller and Dr. Fattaneh Tavassoli.

Dr. Bruce Smoller, MD is the Chairman of Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Although best known for his work in dermatopathology, Dr. Smoller has expertise in all areas of surgical pathology and has published over 200 original papers, 33 book chapters, and 6 textbooks. He has served on the editorial boards of 9 pathology and dermatology journals, was editor-in-chief of the Journal of Cutaneous Pathology, and was on the review board for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology fascicle: Neoplastic Dermatopathology. Of his many awards, he received the “Walter P. Nickel Award for Excellence in Education” (Lifetime Achievement Award) from the American Society of Dermatopathology.

Dr. Smoller started his visit with an unknown case seminar with a variety of dermatopathology cases. The residents met with him on an informal basis for lunch during which he had the opportunity to discuss various pathology cases and current issues in pathology. In the afternoon, he presented a lecture covering the topic of “Dermatopathology and Systemic Disease.”

Dr. Fattaneh Tavassoli, MD is a Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science and the Director of the Pathology Women’s Health Program at Yale University School of Medicine. She is an internationally recognized expert in breast and gynecologic pathology. Her comprehensive textbook, Pathology of the Breast, is a gold standard on the topic. She is the co-editor of the World Health Organization classification book, Tumors of the Breast and Female Genital Tract: Pathology and Genetics. She is also on numerous editorial boards for several pathology journals. She is a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists’ Capitol Connections Pathology Advocacy Group, the QM Anatomic Pathology Expert Review Panel. Dr. Tavassoli served two terms on the ASCP’s Council on Anatomic Pathology. Additional recognitions include the Best Doctors in America and the Top 2000 Scientists of the 20th Century of the International Biographical Institute.

Dr. Tavassoli began her day with an unknown slide session with several cases focusing mainly on breast pathology. The informal lunch with the residents involved a discussion of the resident life and practices at Yale as compared with resident training at the University of Florida. The afternoon presentation provided a comprehensive review of “Lobular Neoplasia-Evolution of its Significance and Morphologic Spectrum.”

Both the residents and faculty greatly appreciate the time and effort of our guest speakers.
For nearly forty years, faculty, residents, and students at the University of Florida have had the great honor of working with Dr. Sigurd Normann, an extraordinary professor, pathologist, and mentor. Dr. Normann’s contributions to the pathology department and the College of Medicine have been numerous, ever since his arrival in 1968.

“I enjoy coming to work everyday,” says Dr. Normann, “I have been fortunate in being able to do what I have always wanted to do in my career.”

Dr. Normann has served as the Chief of Cardiovascular Pathology since 1975. He also served as director of medical student pathology education from 1991 to 2004. As course director, he made significant advances in the medical student pathology course, including computer images for the laboratories, problem-based case presentations, and a clinical rotation in surgical, autopsy, and clinical pathology. Due to his exemplary teaching and dedication to medical student education, Dr. Normann was awarded Teacher of the Year by the College of Medicine for the academic years of 1994-1995 and 2006-2007. He received the Basic Science Teacher of the Year from the classes of 1995 and 2006. Furthermore, he became part of the College of Medicine Society of Teaching Scholars in 2000 and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the College of Medicine in 2004. The Department of Pathology also received the Golden Apple Award for the best basic science course in 2001, 2005 and 2006, thanks to Dr. Normann’s direction.

Within the College of Medicine, Dr. Normann has served in numerous organizations, including the University of Florida Senate, the VAH Scientific Review Committee, Curriculum Committee, Medical Selections Committee, Academic Status Committee, and most recently, as Chair of the Faculty Compensation Committee and Work RVU Advisory board. In 2006, Florida Blue Key awarded him the University of Florida Distinguished Faculty Award.

Apart from medical education, Dr. Normann has dedicated himself to a lifetime of service, research, and leadership at the national and local levels. He served in the United States Army Research and Development Command from 1966 to 1968 and was awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for research from the Assistant Secretary of the Army. He was a consultant and co-investigator with the Swiss Institute for Medical Research from 1974 to 1989 and organized the IX International Congress on macrophage biology in Davos, Switzerland. Dr. Normann was President of the Society for Leukocyte Biology in 1979 and President of the American Cancer Society, Florida Division in 1999. One of Dr. Normann’s proudest accomplishments is initiating and drafting the legislation that established the Florida Biomedical Research Program that was passed into law in 1999 and funded in 2000. With a $150 million endowment, this program was created to support biomedical and behavioral research in the state of Florida for the prevention, treatment, and cure of tobacco-related diseases.

Dr. Normann’s contributions to the field of pathology are countless, with over 140 journal publications in general and cardiovascular pathology, 14 book chapters, and a textbook. Dr. James Crawford, Chair, notes, “He is one of the most decorated teaching faculty of the University of Florida College of Medicine, and has represented our department—and discipline—in an extraordinary fashion over the course of his career.” After a legendary career, he will now be retiring to part-time status. In the coming year, he hopes to continue to participate with medical student teaching in the pathology course and with cardiovascular sign-out. On a personal level, he looks forward to sharing more experiences with his children and grandchildren, traveling with his wife, LeJene, and spending more time in his hometown of Seattle, where he can go hiking in the mountains, sailing with his brother, and skiing in the wintertime.

“Dr. Normann for many years has been a role model, mentor, and an advocate for medical student teaching at our institution. We consider him a luminary in medical education.”

Anthony Yachnis, MD

“Dr. Normann has excelled as a teacher and as a mentor for faculty and students alike. He is exceptionally hardworking, fair, reasonable and thoughtful. In the second year medical student course, Dr. Normann developed many creative teaching formats including the Chair’s rounds, AM rotations, winter term cases, various symposia, and patient presentations. He has had a huge impact on education at the University of Florida.”

William Winter, MD

“Dr. Normann has always been a great role model in regards to his dedication to and espoire with fellow clinicians, pathology residents, and medical students.”

Diana Cardona, MD

“Dr. Normann has been one of the finest educators and mentors we have had during medical school and one that many students hope to emulate. He is known in the Pathology course for his perfected notes, and his ability to give a lecture is unmatched. One of his most memorable lectures was on Infective Endocarditis that he delivered to the music of Gustav Mahler, while simultaneously telling the story of Mahler’s life and experience with the disease. Another memory that all medical students share is the Amyloid Symposium that he organizes. In addition to teaching, he is always professional in his actions and is always willing to talk to students and listen to their input....”

Blavin Adhyaru, M54 Class of 2008

This caricature of “Stormin Normann” paid homage to Desert Storm in 1993.
A Half a Century’s Work

by Minette Monroe, MD

Summarizing an academic career that has spanned half a century is never an easy task. When the person is of the professional stature of Suzanne Staple Spanier, MD, daunting seems the better adjective. Dr. Spanier began her academic career at the University of Florida earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology in 1961. This was followed by a Master of Science degree in biology earned from UF in 1964. During this busy year, she served as a graduate teaching assistant, completed her Master’s thesis and remained on for the summer as a graduate research assistant in the UF Biology Department. In the fall of 1964, she matriculated to the University of Florida College of Medicine and began a three-year tenure with the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics as a research assistant.

Dr. Spanier remained at the University of Florida for her pathology internship in 1970. She completed her pathology residency and was certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic pathology in 1975. Dr. Spanier states, “My research project as a resident was the investigation of whether malignant fibrous histiocytoma could arise in bone as a primary. The findings were published in Cancer in 1975 - the first description in the literature of what we thought this entity might be. The findings have never been over-turned and the photonics have been borrowed by numerous authors.”

Upon completion of her residency, Dr. Spanier was immediately hired by the UF Department of Orthopaedics as a Research Associate, with a promotion to Assistant Professor in July of 1975. She was soon promoted to Associate Professor in 1981, with appointments in both the Department of Orthopaedics and the Department of Pathology.

Together with William F. Enneking, MD, she developed the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society’s staging system in 1980. This ground-breaking work is still the gold standard for diagnosis of soft tissue tumors today. She says, “I owe much of my education to Dr. Enneking who took me to his clinic twice a week, took me on patient rounds every day of the week, often called me to the OR, and asked my opinion about every case.”

In 1983 Dr. Spanier was elected to the International Skeletal Society, at a time when membership was by invitation only. As described by Dr. Spanier, “It was a very small, elite group of individuals who had closed, intimate meetings in neat places where the object was to see how many folks you could dazzle with your astounding knowledge of weird things. At first I was terrified, but always learned a great deal and by 1989 I had a podium presentation accepted every year that I sent one in. For many years Dr. Enneking and I were the only members from Florida.”

Dr. Spanier has authored chapters in numerous texts of soft tissue and orthopaedic pathology. Her list of publications, abstracts and presentations number in the hundreds. She is a sought-after speaker on both the national and international level. She has served on the Board of Consulting Editors for Research for The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and continues to review manuscripts for the journal. In addition, she has served on the manuscript review board for Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Cancer, Skeletal Radiology and the Southern Medical Journal.

Her impact on the Department of Pathology at the University of Florida and beyond cannot adequately describe her. She is an esteemed colleague who will be missed tremendously. Physicians with her knowledge and accomplishment are irreplaceable. We have been fortunate indeed to have worked by her side.

“Over the 36 years that I’ve known Dr. Spanier, several special traits as a pathologist and colleague come to mind; consideration and thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and especially humor. She always has taken the time to look over your tough case even when harried by mounds of slide boxes…”

William Donnelly, MD

“Dr. Spanier has been a wonderful colleague for many years whose passion for orthopedic pathology is matched only by her extensive knowledge and expertise.”

Anthony Yachnis, MD

“We have been so very fortunate to have Dr. Spanier as our colleague and friend.” James Crawford, MD

**IN MEMORIAM** It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. Maureen Frikke, MD, who succumbed to complications of breast cancer this past March. Prior to entering medical school, Maureen earned a PhD in microbiology and pursued a research career. Maureen was a pathology resident at UF in the late 1980’s/early 1990’s. After her fellowship in forensic pathology, Maureen worked as a medical examiner for the state of Utah. Upon moving to Salt Lake City, Maureen became an avid skier. Black diamond runs were routinely fun and challenging. Her favorite ski resort was “Alta...” Professionally, Maureen was a voice of honesty for the dead. She enjoyed working closely with law enforcement and was totally committed to seeing that the “truth be told.” We have lost a colleague and a friend. - Dr. William Winter
We would like to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to former Newsletter Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jacquelyn Knapik, and Newsletter Coordinator, Teresa Caron, for their many contributions to the Florida Pathology Newsletter.

Moving up to Chief Resident for the 2008-2009 year is Dr. Crystal Jenkins and joining her is the new Associate Chief Resident, Lizette Vila, MD.

Congratulations to the newest members of the Pathology family! This past July, second-year resident Dr. Jacqueline Russo and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Blake, and then in August Dr. Lisa Dixon and her husband welcomed their son, Isaac. Dr. Christine Orlando is also a new proud parent of 20 month old, Ari, and cytopathology fellow, Andrew Fletcher, and his wife had their first child, Grace, in November. Our new PA, Kerwin Kolheffer, also welcomed a daughter, Natalia, in December. Not to be out-done, third-year resident Bradley Turner and his wife welcomed twins, Benjamin and Alyssa, in January. We congratulate these proud new moms and dads!

Please visit our website, www.pathology.ufl.edu. Just follow the links above and look for “Alumni.” Please check to see if your information is correct. We would also appreciate any updates on information about your fellow residents that are not listed.