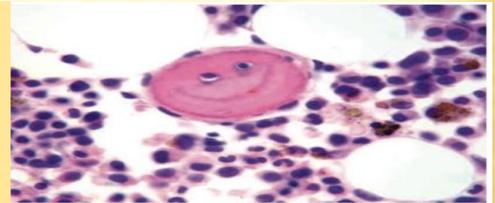


**University of Florida**  
**Department of Pathology, Immunology,**  
**and Laboratory Medicine**  
**2014-2015**  
**Newsletter**

**Editor: Namrah Aijaz**

**Co-Editor: Michael Chang**

**WELCOME TO THE CLASS**  
**OF 2019**



**Vektra Casler, M.D.**

*Wayne State University School Of Medicine*  
*Class of 2015*

**Danielle Harrell, D.O.**

*Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College Of Osteopathic Medicine*  
*Class of 2015*

**James Isom, M.D.**

*Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University*  
*Class Of 2015*

**Elham Nasri, M.D.**

*Isfahan University of Medical Sciences*  
*Class of 2011*

## **GRADUATING RESIDENTS**

*We are lucky to be able to retain our awesome senior residents as fellows! Kent Newsom and Michael Feely are staying at UF for fellowships in GI Pathology. Katherine Phillips will be our Cytopathology fellow. Kristen Schmits will be pursuing a fellowship in Dermatopathology.*

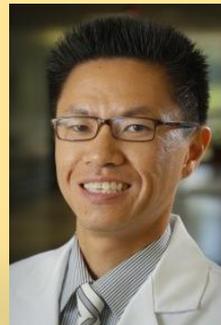


### *Congratulations to our new Chief Residents*

***Dr. Vatsal Patel, M.D., PGY-II  
Is our new Chief Resident!***



***Dr. JT Kim, MD, PGY-II  
will serve as co-chief!***



# **DR. LISA DIXON**

## **ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR**

### **GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**



*Lisa Dixon, M.D., has been appointed our new associate dean for graduate medical education. Dr. Dixon replaces Dr. Michael Mahla, who has served as associate dean for graduate medical education since 2011. During that time, numerous advances have been made in graduate medical education efforts, including the development of a housestaff quality and patient safety committee.*

*Dr. Dixon has been a faculty member in the Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine since 2005, and during that time, she has been heavily involved in our graduate medical education program. Currently, she serves as director of the pathology residency program and director of the Resident as Teacher program. She also serves on the Graduate Medical Education Committee and its Internal Review Subcommittee.*

*Dr. Dixon earned her medical degree at the University of South Carolina. She completed an internship in pediatrics and a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. After completing her residency, she joined UF in 2004 as an adjunct clinical postdoctoral associate.*

*During her time at UF, Dr. Dixon has earned honors such as being named one of the college's Exemplary Teachers in 2012, and has published articles in peer-reviewed journals on research related to gastrointestinal and liver pathology. She also currently serves as vice chair of the Pathology Residency Organization of Directors Council.*

*In her new role as associate dean of graduate medical education, Dr. Dixon has several key goals. She hopes to increase professional development opportunities for residency program directors, those who dedicate their time to shaping the future of tomorrow's doctors and helping determine how they will practice medicine. She also hopes to lead efforts that increase opportunities for interprofessional training in graduate medical education. Interdisciplinary collaboration instills an appreciation of what other professionals have to offer so that we can work together as teams to provide the best care to our patients.*

*Congratulations, Dr. Dixon, on your new role as associate dean!*

## **DR. CHRISTOPHER CARTER**

### **ASSOCIATE RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR**



*We are thrilled to announce Dr. Christopher Carter as associate residency program director after Dr. Craig Fletcher left UF Health to take a position at Beaumont Health in Michigan. Dr. Christopher Carter joined the department in 2007 first as a resident and then as a fellow in Hematopathology. He continued as a clinical assistant professor focusing*

*on Hematopathology and surgical pathology, with particular interests in breast, genitourinary and pulmonary pathology. Dr. Carter is known for his ability to be a team player and has shown commendable leadership skills. We welcome him to his new role and are eager to see the residency flourish under his leadership.*



## **DR. DAVID GONZALO**

### **GI FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

*Amongst other faculty members joining to enrich our experience at UF, Dr. David Gonzalo assumed the position of GI fellowship associate director in July 2014 after joining the Department in July 2013. He completed his fellowship in Gastrointestinal, Hepatic and Pancreatobiliary Pathology at the Cleveland Clinic. Prior to that, he completed anatomic pathology residency at Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio*

*(Sevilla, Spain) followed by second pathology residency in Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. He has particular interests in the fields of Gastrointestinal, Liver, Pancreatobiliary as well as Breast pathology. He is intimately involved in resident education and is a great teacher and mentor. We value his contributions to resident education and look forward to great things from him.*

**DR. SAMER AL-QURAN  
NEW SURGICAL PATHOLOGY  
FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR**



*We all stand united in thanking Dr. Reith for his unwavering service and commitment as he steps down from his position as the AP Director to focus on other commitments and we welcome Dr. Al-Quran as the new Director of Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Reith served as the Director of Anatomic Pathology from 2010 to 2014.*

*Dr. Al-Quran has been with the Department since 1998, starting as a resident, after which he completed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at MD*

*Anderson. After completing further fellowships in Hematopathology and Surgical Pathology, he joined our faculty in 2006 and since then has been very productive and has received several honors. He is currently involved in GU, Breast, ENT pathology as well as Hematopathology. Dr. Al-Quran is an ideal faculty mentor for dealing with the continual improvement, innovation and advancement of Anatomic Pathology and we look forward to his continued success in this role.*

***Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.***

***Bill Bradley***

## **NEW FACULTY MEMBERS**

**By Vatsal Patel**

**Dr. Jesse Lee Kresak** joins our department after completing the Neuropathology fellowship in our department. She attended USF for medical school and AP residency. Afterwards, she came to UF for her Neuropathology training and elected to stay on as faculty. When she isn't finding microvascular proliferation and red dead neurons, she stays busy on the GI Pathology service as well. She has several research collaborations with the Department of Neurosurgery. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her family (3 boys + husband), baseball, car racing, and exploring Florida's natural parks and waterways.

**Dr. Stacy Beal** joined the department as an Assistant Professor in 2014. She attended the University of Texas (hook'em) for her undergraduate education and received her MD from the University of Florida in 2009. She finished her CP residency at Baylor University in Dallas, TX. Afterwards, she went on to do a Clinical Microbiology Fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 2013. She served as the medical director of the Microbiology laboratories at Baylor University Medical Center before returning back to Gainesville, FL to serve as the Associate Medical Director of the Microbiology Laboratory at UF Health. She enjoys spending time with her husband, who is on faculty with the Dept. of Ophthalmology, and enjoys snorkeling, scuba diving, cooking, sewing, electronic scrapbooking, and riding the tandem bike with her husband.

**Dr. Pelletier** is our new director of the transfusion service and joined our department as associate professor in August 2014. He attended the University of Connecticut for undergraduate education and received his MD from the Chicago Medical School in 1991. Before doing a pathology residency, Dr. Pelletier completed an internal medicine residency and practiced internal medicine at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. He then completed an AP/CP residency and with the Air Force and completed a fellowship in transfusion medicine in 2005 at Yale New Haven Hospital. He continued to serve in the Air Force afterwards as Commander of the 959<sup>th</sup> Medical Operation Squadron at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio Texas. He is now at UF Health serving as the director of the transfusion service. Dr. Pelletier enjoys hiking, biking, swimming, gardening, camping, reading and amateur astronomy.

**Dr. Faisal Mukhtar** joined us as associate director of transfusion medicine in 2015. He completed his medical training in Pakistan in 2000 and attended Howard University to complete his AP/CP residency in 2009. Afterwards, he completed fellowships in surgical pathology, cytopathology, and transfusion medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). From 2012-2015, he was the director of the transfusion service at Howard University before arriving at UF Health in 2015, where he will serve as Assistant Professor of Pathology and work with Dr. Pelletier on the transfusion service. Dr. Mukhtar enjoys badminton, hiking, tracking, and table tennis.

**Dr. Petr Starostik** joined as the director of molecular pathology lab for University of Florida Health Pathology Laboratories in 2014. He earned his medical degree in 1984 from the Vienna University School of Medicine in Vienna, Austria. He completed a fellowship in Hematopathology in 1997 at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, following his 1995 residency training in laboratory medicine at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. He then founded a molecular diagnostics laboratory at the Institute of Pathology of the Wuerzburg University in Wuerzburg, Germany, in 1997. He was the director of the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Center for Personalized Medicine in Buffalo, N.Y., beginning in 2002. Dr. Starostik is board-certified in Hematopathology, as well as Clinical and Molecular Genetic Pathology by the American Board of Pathology. Throughout his career, Dr. Starostik has authored more than 80 journal articles, abstracts, book chapters and other publications on NGS, and he has been an active member of several professional organizations, including the Association for Molecular Pathology; the American Association for Cancer Research; and the American Society of Hematology.

**Dr. Dara Wakefield** joined UF as a new faculty for medical renal pathology and the VA for general surgical pathology and Hematopathology in 2014. She is originally from Double Springs, Alabama. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in Biomedical sciences from Auburn University. She had a split residency with two years at University of Alabama, Birmingham and then completed her pathology residency at the University of Florida. Afterward, Dara enjoyed a Hematopathology fellowship at UAB, then decided to return to UF to pursue additional fellowship training in both Surgical Pathology and Medical Renal. She is board certified in AP/CP and Hematopathology. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, and eating Krispy Creme donuts.

**Dr. Felipe Solano** holds certificates from the American Board of Pathology in Anatomical and Clinical pathology, and Cytopathology. Currently, he works as an anatomical pathologist at the Veterans Hospital Malcom Randall Medical Center. His first job post-fellowship training was in Augusta, Georgia, where he worked as an assistant professor. He is originally from Colombia, South America, where he completed his medical school at the "Universidad de Antioquia" after obtaining a Bachelor in Science. He then spent time as a young research fellow in virology and primary immunodeficiency's labs, and later joined the workforce as a researcher on an immunogenetic lab at the University of Texas Health Science Center. He finished a combined anatomical and clinical pathology residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio. He completed a full year of cytopathology fellowship under the direction of Dr. Edward Wilkinson, and a partial year of surgical pathology fellowship under the direction of Dr. John Reith at UF. His most rewarding rotation in pathology during residency training has been at the MD Anderson, Houston, Texas.

**FIRST YEAR RESIDENTS****2013-2014**

**Naziheh Assarzadegan** is originally from Esfahan, Iran and graduated from Shahr-E-Kord University of Medical Sciences in Iran in 2009. She worked as a research fellow at Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto and St. John's, Newfoundland Memorial University from 2010 to 2014 during which she was quite prolific. After this she joined us at UF as a resident. She is interested in Gastrointestinal and Bone and Soft tissue pathology. Her extracurricular activities include traveling, playing volleyball, solving Jigsaw puzzles, Persian calligraphy and obviously shopping.



**Jim Sikora** is from Vancleave, MS, attended undergrad at the University of South Alabama and graduated with a BS in biomedical sciences. He proceeded to get an MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He then went to medical school at Tulane University and the University of Miami. He joined us at UF in Pathology after completing 2 years at University of Miami in Anesthesia. He is interested in laboratory management, blood bank, and GU pathology. His hobbies include auto racing, cooking, running, and being a Dad.



**Wesley Hiser** is from Lincoln, Nebraska. He completed his BS at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2010 and graduated from University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2014. He joined us at UF and is interested in GYN Pathology, Bone/Soft Tissue Pathology and Microbiology. He likes to run, read and loves board games. He is expecting his first child with wife Ashley in May.



**Jorge Trejo-Lopez** is from Jacksonville, FL and completed his undergrad in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame after which he returned to his home state for medical school and residency at UF. He is interested in Surgical Pathology and loves to walk the Gainesville trails and preserves, visit the beach, and spend time with his family.

## CURRENT FELLOWS

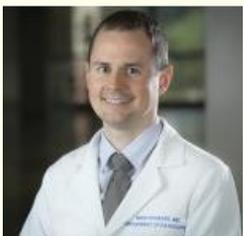
by Eva Vertes



**Dr. Ahmad Alkhasawneh** is originally from Amman, Jordan. After receiving his MD from the University of Jordan, he came to UF for his residency in Pathology. He stayed on at UF to complete a fellowship in Hematopathology, followed by a fellowship in Gastrointestinal pathology. In his spare time, he enjoys playing table tennis and reading.



**Dr. Bret Huber** is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin and then received his D.O. from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). He then came to UF for residency in Pathology and stayed on to complete a fellowship in Hematopathology. He has a 2-year old daughter, Leona, and a newborn, Layton. He has many hobbies, including hiking, camping, fishing, running, biking, cooking, going to movies/theater/concerts, NCAA football and, of course, the Packers.



**Dr. Brian Stewart** is originally from Ocala. He did his undergraduate degree in Spanish at the University of Florida and then went on to medical school at Tulane in New Orleans. He did pathology residency and a surgical pathology fellowship at University of Texas in Houston and then returned to the University of Florida for a fellowship in bone and soft tissue pathology. He will be moving to St. Augustine to join Pantaleon Pathology Associates at Flagler Hospital. His hobbies include gardening, running, kayaking, yoga, reading, camping and watching soccer.



**Dr. Ethan Stoll** is originally from Columbus, OH. He did his undergraduate in psychology at Ohio Dominican University, completed a masters degree in human anatomy at Wright State University in Dayton, OH and then went on to complete a D.O. degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Bradenton, FL. He came to the University of Florida for his residency in pathology and stayed on to complete a fellowship in surgical pathology. His interests include surgical pathology fishing, biking, tennis and watching "The Walking Dead". He will be staying on as an assistant professor at University of Florida next year.

## CURRENT FELLOWS

by Eva Vertes



**Dr. Kristianna Fredenburg** is originally from Nashville. She went to college at the University of Rochester, where she majored in Biology and then went on to medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She came to the University of Florida for residency in pathology and stayed on for a fellowship in Surgical Pathology with a focus in ENT and research. She has 3 kids, Abigail, Mia and Henry and loves spending time with her family!



**Dr. Matthew Martelli** is originally from Lexington, Kentucky. He got a BS in biology from The University of the South and then went to medical school at the University of Kentucky. Following medical school, he came to UF for his residency and stayed on to complete a fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and has been on several medical mission trips. He is moving to Meridian, Mississippi to practice general AP/CP pathology as part of a rural regional health system.



**Dr. Sarah Tinsley** did her undergraduate at the University of Rochester and then went on to complete medical school at the University of Buffalo. She then moved to Orlando to do her residency in Pathology at Orlando Regional Health. She came to UF to do a fellowship in cytopathology. She loves music and played the violin throughout college. As well, in her spare time, she enjoys traveling to places of historical interest.

## GUEST SPEAKERS 2014-2015

By JT Kim



*Dr. Elizabeth Montgomery is a professor of pathology at the John Hopkins School of Medicine where she directs the Division of Clinical Gastrointestinal*

*Pathology service. She is board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology and cytopathology. She has been on the Johns Hopkins faculty since 1999. She is author of numerous articles and textbooks on gastrointestinal pathology and has extensive experience in evaluation of mucosal biopsies in general and Barrett's esophagus in particular. In addition, she has published many primary soft tissue articles and a soft tissue textbook.*

*Dr. Montgomery completed her M.D. degree at George Washington University in 1984. Following her medical school, she completed her AP/CP training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1988. She became a member of the Soft Tissue Pathology Department of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, where she was on the consultation staff until assuming a position at Georgetown University in 1992. At Georgetown, she worked with the Orthopedic Surgery staff to develop the sarcoma service. During this time, she also held a joint appointment in the Department of Gastroenterology and gained considerable expertise in gastrointestinal pathology. She has lectured nationally and internationally and published widely in both disciplines. She participated in the WHO Soft Tissue Classification (2002), which included two new entities for which she wrote the defining papers. She works closely with the sarcoma team at Johns Hopkins to care for these complicated patients.*

*Her research interests include several topics in gastrointestinal pathology, especially Barrett esophagus. Additionally, she has studied soft tissue pathology including telomeres in translocation-associated sarcomas compared to chromosome unstable types.*

*At Johns Hopkins, Dr. Montgomery collaborates with Dr. Arlene Forastiere and Dr. Elisabeth Heath in the Department of Medical Oncology and with Dr. Marcia Canto in the division of Gastroenterology on Barrett's esophagus clinical trials.*



*Dr. John R Goldblum has served as the Chairman of the Department of Pathology since 2002. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan, where he also pursued a residency in anatomic pathology and fellowship in surgical pathology with a focus on both GI and soft tissue pathology under the tutelage of Drs. Henry Appelman and Sharon Weiss. Dr. Goldblum joined the Cleveland Clinic in 1993 and has expertise in GI and soft tissue pathology. He has co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications and serves as the author or editor for major surgical pathology textbooks including Enzinger and Weiss's Soft Tissue Tumors (4th, 5th and 6th editions) and Surgical Pathology of the GI Tract, Liver, Biliary Tract and Pancreas (1st, 2nd and 3rd editions). He serves as series*

editor for the Foundations in Diagnostic Pathology series of books. He is also consulting editor for the Surgical Pathology Clinics series. He is a longest standing member of the USCAP Education Committee, where he served as chairman of that committee for 6 years. He has taught national workshops at the ASCP, CAP and USCAP and received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the CAP in 2012 and the F. K. Mostofi Distinguished Service Award for the USCAP in 2012.

Fun facts about Dr. Goldblum, a Pittsburgh Native, include he has a cousin, Jeff Goldblum, who is an accomplished actor. He is an avid concertgoer and has attended 68 Bruce Springsteen Concerts to date. His cousin Aaron Krickstein is a successful tennis player who was formerly ranked number 6 in World Tennis.

Dr. Goldblum started his visit to University of Florida with an unknown session with a variety of interesting and challenging cases on soft tissue tumors. At the luncheon, Dr. Goldblum had an informal conversation with the residents and fellows regarding his interest in pathology, current issues and future directions in Pathology. The day ended with a department conference on "Barrett's esophagus and Barrett's-related dysplasia-Current Controversies".



Dr. Mark Cohen will be our resident research day keynote guest speaker. He is a Professor of Pathology & Neurology at University Hospitals Case Western Reserve Medical Center and co-director for the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center. He will give a

departmental lecture titled "Mad Cows, Wasted Deer, and Public Health" on June 5th. A keynote presentation, "Is Alzheimer's a Prion Disease, will also be given at the Research Symposium on June 6th. We are looking forward to having Dr. Cohen visit our department.

Dr. Cohen received his medical degree from the Cornell University Medical College in 1983, completed internship in 1983 and trained in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University Hospitals of Cleveland in 1984-1988. After his residency, he completed a fellowship in Neuropathology as well. Dr. Cohen joined the faculty of the University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University in 1990 and has served as Director of Neuropathology Division (1988-present) during his tenure. He is board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and neuropathology.

Dr. Cohen's research interests include prion diseases, gliomas, and neuromuscular diseases. Dr. Cohen has authored numerous peer reviewed publications and serves as an officer and secretary-treasurer for the American Association of Neuropathologists. He also has given lectures nationally on topics in neuropathology. In 2009, Dr. Cohen coauthored and co-edited (with Drs. Richard Prayson and Kleinschmidt-DeMasters) a textbook entitled "Brain Tumors (Consultant Pathology)".

## HONORS AND AWARDS



**Dr. Yanfei Huang** received second place for her poster entitled “**cMET EXPRESSION IN HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA**” at the Florida Society of Pathologists winter meeting this past February.

**Dr. Kent Newsom** received third place for his poster entitled “**USE OF GATA-3 AND UROPLAKIN-II IN DIFFERENTIATING PRIMARY CUTANEOUS VULVAR PAGET’S DISEASE FROM PAGETOID UROTHELIAL INTRAEPITHELIAL NEOPLASIA**” at the Florida Society of Pathologists winter meeting this past February.

**Dr. Kristen Schmits** received the ASCP resident subspecialty grant of 1000\$ to fund a 2 week away rotation in Pathology Informatics with Dr. Anil Parwani at University of Pittsburg.

## WE’LL MISS YOU

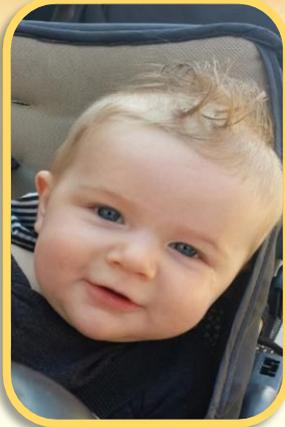
**Dr. Lizette Vila Duckworth** moved to Miami in May.

We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Please don’t forget to stay in touch



# NEW ARRIVALS



*Natalie Austin Sikora was born to James and Lindsay Sikora on 9/24/2014*



*Mohid Iqbal was born to Namrah and Atif Iqbal on 5/29/2014*



*Evette Loraine George was born to Eva and Evan George on 12/5/2014*



*Layton Robert Huber was born to Bret and Claire Huber Huber on 4/18/2015. He weighed 9lbs 6oz.*



*Jeronimo Solano was born to Andrea Duque and Felipe Solano on 4/28/2015*



*Anders Grant Newsom was born to Kent and Jessica Newsom on 4/23/2015. He weighed 8lbs 6oz.*

*Not Pictured*

*Henry Michael Fredenburg was born to Kristiana Fredenburg on June 25, 2014. He joins his sister Abigail (7 years) and Mia (5 years)*

# JUST MARRIED



***Michael and Liz Chang were married in Gainesville, FL on October 26, 2014***



***Jorge Trejo-Lopez and Leslie got married on May 2, 2015 in Winter Park, FL***

## ***Not Pictured***

***Brian Stewart got married to Brian Murphy in Alachua, FL on January 9, 2015***

