Welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of PathFINDER, our biannual newsletter. Over the past six months we have had many new important developments in the department shared in this issue: new faculty, innovative new directions in our work, diversity efforts, and prestigious awards. In this PathFINDER, we feature our laboratory medicine coagulation team, Drs. Marian Rollins-Raval, Richard Marlar, and Kendall Crookston. These faculty recently transformed UNM and TriCore coagulation testing to optimize their clinical service and resident education, which is now on a path to being one of the nation’s leading coagulation services.

Our department is on the verge of even more changes as we embark on the next stage of selecting a new permanent chair. We are excited to start meeting and learning more about these accomplished chair candidates, one of whom we hope will become our next leader to carry our department into the next decade. In my time as interim Chair, it has been my pleasure to lead such a diverse, talented and collegial faculty and staff.

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

NANCY JOSTE, MD
Professor & Interim Chair of Pathology

Cover images: Platelet transmission and whole mount electron microscopy. Photos by Evelyn Lockhart, MD.
FEATURE
INTERVIEW WITH MARIAN ROLLINS-RAVAL, MD, MPH AND RICHARD MARLAR, PHD
INTERVIEW BY WILLIAM F. COLLINS, MFA

The UNM Department of Pathology coagulation service has been transforming. We recently spoke with Marian Rollins-Raval, MD MPH and Richard Marlar, PHD to learn more about how the service is evolving and where they envision the service heading in the future.

WFC: How has the new coagulation service changed?

MR-R/RM: The coagulation service at UNM has gone through several periods of growth with changing faculty. It has always been a strong clinical area at UNM and well-respected nationally. With the addition of Dr. Marlar in 2016 and now Dr. Rollins-Raval in 2018, it has undergone yet another evolution. Building on the foundations laid by faculty such as Dr. Crookston and Dr. Lockhart, starting in November of 2018, Dr. Rollins-Raval and Dr. Crookston began signing out all interpretations for the coagulation laboratory, both negative and positive. Previously, all negative results, regardless of the clinical history, were released by technologists in the laboratory. While this has been a labor of love, it has allowed us to streamline the process and recently move the interpretations into PowerPath leading to improved patient identification, increased patient security for results, and more fluid communication with trainees for cases. With thanks to the strong support of our coagulation colleagues at Pathology Associates of Albuquerque (Drs. Pritchard, Pierce, Gavva, Parsons and Wagenman), we have also decreased the official UNM sign-out weeks to every-other-week to accommodate for staffing and coordinate varying experiences for the pathology trainees on coagulation.

Can you discuss how it has impacted your training of residents and fellows?

Starting in July, we began to have a Wednesday Coagulation Conference in the afternoon. The conference includes the trainees from Transfusion Medicine and Hematopathology, as well as Special Coagulation, Laboratory Management, Informatics, Chemistry, and Electrophoresis (SLICE), as well as visiting rotators including medical students and trainees from other specialties. We began a new system for the trainees in which the attending on service assigns cases for interpretation during the official sign-out week. During this week, the Wednesday Conference is dedicated to questions with the interpretations, didactics from the attendings, and/or discussions regarding quality improvement, validation, and external quality assurance for the laboratory. The following week, there are no new cases for the trainees, but based on their cases from the prior week or another topic of interest to them, the trainees deliver short presentations to the group. These have ranged from cases and their implications for clinical care and/or interesting testing results to how street drugs may affect coagulation assays. Dr. Marlar and Dr. Rollins-Raval attend this conference the majority of weeks. Dr. Crookston (Transfusion Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, and Coagulation) leads the conference when he is on service as well. Drs. Babu (Hematopathology) and Griggs (Transfusion Medicine and Laboratory Medicine) have also joined the conference. We have set up a WebEx in the hopes that our UNM hematologists and/or colleagues from Presbyterian may be able to join us on occasion as well.

In addition, each trainee spends a week immersed in the Special Coagulation laboratory at TriCore Woodward in order to have time to learn about the testing performed by watching testing, reviewing procedures, reading about the assays, troubleshooting in the lab and, most importantly, learning directly from the technologists.

How have your individual backgrounds informed the development of this new service?

Dr. Marlar has a distinguished career in coagulation, which includes training some of the world’s foremost experts in laboratory coagulation. He shares his vast knowledge of the field on a weekly basis, acquired from years of pushing the limits in research and clinical coagulation laboratories, as well as information from international professional societies and quality agencies.

After training at the University of Pittsburgh/ITXM with Drs. Frank Bontempo and Joe Kiss in a robust and streamlined laboratory coagulation service that integrated pathology, internal medicine, and medical student trainees, Dr. Rollins-Raval strives to approximate the coagulation rotations she experienced there for UNM trainees. In addition, the experience and knowledge she gained working closely with her Special Coagulation technologists at University of North Carolina Hospital spur her desire for similar relationships for our trainees with the staff here at TriCore.
Where do you see the service going and how has it impacted patient care in New Mexico?

At this point, the future of the service is wide open. With Dr. Crookston retiring at the end of 2020, we hope to recruit at least one more attending interested in this area who can continue to push the service forward.

More physicians comfortable with this particular area of testing and its challenges will be even more crucial over the coming years. We would like to develop more algorithmic approaches to testing and share these with our ordering providers. We also hope that by increasing the integration of our trainees to the service and providing a forum for discussions of cases, testing issues, and external quality control, we will improve the quality of care to our patients at UNM and throughout New Mexico.

Both of us feel strongly that issues with coagulation testing will only become more complex ever time, particularly when considering the new medications coming to market and an aging population. Every day are working with our exceptional TriCore Woodward Special Coagulation technologists, Trish Lowery, Donna Rospopo, Rosa Bishop, and Sarah Porter, to maintain a cutting edge laboratory. Our coagulation laboratory and service is becoming a leader in the national and international clinical coagulation community.

The LGBTQ+ community is ever-growing, and although great strides have been made over the years in terms of equality, there is still room for improvement. As the greatest changes begin locally, we hope to start here in our pathology family. Our mission is to promote an inclusive environment that celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community in pathology, and to support both LGBTQ+ individuals and allies. The group is currently being spearheaded by LGBTQ+ activists, Drs. Marissa Tafoya, Allison Hade, and Ryan Rebbe.

During the academic year the group plans to arrange a Safe Space Training through the LGBTQ+ resource center for the UNM Department of Pathology, which all are welcome to attend. Later in the year we intend to represent the department in the annual Albuquerque Gay Pride Parade. Please join us in supporting our LGBTQ+ community and allies by participating in our activities in the upcoming year, and let’s work together to make pathology a more inclusive and welcoming environment.
UPCOMING FACULTY TALKS

NATALIE L. ADOLPHI, PHD
Invited Seminar, UNM Pharmaceutical Sciences
“Developing Magnetic Resonance Imaging as a Tool for Medicolegal Death Investigation”
Monday, March 30, 4:00 PM
Nursing Pharmacy Building (Bldg. 228), Room B-15
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

“Imaging basics for non-Radiologists I (Physics, PACS, DICOM viewers)”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Monday, May 11, 2:15 PM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

NATALIE L. ADOLPHI, PHD, AND CHRIS KNORR, AIA & LEED AP
“Imaging Suite Planning and Design Considerations”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop (sponsored by the national Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, with funding from the National Institute of Justice)
Wednesday, May 13, 1:30 PM
Domenici North, Room 2720
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

DEVON CHABOT-RICHARDS, MD
“Approach to the Diagnosis of Non-neoplastic Lymph Node Specimens”
CAP Pathology in the Park,
Yosemite, CA.

“Next-Generation Sequencing in Clonal Myeloid Disorders: CHIP, CCUS, and Beyond”
CAP Pathology in the Park
June 22-25, 2020
Yosemite, CA

“Aggressive B-Cell Lymphomas”
CAP Pathology in the Park
June 22-25, 2020
Yosemite, CA

ELAINE L. BEARER, MD, PHD, FAAAS, FCAP
“Brain connectivity and activity during Alzheimer’s disease progression in a mouse model by manganese—enhanced MRI in living brain correlated with post-mortem histopathology”
American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) annual meeting at EB2020
Session: Pathobiology of Neural Disease
Presentation time: 4:15pm
*April 4, 2020
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego, CA

Session: Lunch and Learn: The ABC of the IDP, a mentoring workshop
“Beyond the IDP—Self Evaluation of Progress over an entire career”
Workshop: Avoiding Difficult Conversations: Creating An IDP ASIP annual meeting
*April 7, 2020
San Diego, CA

Award ceremony
Campaign Alumni Award: The Audacious
“This award recognizes those who have achieved a singular, remarkable accomplishment by setting a vision so impactful that others might have doubted it could be done.”
June 5, 2020
University of California San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

“The music of chemistry”
June 15-18, 2020
Stromstadt Akademi
Stromstad, Sweden

“Beyond structure: MR of physiology”
Session: Novel Biomedical targets for application of Magnetic Resonance
Gordon Research conference “InVivo MRI”
July 19-24, 2020
Proctor Academy
Andover, NH

*Due to the corona virus outbreak, these two talks may be rescheduled to November 7-9 in Boston at the PISA meeting.
LAUREN DECKER, MD
“Gunshot Wounds”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 AM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

LAUREN DVORSCK, MD
“A Potpourri of Unnatural Deaths (Hanging, Sharp Force Injury, Drowning, Asphyxia, Intoxication)”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Wednesday, May 13, 9:00 AM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

HEATHER J. H. EDGAR, PHD
“Advanced Imaging in Forensic Anthropology”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Monday, May 11, 4:00 PM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

“Advanced Imaging in Forensic Anthropology”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Monday, May 11, 4:00 PM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

“Ex Situ Pediatric Brain MRI at 7T”
Invited Lecture at the 9th Congress of the International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging
Friday, May 15, 2:25 PM
Hyatt Regency, Downtown Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM

HEATHER JARRELL, MD
“The Role of the Medical Examiner in Merging Infectious Disease”
University of Virginia
April 3, 2020
Charlottesville, VA

“Lymphoproliferative Disorders Manifesting in Blood”
CAP Pathology in the Park
June 22-25, 2020
Yosemite, CA

“Myelodysplasia and Mimics”
CAP Pathology in the Park
June 22-25, 2020
Yosemite, CA

KATHY FOUCAR, MD
“Benign and Neoplastic Disorders Initially Encountered on Blood Smears”
USCAP Challenges in Hematopathology Sessions
April 3-5, 2020
USCAP Interactive Center
https://www.xcdsystem.com/uscap/program/6iCa33a/index.cfm?pgid=1982

“Myeloid and Lymphoid Neoplasms and Lookalikes in Bone Marrow”
USCAP Challenges in Hematopathology Sessions
April 3-5, 2020
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DARIO MARCHETTI, PHD
Invited Speaker
“Mechanisms driving clinical bone marrow-resident cancer cell quiescence”
2020 AACR annual meeting
April 24-29, 2020
San Diego, CA

Invited Speaker
“Circulating PMN-MDSCs enhance CTC metastatic properties through ROS/Notch and Nodal signaling”
18th International Symposium of Molecular Medicine
May 7-9, 2020
Villa d’ Este, Tivoli (Rome), Italy

Invited Speaker
“Liquid Biopsies in Metastasis”
Early Leadership Council of the Metastasis Research Society
June 6, 2020
LORI PROE, DO
“Natural Deaths”
Advanced Radiologic Imaging for Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop
Tuesday, May 12, 1:30 PM
Domenici North, Room 1705
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

LARRY SKLAR, PHD
“Two Decades of High Throughput Flow Cytometry for Drug Discovery and Repurposing at the University of New Mexico Center for Molecular Discovery”
Gulf Coast Consortia 2nd Annual Innovative Drug Discovery and Development Conference
May 11-12, 2020
Houston, TX

“IntelliCyt: From University Technology to Commercial Success and Exit, An Academic Perspective”
NSF I-Corp Lecture by Larry Sklar
The University of New Mexico Center for Molecular Discovery
April 6, 4:30 PM
STC, Lobo Rainforest
Albuquerque, NM

QIAN-YUN ZHANG, MD, PHD
“Morphology: Non-MDS Dysplasia”
International Society of Laboratory Hematology (ISLH) Annual Meeting
Melbourne, Australia

FACULTY NEWS & AWARDS

FACULTY RETIREES
Carla Wilson, MD, PHD retired on February 1, 2020. Dr. Wilson will remain on faculty as a Professor Emerita and a working retiree.

NEW FACULTY
Shweta Agarwal, MD, FCAP joined as Assistant Professor on October 21, 2019.

FACULTY AWARDS
David Czuchlewski, MD and Samuel J. Reynolds, MD were awarded UNM SOM Curriculum Committee teaching awards.

Angela Wandinger-Ness, PhD received the The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award and the 2020 AAAS Lifetime Mentor Award. View the AAAS announcement and watch the acceptance speech.
MAKE A GIFT

Your gift today impacts healthcare and research for tomorrow. Please consider making a recurring, one time, or legacy donation to one of the following funds:

THE FOUCAR ENDOWMENT
Invest in future Pathologists. Recruiting and training highly proficient Pathology residents and fellows is a top priority.

VISIT: The Foucar Endowment

THE GEORGE D. MONTOYA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Encourage UNM students to pursue a career in biomedical research.

VISIT: The George D. Montoya Research Scholarship Fund

THE THOMAS M. WILLIAMS & MARGARET G. WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Support the greatest educational and training needs within the Department of Pathology.

VISIT: The Dr. Thomas M. Williams & Margaret G. Williams Endowment for Education and Training

DONATE

Donate by credit card through the UNM Foundation website. Specific links to each Pathology fund are listed at pathology.unm.edu/make-a-gift

Donate by check, estate planning, bequest, charitable annuity, insurance gift, charitable trust and more.

Thank you for thinking of The University of New Mexico Department of Pathology funds as you generously give!

FACULTY NEWS & AWARDS

ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION AT USCAP 2020

Our inaugural reception was held March 2 in Los Angeles, CA.

Left: Dr. Kathy Foucar, Dr. Rania Bakkar, Dr. Nancy Joste.
Center: Dr. Mohammad A. Vasef, Dr. Larry Tsao, Dr. Kristin Hunt Karner
Right: Dr. Meng-Jun “Marsha” Xiong, Dr. Therese Bocklage
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Please share your news with William F. Collins: wfcollins@salud.unm.edu

For more information on our department, please visit our website: pathology.unm.edu