



Dr. James Wisecarver retires from Pathology and Microbiology

The Department of Pathology and Microbiology and the Nebraska Medicine Clinical Laboratory held a reception on June 19 to celebrate the retirement of James Wisecarver, M.D., Ph.D. “Jim joined our department as a resident in pathology in 1986 and since then has held virtually every position we have including director of the HLA lab, our residency program, the forensics lab and of course serving as Medical Director of all the clinical laboratories at Nebraska Medicine,” said Steven Hinrichs, M.D., chair of the department. “He has so much experience in so many areas that after he retires this weekend we are going to bring him back part time, next week.”

During the reception, Dr. Wisecarver was honored by comments from the CEO of Nebraska Medicine, James Linder, M.D., “In addition to providing great expertise and service to the patients of our hospital, Dr. Wisecarver was a member of the board of directors of the American Society of Clinical Pathology and served as its President. Dr. Linder added, “As an indication of the respect Jim holds in the medical community, he was also elected president of the medical staff.”

As a nationally renowned expert, Dr. Wisecarver has visited many other medical universities and hospitals, stating, “It really makes you appreciate what we've got here. The thing that amazes me the most is what's transpired, going from a kind of sleepy little place on 42nd and Dewey to the megaplex we have now. It really comes home - it's the people here that makes this place so different.”



(left to right: Dr. James Linder, Dr. Wisecarver.)

Multi-million dollar grant continues innovative research into staphylococcus infections



Left to Right: Drs. Vinai Thomas, Ken Bayles, Tammy Kielian, Paul Fey, Pathology and Microbiology, UNMC and (not shown) Alex Horswill, Immunology and Microbiology, University of Colorado

The PO1 project grant was first funded back in 2009 by the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and is the foundation of the [Center for Staphylococcal Research](#) (CSR). The cumulative total of this grant will be \$31 million by the end of 2024. Learn more about this P01 grant project from the [UNMC Newsroom](#).

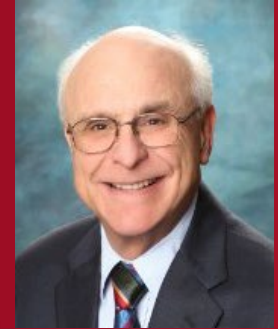
Dr. Scot Ouellette awarded NIH funding for R21



Dr. Scot Ouellette, Assoc. Professor, was awarded funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for his R21 entitled "Development of Tools for Conditional Knockouts in Chlamydia". Dr. Ouellette stated "The work proposed here is to further refine tools developed in the lab that will

facilitate mechanistic studies of chlamydial biology, which in turn may lead to the identification of novel diagnostic or therapeutic targets that would potentially be able to identify and treat chronic chlamydial diseases." Go to [NIH](#) for additional details. Want to learn more about Dr. Ouellette and his work, visit [Ouellette Lab](#).

Dr. James Newland wins Valor in Education Service Award



Dr. James R. Newland, Professor Emeritus, Pathology and Microbiology, was awarded the 2018 Valor in Education Service Award. This award, according to UNMC Today, "recognizes volunteer, emeritus, or adjunct faculty whose daily service to our learners exemplifies the spirit of outstanding teaching or clinical supervision". Dr. Newland was honored at the 2018 Academic Affairs Impact in Education Award celebration on February 7. Dr. Newland, is a specialist in surgical pathology. He lectures medical students and is involved in faculty development at UNMC. Read more about Dr. Newland's newest achievement at [UNMC Today](#).

Dr. Allison Cushman-Vokoun appointed to ABPath Test Development & Advisory Committee for Molecular Genetic Pathology



The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) announced the appointment of Dr. Allison Cushman-Vokoun, Associate Professor, Pathology and Microbiology and Medical Director of Molecular Diagnostics, University of Nebraska Medical Center to their Test Development and Advisory Committee (TDAC) for Molecular Genetic Pathology. This committee is responsible for the development and review of ABPath certification exam questions that assess and certify a physician's education,

knowledge, experience, and skills in order to provide high quality care in the pathology profession. Dr. Rebecca L. Johnson, CEO of the American Board of Pathology states "As TDAC members, these physicians play a critical role in the development of the exams and are entrusted with maintaining the integrity of the board-certified designation. The appointment to a TDAC indicates the physician is highly regarded in the field of pathology and exemplifies the utmost standards of care." For more information on ABPath, visit abpath.org.

Dr. Scott Campbell appointed UNMC Senior Director of Research Technologies

Dr. Scott Campbell, Associate Professor, Pathology and Microbiology and Director of Pathology and Public Health Informatics has been appointed as Senior Director of Research Technologies for UNMC.



In the UNMC Today article, it states Dr. Campbell specializes in controlled medical terminologies and integration of clinical information systems, works regularly with clinical, basic science, and public health investigators, and understands the importance of both sharing data for research collaborations as well as protecting data. Read more about the IT Leadership restructure at [UNMC Today](#).

Dr. Tammy Kielian chosen to be panelist for "UNMC's Women in Science: Our Voices, Our Stories"



Dr. Tammy Kielian, Professor, Pathology and Microbiology is one of four women faculty members who took part in an event to help mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The event was held February 11. Dr. Kielian said "I wanted to participate to provide helpful suggestions and encouragement for individuals at any state of their scientific career." Read more from Dr. Kielian and the event itself at [UNMC Today](#).

2019 Pathology and Microbiology Residents & Fellows Graduation



The 2019 Pathology and Microbiology Graduation was held June 21 at the Scott Conference Center on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus. Congratulations to all our graduates! We wish you success as new members of UNMC Alumni!

2019 Essentials of Staphylococcal Genetics Workshop



The 2019 Essentials of Staphylococcal Genetics Workshop provides a crash course on staph genetics and metabolism. All the instructors for this workshop are Pathology and Microbiology instructors. Learn more about this year's staph camp at [UNMC Today](#).

Dr. Pirruccello presented with Outstanding Mentor of Junior Faculty Award



Samuel Pirruccello, M.D., Professor, Pathology and Microbiology, received the Outstanding Mentor of Junior Faculty Award at the UNMC Faculty Senate Awards ceremony April 23. Learn more about why Dr. Pirruccello was nominated for this award by visiting [UNMC Today!](#)

Eight Faculty join Department of Pathology & Microbiology



Rey Carabeo, Ph.D., Professor, is an expert in cellular microbiology; Aleh (Oleg) Bobr, M.D., Assistant Professor, is an expert in transfusion medicine; Amanda Brinkworth, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, is an expert in chlamydial development, bacterial transcription, and stress responses; M. Jana Broadhurst, M.D., Ph.D., DTM&H, Assistant Professor, is an expert in clinical pathology; Jie Chen, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, is an expert in neuropathology; Jesse Cox, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, is an expert in molecular diagnostics; Ernesto Martinez Duarte, M.D., MPH, Assistant Professor, is an expert in head and neck pathology; Carol R. Geary, Ph.D., M.B.A., R.N., Assistant Professor, is an expert in nursing, care transitions and health informatics.

Tony Sambol took part in APHL Global Health Security Agenda-Capitol Hill Day.

Tony Sambol, Assistant Professor, Pathology and Microbiology took part in the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Global Health Security Agenda-Capitol



Hill Day. Mr. Sambol, (pictured in middle) along with other APHL members, met with key leaders in the Senate and House Appropriation Committees to raise the committee members awareness to increase funding for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This would increase preparedness for laboratory systems in countries worldwide. The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) at UNMC receives funding for bioterrorism and chemical terrorism preparedness through the CDC and other entities. Tony Sambol is the Associate Director for NPHL and the Biosafety and Biosecurity Officer for the Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory (BSL3) housed within NPHL.

Drs. Ouellette and Rucks recipients of new 5-year R01 grant.



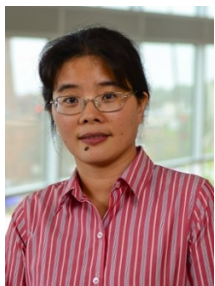
Chlamydiae are important pathogens of humans and significant causes of morbidity, causing a range of illnesses including sexually transmitted diseases, trachoma, pneumonia, and other respiratory tract infections. The burden of these infections stems from their lack of symptoms, which can lead to chronic conditions such as infertility, reactive arthritis, and pelvic inflammatory disease. The work proposed by Dr. Scot Ouellette and Dr. Lisa Rucks will attempt to understand the fundamental processes that allow these asymptomatic organisms to survive and may lead to the identification of novel diagnostic or therapeutic targets that would potentially be able to identify and treat chronic chlamydial diseases.

Keer Sun, PhD receives grant for high priority, short-term project

Dr. Keer Sun, Associate Professor, Pathology and Microbiology Department has been awarded a \$419,000 grant from NIH. This R56 grant cannot be applied for but is awarded by NIH and the Advisory Councils and Boards from a pool of R01 submissions that fall just short of The required percentile. This high priority, short-term project award will fund creative and innovative approaches within this pool of applications. Dr. Sun's project will investigate the factors responsible for influenza-induced bacterial pneumonia in the pursuit of identifying potential therapeutics. It is being supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious



Dr. Keer Sun recipient of R01 grant



Dr. Sun received a R01 grant for research on how immune dysregulation during influenza and MRSA coinfection leads to bacterial resistance to antibiotic therapy. The findings from this study will provide important information for developing effective therapeutics for patients.

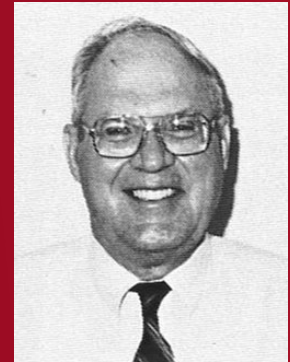
Scientist created test research training program for underrepresented area youth

Growing up, Dr. Scot Ouellette was interested in the sciences, but never had an opportunity to engage in bench research as a high school student. Being the first scientist in his family, Scot wanted to help students who, like him, do not otherwise have this opportunity, but are eager to learn. As a faculty member at the University of South Dakota, he was involved with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). AISES seeks to recruit and retain Native American and Indigenous people in science-based careers. Scot's aspiration to help these students, at all education levels, has never left him. When he relocated to Omaha to join the Department of Pathology and Microbiology here at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC),

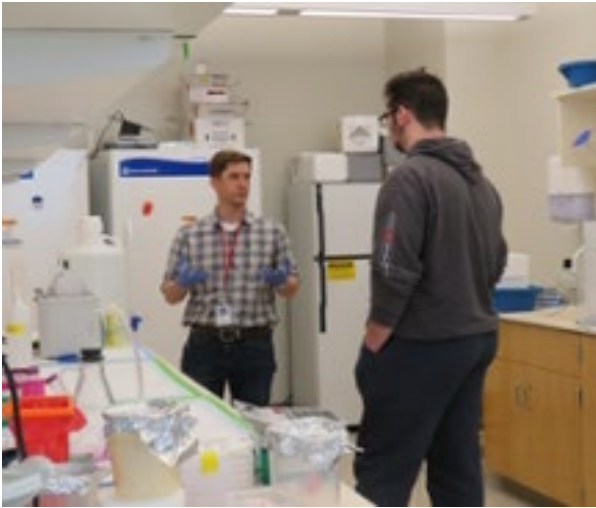


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Dr. Jerry Jones, Emeritus Faculty, dies at the age of 86.



Dr. Jerry Jones, emeritus faculty member, Pathology and Microbiology, died Feb. 14 at the age of 86. In his 53 year career at UNMC, Dr. Jones became the first board-certified forensic pathologist in Nebraska. Learn more about Dr. Jones contributions in his field at [UNMC Today](#)



he wanted to remain engaged with AISES and other programs in which he had prior involvement. After recruiting some of his UNMC colleagues to participate, Scot created a test research training program called the *UNMC Research Apprentices Program in*

Pathology & Microbiology. Funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, this program provides paid positions for up to ten high school students. Each student works in labs within this department under the supervision of Scot and his colleagues (*pictured above*). Students are not required to have the necessary academic requirements that many institutions may require to gain acceptance into this program such as maintaining a high grade point average. Scot points out this program is “not necessarily geared toward those who excel at western ways of teaching”. Students typically work up to 2 hours a day after school. This test program also teaches life skills. Students are required to apply for a job in this program and, if hired, need to open a personal bank account to receive their pay and complete necessary compliance training. Scot reached out to Omaha North for this pilot program and of the ten students who initially showed interest in the program, six were hired and began working in February 2019.

Dr. Ouellette’s momentum has not waned. He contacted Echohawk Lefthand, Native Indigenous Centered Education (NICE) Program Director for Omaha Public Schools, in hopes of expanding this program to reach Native American high school students with interest in the sciences, and several have applied to the program. Scot continues to be involved with AISES through the Omaha chapter. This test program provides Scot a tool to achieve his ultimate goal, which is to stimulate interest in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields in younger students, particularly those from underrepresented groups. To learn more about Dr. Ouellette’s research visit [Ouellette Lab](#). (Photo above: Tyler Keely, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cook Lab, instructs high school student.)

Pathways is an online archive news source for the Department of Pathology and Microbiology.

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