

SUMMER, 2008

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DEPARTMENT GROWING BY LEAPS & BOUNDS

New recruits arrive in force

The department welcomed the arrival of new faculty, research staff and students in greater numbers than anytime in the past 5 years. The new recruits bring expertise in clinical pathology as well as research and have impacted virtually every section of the department. New department chair, Dr. Hinrichs commented, "We know about the Huskers having four star and five star recruits, but this class exceeds any scoring system for impact and quality. They complement perfectly the excellent faculty already here and fill gaps that will make us an even stronger department."

Included in the new class of recruits are four anatomic pathologists, three immunologists and an expert in proteomics. The pathologists were identified from national searches targeting special areas of expertise of importance to the UNMC and the Nebraska Medical Center strategic plan. **Dr. Kirk Foster** joined the department from the Department of Anatomic Pathology at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI.

Dr. Kazmi had completed neuropathology fellowship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. We welcomed **Dr. Geoffrey Talmon** back to the department after completing a fellowship in surgical pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. **Dr. Paul Spence** joined the department as a specialist in surgical forensic pathology.

The focus on immunology resulted from a faculty assessment of department needs conducted three years ago. At that time, a recommendation was made to bolster the immunology research efforts and identify individuals who could contribute to existing strengths in *Story continued on Page 3...*

DR LAZENBY HONORED

John Gollan, MD, PhD, Dean of UNMC College of Medicine, presented Audrey Lazenby, MD with a plaque on August 8th, 2008 to honor her service to the department as interim chair from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. See story on page 4...



NEW DIRECTORS NAMED FOR CLINICAL LAB

As part of a plan for future growth, Mike Powell, Executive Director, Pharmacy / Pathology Services, announced a restructuring of the Nebraska Medical Center Clinical Laboratory. Mr. Powell has named Jodi Garrett Director of Clinical Pathology and David Muirhead as Director of Anatomic Pathology. The appointments are effective immediately and will facilitate greater integration with pathologists who specialize in surgical pathology and laboratory sciences.



Jodi Garrett, Director of Clinical Pathology



David Muirhead, Director of Anatomic Pathology

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER!

We recently sponsored a contest to decide on a new name for our newsletter. We received a lot of great suggestions.

The winner will be selected on November 24th at the next committee meeting and will be announced shortly thereafter.

The Newsletter Editorial Committee would like to extend a great big "Thank You!" to everyone who participated. We have our work cut out for us!

NEW HIRES

JANUARY

1/1/08 Karen Deffenbacher
1/21/08 Lei Zhang
1/22/08 Deborah Hotz
1/24/08 Hillari Zweibohmer
1/30/08 Bryson Peterson

FEBRUARY

2/1/08 Ann Crowley
2/1/08 Julie Kowal
2/1/08 Meghan Sedlacek

MARCH

3/14/08 Katina Winters
3/17/08 Martha Teran
3/24/08 Mary Boden

3/24/08 Jill Hallgren
3/25/08 Annette Nared
3/31/08 Yan Chen

APRIL

4/1/08 Chun-Sun Jiang
4/7/08 Eric Miller
4/7/08 Patty Rogers

MAY

5/5/08 Michael Lore
5/19/08 Cynthia Lachel
5/27/08 Jess Anderson
5/27/08 Kevin Ehlers

JUNE

6/2/08 Joshua Istas

6/2/08 Aaron Pilley
6/9/08 Katherine Ordonez
6/30/08 Christina Nespor

JULY

7/1/08 Maria Burkovetskaya
7/1/08 Teresa Fritz
7/1/08 Nikolay Karpuk
7/1/08 Tammy Kielian
7/1/08 Erin Linde
7/1/08 Shuliang Liu
7/1/08 Paul Meyer
7/1/08 Ross Miller
7/1/08 Norma Rodriguez
7/1/08 Kandi Stallings

7/1/08 Kaihong Su
7/1/08 Benjamin Swanson
7/1/08 Stetson Williams
7/1/08 Zhixun (Jason) Zhang
7/14/08 Run Fan
7/14/08 Sang Hong
7/14/08 Guoqiang Hou
7/14/08 Jing Liu
7/14/08 Nicole Stuzenegger
7/21/08 Hanneka Brown
7/21/08 Miranda Dohrmann
7/25/08 Geoffrey Talmon
7/30/08 Abdraman Addi

NEW FACULTY

Kirk W. Foster, MD

Assistant Professor.

Research interests:

Medical diseases of the kidney

Education:

- MD, University of Maryland School of Medicine, 1997
- Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency, Washington University School of Medicine, 1998-2003
- Renal Pathology fellowship, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, 2003-2004

Previous position: Assistant Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, University of Cincinnati; Staff Pathologist, Anatomic Pathology, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI.



Paul Spence, MD

Clinical Pathologist & Instructor

Research interests:

Forensic Pathology

Education:

- Fellowship, Forensic Pathology, King County Medical Examiner's Office, Seattle, WA
- Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Truman Medical Center, University of Missouri
- MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, 1993
- Bachelor's degree, UNL, Lincoln, NE, 1987

Previous position: Clinical Assistant Professor, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University. Greene County Medical Examiner, Missouri.



Shi-Jiang Ding, PhD

Assistant Professor.

Research interests:

Proteomics

Education:

- Post-doctorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Tri-Cities, WA.
- PhD, Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Shanghai, China, 2004
- Bachelor's degree, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, Gansu, China



Kaihong Su, PhD

Assistant Professor.

Research interests:

Immunoglobulin G (IgG) Fc receptors and their role in autoimmune diseases.

Education:

- PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1998
- Master's degree, Nankai University, P. R. China, 1993
- Bachelor's degree, Nankai University, P. R. China, 1990

Previous position: Assistant Professor, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Syed A. Jaffar Kazmi, MD

Assistant Professor
Director, Autopsy Service

Research interests:

Neuropathology, Neurodegenerative brain diseases, Muscle & Nerve Pathology, Surgical Pathology

Education:

- MD, Sindh Medical College, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, University of Karachi, Pakistan, 1989
- Residency, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts, 2001-05
- Neuropathology Fellowship, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama, 2005-07
- Research Associate, Department of Neurological Sciences, Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, 1995-2001



Geoffrey A. Talmon, MD

Assistant Professor

Education:

- Fellowship, Surgical Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Residency, Pathology & Microbiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2007
- MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, 2003
- Bachelor's degree in Biology, UNL, Lincoln, NE, 1999

Previous position: Professional Medical Examiner



Tammy L. Kielian, PhD

Associate Professor.

Research interests:

Immune responses in the central nervous system, specifically the roles of microglia and astrocytes in CNS infectious diseases

Education:

- Post-doctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth Medical School
- PhD, University of Kansas Medical Center, 1998
- Masters Degree, Kansas State University, 1994
- Bachelors Degree, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 1991

Previous position: Associate Professor, Microbiology and Immunology, and Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Zhixin (Jason) Zhang, PhD

Associate Professor.

Research interests:

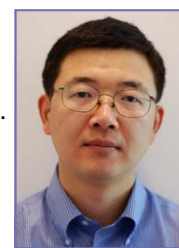
Molecular regulation of B lineage cell development.

Education:

PhD, University of Alabama-Birmingham, 1997.

Previous position:

Assistant Professor, Developmental and Clinical Immunology, University of Alabama-Birmingham.



Check them out on the web.

Visit our website at

<http://www.unmc.edu/dept/pathology>

NEW RESIDENTS



Benjamin J. Swanson, MD, PhD
University Nebraska College of Medicine
EDUCATION:
B.S., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2000
Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, 2007
M.D., University of Nebraska College of Medicine, Omaha, Nebraska, 2008



Erin M. Bruno, MD
Creighton University
School of Medicine
EDUCATION:
B.S., University of California-Davis, Davis, California, 2004
M.D., Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, Nebraska



Kandi A. Stallings, MD
University Nebraska
College of Medicine
EDUCATION:
B.S., University of Nebraska- Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2003
M.D., University of Nebraska College of Medicine, Omaha, Nebraska, 2007

New recruits arrive in force ...continued from page 1

both microbiology as well as cancer biology.

Dr. Shi-Jian Ding completed his fellowship at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Tri-Cities, WA. He will share his time with the Neurotoxin and Infectious Diseases Research Group.

The new faculty include **Dr. Tammy Kielian**, who previously was at the University of Arkansas in the departments of Microbiology and Immunology, and Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences, **Dr. Jason Zhang** from the department of Developmental and Clinical Immunology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and **Dr. Kaihong Su**, also from UAB.

The Lymphoma Research group headed by Dr. John Chan played an important role in bringing Dr. Zhang to UNMC. The goal of the recruitment was to build upon existing expertise for new studies focused on the immune cells involved in inflammatory conditions such as arthritis as well as cancer. Dr. Zhang is recognized for having developed a very successful research program focused on the B-cell while Dr. Su's expertise is related to studies of the T-cell.

"I am very excited to have joined such an energetic department. There are new opportunities everywhere I look and the community is very supportive," commented Dr. Su. "After being here only a few weeks, I know this was a good decision."

Dr. Kielian's work addresses questions related to bacterial infections in the brain.

"We had made great progress in building a bacteriology pathogenesis research group in the past three years but believed we needed an immunologist who could add to our capability to examine questions in new experimental systems," said Ken Bayles, Associate Professor.

NEW FELLOWS



Mazen Alkhayatt, MD
MD: King Saud University Medical College
Fellowship in Hematopathology King Saud University Medical College
Residency:
1 year at Royal North Shore Hospital - Sydney, Australia
1 year at Royal Marsden Hospital - London, UK
Currently a Consultant at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Paul Meyer, MD, PhD, Hemepath Fellow
MD: Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA
PhD: Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA
Residency (AP/CP):
Loyola University Medical Center Chicago, IL

Technology Today: The Internet & Education

The internet has had an enormous impact on the world. Since its public introduction in the early 90's, it has changed the way we do business, communicate, and access information.

How can we use this powerful tool to our advantage in our academic and healthcare efforts? We asked Steve Tracy, PhD and Tuire Chechin.

Q: How large an impact do you think the internet has had or is going to have on academic departments?

Steve Tracy: Anyone interested in the department - from potential students to new faculty and beyond, to companies and so forth - would go first to the web to see what we are about. Because of this and the chair's understanding that a web presence is important to sell our product - the physicians, research and teaching - we need to stand out and be readily available out on the web. Departments that are known for their excellence nearly always have a dynamic web presence. The net will continue to have a major impact on departmental business for a long time to come or at least, until something better comes along.

Q: What does it mean to have a web portal?

Steve Tracy: What we desire is basically a well-lit, nice to look at, easy to navigate, billboard and information desk out in virtual web space, a clean well-lighted place for kooks, as it were, something where a web browser will stop, order a double latte mocha with an extra shot, and read about who we are. A web portal ideally beckons to the user, here we are, look at what we do, enter and read more, see cool pictures, read the news. It is also a business card: we are serious people doing serious work and we want your business, how can we help you?

Q: Is it correct that you will have an automated system for importing articles to make it easier for faculty to update their biosketch?

Steve Tracy: That could certainly be one aspect of the system. Others would be an internal blog, access limited by security to faculty and staff, and secure document sharing, to facilitate committee interactions without the necessity of real face time.

Tuire Chechin, the webmaster for the Path/Micro webpage, added that she is currently working on a project in which links will be placed at the bottom of each faculty member's page. These links, when activated, will link directly to PubMed and will automatically bring up a list of all the articles in PubMed by that faculty member. It can then be sorted according to date to easily access the latest additions.

Dr. Steven Hinrichs Appointed Chair of Pathology / Microbiology Department



Steven Hinrichs, M.D.

On Friday, March 14th, 2008 the Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. John L. Gollan, announced that Steven H. Hinrichs, M.D. has accepted the position of Chairperson of the UNMC Department of Pathology and Microbiology, effective July 1, 2008. The appointment followed a national search, in which a number of outstanding candidates were considered.

Dr. Gollan stated that Dr. Hinrichs has participated in a variety of leadership roles and brings a wealth of administrative experience to this position, having served as the Senior Associate Dean for Research Development in the College of Medicine since January 2007. During this period he made substantial contributions to our research agenda. He was also the founding Director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory since 1997 and the Director of the University of Nebraska Center for Biosecurity at UNMC.

Dr. Hinrichs is national co-leader of the Public Health Laboratory Data Interoperability Project funded by the CDC. His laboratory research is supported by major grants from the Department of Defense and strong collaborations with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, the Air Force Research Laboratory and the 3M Corporation.

Dr. Hinrichs completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in molecular pathology after his residency training at UC Davis and medical school at the University of North Dakota. He is board certified in both anatomic and clinical pathology.

In 2006, Dr. Hinrichs was presented with the inaugural University of Nebraska Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship Award in recognition of his success in reaching beyond traditional university boundaries in ways that enrich the broader community.

PATH/MICRO FACULTY NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL BOARDS

One of the ways the United States government obtains advice from citizens in the private sector is through the Federal Advisory Committee system, or FACS. Most federal agencies have FACS that assist the Director of Secretary in developing policy and strategy. The Department of Pathology and Microbiology has two faculty on FACS.

Sam Cohen, MD, PhD, the Havlik-Wall Professor of Oncology in the UNMC Department of Pathology and Microbiology, has been named to the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS) Board of Scientific Counselors.

The NIEHS, which is one of the National Institutes of Health, aims to improve health care by understanding how environmental factors contribute to disease. The board of scientific counselors provides advice to NIEHS leaders and evaluates the institute's intramural and collaborative programs.

"It's a nice honor and it's a lot of work," Dr. Cohen said of being named to the NIEHS board. "It's also a nice recognition for the work that I've been doing in toxicology and cancer research."

In his research, Dr. Cohen focuses on mechanisms of carcinogenesis. His research was key in the federal government's 2000 decision to drop saccharin from its list of cancer-causing chemicals.

Steven Hinrichs, MD, PhD was named to the National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee, which was recently formed in response to Presidential Homeland Security Directive 21. The Presidential Directive was issued to address gaps in the national strategy to assess risk to the population and detect outbreaks of disease such as Avian Influenza. Dr. Hinrichs was appointed based on his work with national policy of adopting common vocabulary for electronic laboratory messaging. He began service with the NBAS in September.

UNMC'S DR. JAMES LINDER AND LINDA FELL HONORED BY ASCP

UNeMed President, James Linder, M.D., and Linda Fell, director of the clinical laboratory science program in the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions, have received awards from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Dr. Linder and Fell received the ASCP Master Award at a ceremony during the group's annual meeting in New Orleans in October.

The Master Award is a new award created to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of pathology and laboratory medicine and to the ASCP.

As a past president of the ASCP, Dr. Linder was recognized for his work on improving medical diagnostics, including immunochemistry, molecular diagnostics, computer-aided instruction and the use of automated techniques in cytopathology.

Fell served on the ASCP Board of Directors as chairwoman of the associate council in 2005. She is a member of the ASCP Institute's Advisory Group and has traveled to Malawi, Lesotho and Tanzania for the society.

Fell represented the society on the task force on practice levels and educational needs from 2005-2007. She received the member excellence in education award earlier this year.



UNMC's Linda Fell receives the Master Award from Dr. John Brooks, president of American Society of

DR LAZENBY HONORED FOR SERVICE TO THE PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



The Department of Pathology and Microbiology sponsored a tea on Friday, August 8th in honor of Dr. Audrey Lazenby to say thank you for her hard work as interim chair. Dr. Lazenby was presented with a plaque by Dr. John Gollan, Dean of UNMC College of Medicine to honor her service to the department as interim chair from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Dr. Lazenby stepped in as interim chair on July 1, 2007 after Dr. Samuel Cohen stepped down after 15 years as chairman.

Many Thanks, Dr Lazenby!



UNMC PATH/MICRO PHYSICIANS NAMED ON 2007-2008 BEST DOCTORS LIST

Among a total of 280 UNMC physicians, including 151 full and part-time faculty, 13 members of Department of Pathology & Microbiology faculty have been recognized on this year's list of the Best Doctors in America.

The Best Doctors in America 2007-2008 database contains the names and professional profiles of approximately 35,000 physicians in the United States in more than 40 specialties, or the top 3 percent to 5 percent of specialists in the country.

"Our UNMC faculty are truly outstanding clinicians. The Best Doctors recognition once again reaffirms that our patient care and teaching facility is world-class," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

UNMC College of Medicine Dean John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D., agreed.

"Quality patient care is a top priority," he said. "As an academic health sciences center, our faculty stay abreast of the latest medical advances and are involved in discovering new therapies. Our patients receive exceptional care and our students train with, and learn from, the best."

Physicians are selected on the basis of the question: "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?" A peer-review survey by thousands of doctors determines the doctors included in the database. Only those doctors who earn the consensus support of their peers are included and only physicians in the Best Doctors database are allowed to receive the survey, nominate others and vote.

Two renowned physicians affiliated with Harvard Medical School founded Best Doctors in 1989. Today, it is among the leading resources for more than 10 million people in 30 countries who are seeking expert medical resources and guidance to treat illnesses and injuries of all kinds.

- *Bridge, Julia*
- *Chan, Wing C. (John)*
- *Cohen, Samuel*
- *Greiner, Timothy*
- *Hans, Christine*
- *Hinrichs, Steven*
- *Johansson, Sonny*
- *Lazenby, Audrey*
- *Lele, Subodh*
- *Markin, Rodney*
- *McComb, Rodney*
- *Pirruccello, Samuel*
- *Weisenburger, Dennis*
- *Wisecarver, James*

LABORATORY SCIENTISTS ASSUME NATIONAL POSITIONS

The CDC and Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) came knocking this past month and presented opportunities that were too good to pass up for laboratory scientist's working for the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) at UNMC.



Beth Schweitzer accepted a position in the CDC Bioterrorism Response Laboratory beginning September 15.

"We certainly were disappointed to have Beth leave us, but we are happy for her because it is her dream job," said Tony Sambol, Assistant Director of the NPHL.



Josh Rowland was named as one of the Coordinators for the National Laboratory Training Network. Previously, he was outreach coordinator for the NPHL and an investigator with Paul Fey on a grant involving antimicrobial resistance.

Dr. Fey said. "We always knew Josh was national level quality person and it was going to happen sooner or later that he would be picked up. This is a great situation because he will be able to pick any place he wants in the country to run this program."

UNMC HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PATHOGENS

Expanding our knowledge base about dangerous antibiotic resistant pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), and Group A streptococci (flesh-eating bacteria) was the focus of a major conference in Omaha hosted by UNMC.



Ken Bayles, PhD

Scientists from throughout the United States, as well as Portugal, England, Denmark and Poland attended the International Conference on Gram-Positive Pathogens at the Embassy Suites Hotel, which was held October 4th through the 8th.



Mark Rupp, MD

This marks the second time the conference has been in Omaha, said Ken Bayles, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of pathology and microbiology and lead organizer of the conference. In 2006, UNMC hosted the inaugural conference, which focused on virulence factor regulation.

"This conference emerged from a wonderful collaboration that has developed between several investigators in the Midwest who study various Gram-positive pathogens," Dr. Bayles said. "What we have found through our interactions is that there is an incredible amount to be learned from each other.

Dr. Bayles said the conference was entirely devoted to Gram-positive pathogens, touching on a variety of topics including physiology, pathogenesis and antibiotic resistance. It focused on antibiotic action and resistance mechanisms.

In 2005, UNMC formed a research group focused on the local and national problem of staphylococcus infections. In addition to Dr. Bayles, other members of the group include: Paul Fey, Ph.D., Steven Hinrichs, M.D., Paul Dunman, Ph.D., and Mark Rupp, M.D., all of UNMC, as well as Greg Somerville, Ph.D., of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Creighton University's Richard Goering, Ph.D.

"The UNMC group has become a world leader in the study of these pathogens," Dr. Rupp said. "Tomorrow's new antibiotics and vaccines will be driven by a better understanding of the pathogenesis and biology of these pathogens – and that is what this conference is all about.

"It's a major honor for UNMC to be hosting this international conference. The conference keeps getting bigger and better, and it's putting Omaha and UNMC on the map."

This year's featured conference speakers include: Dr. Alexander Tomasz, The Rockefeller University; Dr. Kim Lewis, Northeastern University; Dr. Debra Bessen, New York Medical College; and Dr. Louis Rice, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

UNMC DOCS PART OF MYELOMA STUDY IN NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL



Warren Sanger, PhD

There are some families that, for whatever reason, have higher incidences of myeloma than others.

Researchers from UNMC, Creighton University School of Medicine and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences want to know why. In July, the research team published the results of a study pursuing answers to this question in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.



Dennis Weisenburger, MD

Dennis Weisenburger, M.D., a professor in the department of pathology and microbiology, and Warren Sanger, Ph.D., professor and director of the human genetics laboratory at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, joined principal investigator Henry Lynch, M.D., professor and chairman of preventive medicine and public health, and director of the Hereditary Cancer Institute at Creighton, among others, on the study.

The group looked at one particular black family in which there are five cases of multiple myeloma – a cancer of the blood – and five others who had prostate cancer. One goal of the study was to determine if there were specific biomarkers among the family members that would indicate a prevalence to developing cancer.

"We looked for specific genetic biomarkers for multiple myeloma to see if there were any common DNA changes that were specific to the family chosen for the study," Dr. Sanger said.

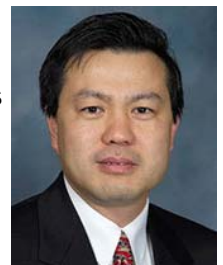
"What we found is that there are inherited genes that exist in some families, which predispose them to an increased risk for multiple myeloma and certain other cancers."

Multiple myeloma accounts for about 10 percent of all cancers of the blood and is most frequent in people age 65 and older. While the cause of the disease is unknown, a small fraction of patients have familial myeloma and there is a higher incidence of the disease in blacks than whites.

Dr. Sanger said he hopes the study will increase awareness to the medical community about the importance of monitoring cancer in family members for early disease. "We also reviewed the usefulness of certain biomarkers for early diagnosis of multiple myeloma, which will also, hopefully, provide more information to help improve treatment of this deadly disease," he said.

DR. KAI FU WINS AWARD

Dr. Kai Fu has been awarded the prestigious 2008 Young Scientist Award by the Lymphoma Foundation of America for his outstanding work in the pathogenesis and pathobiology of lymphoma.



Dr. Fu joined the department in 2004 and has worked closely with Dr. John (Wing) Chan, who nominated him for the award.

Path/Micro Student Participants 2008 Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum

O-1 SarA BINDS *spa* mRNA

Kelsi L Anderson, Graduate Student (Dunman)

P-6 *Yersinia Pestis* Primase Initiation Specificity and Activity Resembles that of *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* Primase Although Its Zinc-binding Domain Shares Greater Amino Acid Similarity to *Escherichia Coli* Primase

Rafael F Bressani, Graduate Student (Hinrichs)

P-16 Emergent Decision-making in the Dynamics of Biological Signal Transduction Networks

Tomas Helikar, Graduate Student (Rogers)

P-20 Activation of Kupffer Cells is not Involved in the Regulation of Hepcidin Expression by Alcohol in the Liver

Elizabeth B Klein, Graduate Student (Harrison-Findik)

P-30 Up-Regulation of Matrix Metalloproteinase (MMP-13) Expression at the Tumor-Bone Interface Favors Mammary Tumor-Induced Osteolysis

Kalyan C Nannuru, Graduate Student (Singh)

P-46 Proinflammatory Cytokine and Chemokine Production of Bronchial Epithelial Cells in Response to Pulmonary Infection with *Francisella Tularensis*

Debbie L Vidlak, Graduate Student (Jerrells)

P-48 Cathepsin G Regulates Recruitment of Osteoclast Precursors Via Activation Of Protease Activated Receptor-1 in Osteolytic Bone Metastases

Thomas J Wilson, Medical Student (Singh)

P-13 The Effects of Ethanol on Coxsackievirus B3 Infection in Relation to the Activation of the Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Response

Amy L Aldrich (Costello), Graduate Student (Jerrells)

P-31 DNA Microarray Analysis of Bacterial Pathogens

Anna C Jacobs, Graduate Student (Fey)

P-35 Evaluation of Possible Cytotoxicity and Mitogenesis in Microvascular Endothelial Cells Treated with PPAR γ Agonist, Troglitazone

Satoko Kakiuchi-Kiyota, Graduate Student (Cohen)

P-41 High Resolution Comparative Genomic Hybridization and Gene Expression Analysis of Chromosomal Aberrations in Natural Killer-Cell Malignancies

Can Kucuk, Graduate Student (Chan)

P-43 Mapping of Small Stable RNAs (SSRS) In *Staphylococcus Aureus*

Lisa J Kuechenmeister, Graduate Student (Dunman)

P-49 Domain II Nucleotides in the 5' Nontranslated Region Modulate Coxsackievirus B3 Virulence

Johanna M Missak, Medical Student (Tracy/Chapman)

O-8 Transcriptional Analysis of the *S. Epidermidis* Macromolecular Synthesis Operon

Kendall A Bryant, Graduate Student (Hinrichs/Fey)

O-52 Phenotypic Variation and Chromosomal Deletions in *Staphylococcus Epidermidis*

Kathie L Rogers, Graduate Student (Fey),

O-36 Murein Hydrolase Regulators Contribute to DNA Release and Biofilm Development in *Staphylococcus Aureus*

Ethan E Mann, Graduate Student (Bayles)

O-44 Influence of Polysaccharide Intercellular Adhesin (PIA) on Biofilm Maturation in *Staphylococcus Epidermidis*

Michael E Olson, Graduate Student (Fey)

O-16 Ethanol Feeding Results in Pleiotropic Effects in Superoxide Dismutase Null Mice

Tiana V Curry-McCoy, Graduate Student (Donohue)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Satoko Kakiuchi-Kiyota, a toxicology graduate student in Dr. Sam Cohen's lab, was selected as one of 21 UNMC students, to participate in the 2008 International Student Research Forum, held June 1-3, 2008 at UNMC. Satoko was chosen based on evaluation of her abstract by a panel of students from programs across campus.

The annual forum brings together fellow students from The Institute of Medical Science at the University of Tokyo, the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of California, San Francisco, Russia's Moscow State University, the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in India, the University of Melbourne in Australia and the Australian Academy of Sciences.

This is the first year the forum was held in the United States. Students selected for the forum participated in various events and gave a 15-minute oral presentation of their research results.

Bari Fritz, MD has been named as a finalist for the AJCP Resident Research Symposium to be held at the annual meeting of the ASCP in October, 2008.

Dr. Fritz is one of 10 finalists selected for this extremely competitive award for her paper, **New onset of heterophilic antibody interference in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) measurement occurring during the period of post-prostatectomy PSA monitoring.**

The competition is scheduled for October 18, 2008, 8:30–11:00 am at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront.

Neil Rawlinson, MD has been awarded the Midwest Section Richard Marshall Education Award for his poster titled **"Perimeter Increase of Red Cell Concentration in Filter Paper Bloodspot Samples is Consistent with Constant-Load Size Exclusion Chromatography Occurring During Application".**

This award is presented to Clinical Chemistry students, including medical technology, graduate and postdoctoral fellows from Midwest Section states or provinces who presented poster abstracts at the annual meeting.

As a recipient, Dr. Rawlinson received \$1000 in order to attend the American Association for Clinical Chemistry 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 27-31.

Sophia Hauxwell and **Stacey Morrow**, two technologists in the Molecular Diagnostics laboratory, joined the ranks of Certified Histocompatibility Specialists (CHS) in September 2008. Congratulations Sophia and Stacey on passing your certification exam! Technologists that have previously earned their CHS include **Carol Kindig, Krysten (Kookie) Knott, Kaye Shepard, Elizabeth Rubin, and Darla Hook.**

Jill Gerriets has been named the Manager of the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. Sophie Hauxwell had served as the interim manager of Molecular Diagnostics following the retirement of Shirley Shepard. We'd like to extend a thank you to Sophie for her hard work, and a congratulations to Jill on her new position.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Ethan Mann - American Heart Association Pre-doctoral fellowship that started on January 2008.

Kelsi Anderson – Sigm Xi Award of Merit Graduate Student/Resident Oral Presentation. The 39th Annual Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum. Omaha, NE. March 2008. Kelsi is also the recipient of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology cash award for excellence.

Kalyan Nannuru – The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)-Aflac, Incorporated Scholar-in-Training Award for the AACR Annual Meeting 2008.

Humin Geng – 2008 Harris Award for Research in Cancer

Thomas Wilson, B.S (M.D. Hons. Student) - First Place in Poster Presentation, Medical Student, The 39th Annual Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum. Omaha, NE. March 2008.

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Ganesh Suryanarayanan – (Ph.D.) - January 29, 2008

Advisor: Dr. Tony Hollingsworth

"Structural studies on MUC1 based tandem repeat glycopeptides and their interaction with lectin domain of GalNAc-transferase T2" Destination: Applying for postdoctoral positions.

Yi-feng Li – (Ph.D.) - March 28, 2008

Advisor: Dr. Oksana Lockridge

"Expression Systems and Database Developed for Biological, Structural and Bioinformatics Studies of Antimicrobial Peptides"

GOODBYES

RESIDENTS

Craig Nerby, MD is relocating to San Antonio, Texas where he will be stationed at Lackland Air Force Base.

Heather Peck, MD is relocating to Beavercreek, OH and stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Allison Cushman-Vokoun, MD, PhD will be relocating to Nashville, TN for one year.



FELLOWS

William Choi, MD is relocating to China, where he has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Hong Kong.

Steven Hooper, MD is relocating to San Antonio, Texas where he will be stationed at Lackland Air Force Base.



Karen Hanson retired on Friday, April 11, 2008 after 18 years of service to the UNMC and the Department of Pathology & Microbiology. Karen was honored with a farewell tea in the McWhorter room on April 11th.

Marge Boyden retired on May 16th, 2008 after a career at UNMC that spanned more than 35 years. Marge was honored for her years of service with an afternoon tea in the McWhorter room.

We said goodbye to **Dr. Yuri Persidsky** with a farewell party on Monday, June 23, 2008 Dr. Persidsky accepted a position at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia as Professor and Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Kim Christian also left us on June 23, 2008 after 15 years of service to the University. Kim plans to spend some quality time with her two daughters over the summer.

Shirley Shepherd retired in July of 2007. Shirley started at UNMC in 1979 as a technologist in the Hematology laboratory. In 1982 she transferred to the Tissue Typing lab where she later became supervisor. Shirley is enjoying retirement by traveling the country with her husband, Steve, in their RV.

We wish all the best of luck in their futures!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jodi Hubbert, cytotechnologist in our Cytology Department, and her husband Tom, on the birth of their baby boy!

His name is Reece Everett, and he was born at 11:40 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18th, 2008, weighing in at 6 lb 7 oz, and 20-1/2 inches long.



Congratulations to Bari Fritz, MD and family on the birth of her little girl. Lucy Elizabeth was born April 25th, 2008. She weighed a healthy 8lbs 7oz, and was 20 inches tall.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 12, 2008

Pathology / Microbiology Holiday Party
Doubletree Hotel

Publishing Information: The Path/Micro Newsletter is published quarterly.
• Jeanne Bradford, Editor
Please send your contributions to Jeanne at jbradford@unmc.edu.