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Haven Retires ... Leaves Mark on UNMC



Mary is one of the most incredible individuals I have known and had the privilege of working with. She is positive, enthusiastic, and innovative, a true leader who has devoted her career to UNMC. She was nationally prominent in clinical chemistry before she became dean for Allied Health. She will be missed, but we are pleased that she will continue her involvement with distance learning programs locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. I wish Mary the very best in her new role as Emeritus Professor.

Samuel Cohen

Mary Haven has done it — she has retired! Haven joined UNMC in 1968 as a chemist in the pathology and microbiology department, where she mentored medical technologists, developed new procedures, assisted with clinical trials on therapeutic drug monitoring of immunosuppressants, and evaluated new automated analytical instruments.

"It was a great time to be in the lab," she said. "Things were changing so rapidly that in about 20 years, the chemistry field went from manual procedures to automated procedures and from doing a few lab tests daily to thousands."

Thirty-eight years later, Haven says, "This has been the most exciting time in my life. I've worked with wonderful people and the students have been great. It's exciting that the medical center is becoming more nationally known."

UNMC breaking onto the national

scene gives Haven pride because it is a goal she's worked toward since her appointment by then College of Medicine Dean Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

She's been a great leader for Allied Health," said Dr. Maurer, UNMC's Chancellor. "She's highly respected among the chancellor's council members. The accreditation committees are always commending SAHP. She's just done a phenomenal job."

Her love for her work shows in the growth of the school, but also in the devotion from her faculty and staff. Allied Health consistently ranks the highest in campus-wide employee satisfaction surveys. Haven recognizes the strengths of each of her people and not only allows, but encourages, creativity and personal growth.

Mary has been a wonderful leader for the School of Allied Health Professions. Her many accomplishments, her vision, support for distance education and dedication to excellence of the programs will continue to have a positive impact for UNMC, Nebraska, and the entire region for many years to come. It has been a real honor and joy to work with her, first in the Department of Pathology, and then as leader of the School of Allied Health. She has been a friend, mentor, and strong supporter of all of us in the laboratory science professions.

Phyllis Muellenberg

During her tenure at UNMC, Mary was a part of the gyroscope that kept our department, the clinical laboratory, and the Allied Health programs on course. We have all been educated through one venue or another by Mary. I have personally enjoyed working with her both in the department and the College of Medicine over the years.

Rodney Markin

Letter from the Chair



**Samuel
M. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D.**
Department Chair

Mary Haven retired as Associate Dean for the School of Allied Health Programs on June 30, 2006. Mary is one of the most remarkable individuals that I have known. Her enthusiasm for science, clinical medicine, and education are contagious, and there is no way that one can say no to a request from her. She has been a faculty member at UNMC for more than 38 years, and will continue as an emeritus professor, focusing on distance learning programs.

Mary began At UNMC in the De-

partment of Pathology in the section of clinical chemistry in the clinical laboratory. She continued in this position until she became associate dean 10 years ago. During her tenure in the laboratory, she excelled in all aspects of academia, including education, research, and clinical service. Her creativity and expertise were highly sought after by a number of companies, who provided considerable extramural funding for her research. She was also able to obtain funding for numerous education programs, which greatly expanded under her leadership as associate dean. She attained a prominent national reputation in clinical chemis-

try, published extensively in the peer-reviewed literature, and edited a book, *Laboratory Instrumentation*, which was published ultimately in four editions. Much of her success in all that she endeavored was readily attributable to her ability to motivate others to excel.

We wish Mary continued success in her emeritus role, and also wish her and her husband, Dr. Jerry Christensen, well in their travels upon their retirement. They have both earned the right to relax and enjoy their lives, especially to cherish the time they can spend with their children and grandchildren.

Welcomes Extended to Wachter and Kuss



**Keith Wachter, MPA,
MT(ASCP)**
Director, Clinical Lab

Born and raised in eastern Nebraska, Keith attended Wayne State College and took his Medical Technology training at Creighton Memorial St. Joseph Hospital (the "old St. Joseph").

He briefly worked in the laboratories of both St. Joseph and Bergan Mercy Hospitals, before spending 4 years with the Veteran's Administration in Topeka, Kansas. He returned to St. Joseph Hospital to supervise the Hematology section of the laboratory and later became Laboratory Manager there. In 1992 Keith moved to the Des Moines, Iowa area where he served as Administrative Direc-

tor for Laboratory and Respiratory Services until 2004. The past two years,

he has assisted with the deployment of a Six Sigma performance improvement program at Mercy. While in Des Moines, he completed his Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in healthcare administration at Drake University. Keith is excited about becoming a member of the laboratory team at The Nebraska Medical Center and is looking forward to meet the staff and learning about the institution.



Steve Kuss, MBA
Administrative
Director

Steve is all Nebraskan despite growing up in a military family and traveling during his youth. Born at the old hospital on Offutt Air Force Base, his early years were typical

of military service, four years in Bellevue, four more in Italy where his sister was born, then back to Bellevue and then over to Germany and then guess where..... back to Bellevue. After graduating from what is now Bellevue East, Steve attended UNO during the day while working in Security at UNMC at night. "I really enjoyed those years, helping in the ER, paramedic training, driving the ambulances, and helping with whatever else came up. To this day when thinking about a problem I will get up and walk, sometimes tuning out everyone, and grab the occasional door knob to check if it is locked".

After graduating with a business degree Steve changed departments to Budget and Fiscal Analysis, working with Del Lee and Keith Swarts. Continuing his education at UNO in the evenings, Steve earned his MBA and moved to the UNO campus as the Business Director for the

College of Continuing Studies.

After 15 years he took a position in UNO Administration, working on special projects for the Chancellor and the Executive Staff. Looking for new challenges, Steve has returned to UNMC as the Administrative Director for Pathology/Microbiology. "After talking with many of you I was hooked. This department has a lot going on and is sure to challenge on a daily basis." Listen for the rattle of your door knob. Steve plans on getting around and meeting everyone soon.

Personal info: Three kids: Brandon (21), senior at UNL, Biology major, baseball nut, coach and umpire for youth baseball.; Mitchell (15), sophomore at Millard North HS, soccer fanatic; Katrina (13) 8th grade student at Kiewit Middle School, soccer, acting, jazz saxophone and whatever other social thing she can get into. (She really scares me)

Hobbies: Backpacking, biking, kayaking... really anything outdoors.

Personnel Activity

NEW HIRES:

Elizabeth LaFave

Ethan Mann

Laurie Wieting

Derick Njawe

Anuradha Boddeda

Kristi Robey

Jason Booth

Ashish Tiwari

Patrick Olson

Rebecca Vidlak

Adam Kingston

Alice Kueh

Solomon Connealy

Sean Welander

Amy Costello

Tami Lewis

Oluyomi Asojo

Melanie Norton

Kimberly Rothgeb

Benjamin Wagner

Wai Choi

Bari Fritz

Lidia Manouilova

PROMOTIONS:

*Beth Avery

RETIREMENTS:

Mary Haven

JoLene Jones

SERVICE AWARDS (Years)

Samuel Cohen (25)

Mary Barry (5)

Darlene Waters (5)

Shawn Slater (5)

Tricia Aden (5)

NOTE:

Effective June 1, 2006, Personnel Activity Reports must be submitted by the deadline indicated within the notification packet. Failure to comply will result in loss of funding and no new grant accounts will be allowed for the department. If you have questions regarding the new policy, please contact Keith or Maureen.

Grant Funding

OLUWATOYIN ASOJO

•DHHS/NIH/NCI — “Structural Basis of Multidrug Resistance in Cancer” \$117,833; 6/1/2006 -5/31/2007

•DHHS/NIH/NIAID — Structural Basis of Novel Hookworm Vaccines” \$71,774; 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

KENNETH BAYLES

•DHHS/NIH/NIAID — “The Molecular Control of Bacterial Autolysis” \$51,891; 1/1/2006—12/31/2006

WING “JOHN” CHAN

•DHHS/NIH/NCI — “Molecular Signatures to Improve Diagnosis in NHL” \$1,664,061; 6/1/2006 - 5/31/2007

NORA CHAPMAN

•AVI Biopharma — “Cell Culture Test of PMO” \$6,300; 2/15/2006 — 8/15/2006

SAMUEL COHEN

•Bristol-Myers Squibb — “Three-month Oral Investigative Study of Urine Composition in Wistar and Sprague Dawley Male Rates” \$71,824; 2/7/2006 — 2/6/2007

SAMUEL COHEN (cont’d)

•Covance, Inc. — “Urinary Precipitate and Urine Chemistry Evaluations for a Carcinogenicity Study with CS-011 in Rats” \$27,833; 3/6/2006 - 3/5/2007

PAUL DUNMAN

•Merck & Co. — “Develop Methods for Monitoring Bacterial Gene Expression Using Affymetrix Gene Chips” \$85,000; 6/1/2006 - 5/31/2007

KAI FU

•Children’s Oncology Group — “Impact of p14ARF Inactivation on the Pathogenesis and Prognosis of Pediatric BL” \$30,000; 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

•Nebraska DHHS/LB 506 — “Genetic Alterations Essential for the Pathogenesis of FL” \$40,000; 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

TIMOTHY GREINER

•Lymphoma Research Foundation — “Methylation Analysis in Mantle Cell Lymphoma” \$303,482; 2/1/2006-1/31/2007

STEVEN HINRICHS

•US Army — “Proteomic Approach to Identification of Proteins for Evaluation in New Diagnostic Tests” \$120,000; 2/16/2006—10/15/2006

THOMAS JERRELLS

•DHHS/NIH/NIAAAA — “The Role of Immune Responses in Alcoholic Liver Diseases” \$287,091; 7/1/2006 -6/30/2007

STEVE TRACY

•American Diabetes Association — “Coxsackievirus Induction of Insulinitis in Young NOD Mice” \$49,948; 1/1/2006—12/31/2006

•Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International — “Coxsackievirus Modulation of T1D Outcome in NOD Mice” \$159,954; 3/1/2006—2/28/2007

DENNIS WEISENBURGER

•DHHS/NIH, through Northwestern University-Chicago — “Lymphoma Defined Cytogenetically for Epidemiologic Study” \$126,236; 4/1/2006 - 2/28/2007

Weisenburger Named “Top Doctor”



Weisenburger

For nine years (and counting), Dennis Weisenburger, M.D., has been listed in the Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.’s “America’s Top Doctors.” The fifth edition, recently published, aids consumers in finding a good physician.

Physicians are nominated by their peers in a Castle Connolly survey process each year. Physicians are then screened by a physician-led research team who rank

among the best in their specialties and in their communities.

Criteria for making the list include education, board certification, reputation, experience, and disciplinary history, interpersonal skills such as empathy, being a good communicator, educator, and someone who can instill trust and confidence.

Dr. Weisenburger’s specialty of hematopathology/lymphoma landed him the honor, along with 14 other UNMC physicians with various areas of expertise.

Education:

- BA, Univ. of North Dakota
- BS, Medicine, Univ. of North Dakota
- MD, Univ. of Minnesota

Post-Degree Training:

- Intern, Internal Medicine, Ohio State Univ. Hospitals, Columbus, Ohio
- Resident, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Univ. of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa
- Fellow, Hematopathology, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, California

Wickert to Participate in Avian Flu Workshops

Bob Wickert, a molecular microbiologist in the Department of Pathology/Microbiology and the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) has been selected as one of five representatives to travel to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in workshops to help train lab specialists in using PCR to process human specimens to diagnose avian influenza, as well as build their laboratory capabilities.

The National Association of Public Health Laboratories sent a nation-wide email on behalf of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), asking for volunteers with technical experience in PCR techniques for rapid detection of disease. Wickert applied and was selected. He will be part of a team that consists of both CDC and state public health representatives.



Wickert

Nothing will work unless you do.

Maya Angelou

Iwen Awarded Outstanding Teacher for 2006



Iwen

On April 25th, Pete Iwen was honored as an Outstanding Teacher for 2006 during the Chancellor's annual faculty meeting.

Dr. Iwen is an associate professor and a graduate faculty fellow. He has been teaching UNMC students for more than 27 years.

"Pete Iwen teaches at several levels, including medical, pharmacy, physician assistant, medical technology students; pathology residents, and residents and fellows in the section of infectious diseases in internal medicine," said Samuel Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Chair of the Department.

Dr. Iwen was awarded the Bioterrorism/Public Health Emergency Cur-

ricular Enhancement grant. He provided extensive content expertise in the development of three of the eight course modules, including the content on surveillance, epidemiological investigation, bacterial, and viral agents.

"Teaching is a rewarding experience and it's a wonderful feeling to know that by just being myself, I have had the opportunity to not only help a student learn, but have also gained a colleague that I can interact with in the future."

*I find that
the harder I
work, the
more luck I
seem to
have.
Thomas Jefferson*

Boyden Receives Chancellor's Gold U Award



Boyden

Congratulations to Marjorie Boyden for being awarded the Chancellor's Gold 'U'. Marge was named the recipient of the award for her outstanding performance and service.

One nominator said that one of the most outstanding traits Marge displays is her flexibility and "can-do" attitude. "The number of challenges that she has

faced over the years would have driven away a lesser person."

Marge is an Office Associate II located in Wittson Hall. She is the Graduate program coordinator and provides support for Drs. Steve Carson, Toyin Asojo, Donald Johnson, and Rakesh Singh. She has been with UNMC for over 35 years.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow Selects Singh as Mentor

Thomas Wilson, a second-year UNMC medical student and recipient of a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) \$25,000 fellowship, has selected Rakesh Singh, PhD and Associate Professor of Pathology/Microbiology, as his mentor.

Wilson became interested in Dr. Singh's research when he

taught one of the small groups during his second year of studies.

Research on the cellular controls of breast cancer and what triggers it to metastasize to the bone is the perfect fit for this medical student who would like to eventually specialize in surgical oncology.

Wilson is one of 66 medical

students, and the only UNMC student, to receive the \$25,000 fellowship from HHMI.

"It's a great program that will allow me to gather the skills I will need to run a research lab of my own someday, while gathering meaningful data that has the potential to benefit patients."



Wilson

Gladys Pearson Fellowship Award to Nishio



Nishio

Jun Nishio, MD, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the laboratory of Dr. Julia Bridge, has been named the recipient of the *Gladys Pearson Memorial Fellowship in Childhood Cancers*.

This fund was established in 1989 by Dr. Paul Pearson and is used to provide support for a clinical or post-doctoral fellow whose research is related to pediatric cancers. Preference is given to candidates committed to a career in childhood cancer. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of their patient care, teaching, and research activities.

The funds provided to Dr. Nishio will be used to provide support for a research project related to pediatric cancer entitled, "Gene Amplification in Osteosarcoma"

Dr. Nishio arrived in the United States in 2003 to study under the direction of Dr. Bridge. His research efforts have been focused on characterizing cytogenetic and molecular genetic abnormalities in bone and soft tissue tumors. Recently, Dr. Nishio developed a FISH probe set for diagnosing alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, genetically charac-

terized mixed alveolar and embryonal rhabdomyosarcomas and uncovered a rare molecular translocation variant in alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma (*Lab Invest*, 86:547-556, 2006).

Dr. Nishio plans to return to his home country of Japan in August, after a three-year mentoring program provided by Dr. Bridge. He will resume his responsibilities of Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine at Fukuoka University.

Visitor Seeks Experience and Guidance

"I visited the lab to update my knowledge and gain technical experience."



Amare

Pratibha Amare, Ph.D., recently sought the guidance and experience of Dr. Julia Bridge and the

Human Cyto genetics Laboratory at UNMC.

The reputation of the services provided at UNMC in bone and soft tissue tumors led Dr. Amare to Dr. Bridge. Dr. Amare's colleague, Dr. Nirmala Jambhekar, coauthor of the recent WHO Bone and Soft Tissue Tumour Series, encouraged her to expand their cytogenetic/molecular cytogenetic laboratory to include assays for mesenchymal neoplasms.

Dr. Amare's two-week visit

to UNMC in May provided an opportunity to update her knowledge and understanding of solid tumor cytogenetics.

Dr. Amare is the Director of Cancer Cyto genetics of the Tata Memorial Hospital in India. Her lab is highly engaged in hematological malignancies — around 2000-3000 specimens are reported annually. Recently, Dr. Amare became involved in pediatric sarcomas and bladder cancer with an approach to establish genetic diagnostic and prognostic markers.

Donnelly Named Teacher of the Year

Original article printed June 13, 2006 in *UNMC Today*.



Haven and Donnelly

Amber Donnelly, Program Director of Cytotechnology for the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) was named

SAHP Teacher of the Year during the 19th annual awards program and poster exhibition.

This year's Teacher of the Year is a classroom and clinical teacher. In the past year, Donnelly developed the first cytotechnology distance learning program in the United States with the Carle Clinic in Urbana, Ill.

She also is a participant in an innovative Virtual Cervical Cytology project supported by the National Library of Medicine to prepare, evaluate and test the effectiveness of using digitized slides on the Internet for teaching, continuing education and competency testing in

cytotechnology. Donnelly serves on several national committees representing cytotechnologists in the American Society of Cytopathology.

Donnelly's nominators praised her for interesting and challenging case studies, online classroom tools, assignments, and syllabi, and clinical rotation assignments. She also developed games and other interactive learning tools and added a training session on the new automated slide reader technology (at Pathology Medical Services in Lincoln, Nebraska) and several lectures on HPV testing to the curriculum this past year.

Muellenberg Honored with Outstanding Service Award

Original article printed June 13, 2006 in *UNMC Today*.

Phyllis Muellenberg is an icon in the history of the School of Allied Health Professions. In presenting her award, SAHP Associate Dean Mary Haven said: "Phyllis embodies the values and intent of the award as she has dedicated countless hours toward a better future for all of us and is highly deserving. She is a visionary who has always been willing to step up to the plate."

Muellenberg has been involved in medical technology/clinical laboratory science education for 36 years - including 22 as program director - and has a long list of credits.

She became a national model for grants admini-

stration beginning with the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) grant that was awarded to SAHP in 1990.

She has accounted for \$3.5 million in federal funding support for projects benefiting SAHP. Through these projects, UNMC became nationally known for distance education in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, add-a-competency training, recruitment into allied health professions, cultural competency, expansion of allied health programs, degree completion options and bioterrorism preparedness education.



Grayson (friend) and Muellenberg



Chan Named Vickery Professor of Pathology



John Chan, MD

Dr. Wing Chung (John) Chan was named the Amelia F. and Austin L. Vickery, Jr. Professor of Pathology. His term became effective January 1, 2006. Dr. Chan was honored with a dinner on June 23, 2006 at The Embassy Suites Downtown Omaha.



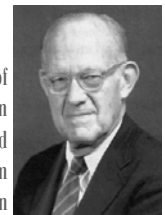
Dr. Wing Chun (John) Chan is the first Amelia F. and Austin L. Vickery, Jr. Professor of Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. John received his medical degree from the University of Hong Kong in 1973 and completed his residency at the University of Chicago in 1979. He became a faculty member at Emory University in 1980. In 1991, he became professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and last year became co-director for the Center for Lymphoma and Leukemia Research at UNMC. He has made innumerable significant and seminal contributions to the field of hematopathology. He has published more than 160 manuscripts, many in premier journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *American*

Journal of Pathology, and Blood. John exemplifies excellence in both diagnostic pathology and in basic research. He is co-author of the Fourth Series of the AFIP Fascicles on Hematopoietic Neoplasms. His research on the clonal nature of Reed-Sternberg cells in Hodgkin's disease and his insights into the pathogenesis of this disease have been highly recognized, as have his recent investigations on array analyses of a variety of lymphomas. He clearly exemplifies the high standards set by Austin Vickery for expertise in diagnostic pathology and in research. We are privileged to have Dr. Chan as a faculty member, and it is highly appropriate for him to be named the first Vickery Professor of Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at UNMC.



Austin L. Vickery, Jr., M.D.
(1919-2005)

Dr. Austin L. Vickery, Jr., a native of Omaha, Nebraska, was a giant in surgical pathology, physically and intellectually. After graduating from the Nebraska College of Medicine in 1943 with classmate and longtime friend Dr. Harry W. McFadden, he trained at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and Cleveland Clinic. He became a staff pathologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1949 and continued in that position until 1998, when health concerns prevented him from continuing in that role. He became professor at Harvard Medical School in 1972, a highly prestigious achievement for a practicing pathologist. He was most known for his contributions to thyroid pathology and the effects and use of radiation in the investigation of thyroid diseases, both in basic investigations and for clinical purposes. Widely



known as a leader in endocrine pathology in general, as well as more broadly in surgical pathology, he was active for many years in the American Society for Clinical Pathology, receiving its Distinguished Service Award in 1992. He published extensively, presented at numerous national and international venues, and was widely recognized as a renowned educator and diagnostician in surgical pathology. His door was always open to anyone who wanted to bring slides to him, a willing consultant, not only concerning the thyroid and other endocrine tissues, but on any diagnostic problem. The generosity of Austin and his wife, Fran, made possible the establishment of both a chair and professorship in pathology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Burkitt's Lymphoma Breakthrough

The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE



Chan

The *New England Journal of Medicine* features an article discussing results of two studies on the molecular diagnosis of Burkitt's Lymphomas involving several European and North American institutions.

One of the research teams was led by Wing (John) Chan, MD, the Amelia and Austin Vickery Professor of Pathology and Co-director of the Center for Lymphoma and Leukemia Research at UNMC, and Louis Staudt, MD,

PhD, Head of Molecular Biology of Lymphoid Malignancies Section at the National Cancer Institute.

Using the gene expression signature for Burkitt's lymphoma, the group was readily able to distinguish Burkitt's lymphoma from DLBCL by the high expression of the *c-myc* target gene as well as a subset of other target genes.

The research was supported through a multi-million dollar Director Challenge Grant awarded to Dr. Chan by the National Cancer

Institute.

In addition to Dr. Chan, other UNMC participants included: Tim Greiner, MD, Dennis Weisenburger, MD, and Kai Fu, MD, Department of Pathology and Microbiology; Bhavana Dave, PhD and Warren Sanger, PhD, Cytogenetics, Munroe-Meyer Institute; Julie Vose, MD, James Armitage, MD, and Martin Bast, Oncology-Hematology.

Molecular Diagnosis of Burkitt's Lymphoma. NEJM 354(23):2431-2442, 2006.

Harris Awards in Cancer Research

Brian Boer and Anguraj Sadanandam, graduate students in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, have been named recipients of the 2006 Norman and Bernice Harris Award in Cancer Research. Each graduate student receives \$500. The scholarship is awarded to graduate students pursuing cancer research. This past fall, an award to recognize outstanding nursing students was also established.

The Harris' interests are in colorectal, breast, and uterine cancer due to their personal battles with these diseases.



2006 Harris Award recipients, from left: Munger, Ashour, Norman Harris, Boer, Vasir, Sadanandam, Lesoing.

Biotechnology Convention Draws 20,000



Nebraska's BIO Booth

Biotechnology Industry Organization, known as BIO 2006, was held in Chicago April 9-12. The Nebraska delegation was among an estimated 20,000 people — including 1700 companies, organizations, and institutions — representing the biotechnology industry.

The goal was to showcase biotechnology inventions, developing inventions, and opportunities for companies to establish

biotechnology businesses in Nebraska.

Nebraska's involvement began in 1999 and Tom McDonald, PhD, President and CEO of UNeMed Corp, UNMC's technology transfer company, has been a regular participant.

McDonald said many business relationships began at BIO.

Rowland and Sambol: Educators of the Year



Rowland and Sambol

On behalf of the Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association (NHMA), Tony Sambol and Josh Rowland received Educator of the Year Awards for their work in helping first responders. The awards were given by Capt. Darin Clark of the Hastings Fire Department and Capt. Troy Shoemaker of the Scottsbluff Fire Department. The awards are the first NHMA has presented.

For the past three years, Sambol and Rowland have been traveling across the state educating firefighters, law enforcement, EMS (emergency medical services), other first responders and public health specialists on the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory preparedness efforts for chemical and bioterrorism threats.

Sambol is assistant director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory, an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology/Microbiology, and has a courtesy appointment in the School of Allied Health Professions' medical technology division. Rowland is a state laboratory trainer in the Department of

Pathology and Microbiology.

In addition, following the 2001 anthrax scare, Sambol helped make a hazardous materials sampling procedure and techniques kit, which was developed by Chief Kent Gilbert and other firefighters at the Hastings Fire Department available to everyone across the state.

"Now we have a standardized kit throughout the state," said Clark, vice chairman of the NHMA. "Tony worked with the haz mat (hazardous material) teams and considered the needs of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory and funded the production of the kits."

Nannuru Attends International Student Forum



Nannuru

Kalyan Nannuru (Mentor: Rakesh Singh, Ph.D.) was selected to participate in the International Student Forum held in Beijing, China from June 30 through July 2, 2006.

The forum brought together students from the United States, China and Japan. In addition to UNMC, the institutions represented were the Graduate Univer-

sity of the Chinese Academy of Science (GUCAS) and Tokyo University. The forum featured research presentations by the students, extensive networking opportunities and collaboration on research.

The title of his presentation was "Inhibition of Osteolytic Bone Metastasis of Mammary tumors by knocking down the expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase 13 and Receptor Activator of NF-kB ligand (RANKL)'.

Visitors

- Fred Beasley — Student, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Univ. of Western Ontario (Dunman)
- Charlotte Dittman — Student, Tufts University School of Medicine (Dunman)
- Abiodun Adibi, Ph.D. — Professor, Hampton University (Dunman)
- Ashish Tiwari — Graduate Student (Cohen)
- Xinlan Shi, MD — China Three Gorges University (Chan)
- Adam Kingston — Medical Student (Hinrichs)
- Oluwayomi Asojo — Medical Student (Hinrichs)
- Jawhar Gharbi, PhD - Fulbright Scholar (Tracy)
- John Mbonifer, PhD - St. Paul's College (Jerrells)
- Pratibha Amare, PhD — Tata Memorial Hospital, India (Bridge)
- Rein Rosenbaugh — Student, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Singh)

Patients Help Fight Cancer After Death

Originally printed in USA Today

(AP) Pancreatic cancer killed William Schunk. Now scientists are using his body to fight back. Within about an hour of his death, researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center began collecting the Omaha veteran's organs as part of a unique "rapid autopsy" program. The goal: To create a library of tissue that could finally point scientists to new ways to diagnose and treat this most lethal of cancers.

Patients help fight most lethal cancer even after death by agreeing to 'rapid autopsy'

"It probably should be called 'rapid organ donation,'" says Dr. Aaron Sasson, a pancreatic cancer surgeon who volunteers his time to help perform the autopsies. "These patients are really donating their bodies and organs to science."

Organs in the chest and abdomen are meticulously photographed, sliced and flash-frozen before genetic evidence starts to degrade. So are samples of skin, muscle, nerves, lymph nodes, blood and urine.

This tissue — 16,000 samples collected from Schunk and 10 others so far — holds vital clues to what causes pancreatic cancer, and what makes it march so aggressively through the body.

A fast autopsy is the only way to get at those clues. Pancreatic cancer is grimly different from breast cancer, for example, where surgically removed tumors are plentiful for research that can lead to new treatments.

Pancreatic cancer seldom is discovered in time to even attempt surgery. Not only is that devastating news for patients, it means frustration in the quest to improve the disease's bleak outcome.

"There isn't any tissue available, ever, for the researchers to study," says cancer professor Michael A. Hollingsworth, who runs Nebraska's rapid-autopsy program. "It's

filling a special niche, I think."

"Patients and their families are amazing, that they realize the importance of trying to do this," adds Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, a pathologist at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, who runs a smaller rapid-autopsy program.

Some 33,700 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year, and 32,300 will die.

There is no early-detection test; early symptoms are vague complaints like indigestion. By the time the classic jaundice, or yellowing skin, and itching appears, the cancer usually has spread. Once that happens, patients typically have only months left to live.

Lack of early diagnosis explains only part of pancreatic cancer's lethality. Overall, less than 5 percent of patients live five years. But even when patients are caught early enough for the arduous surgery — removing parts of the pancreas, stomach, intestines and other organs — just 16 percent will survive that long.

Rapid autopsies have been used in other diseases, such as Alzheimer's and prostate cancer. But the Nebraska and Hopkins programs are generating intense new interest — because they answer an urgent call from a 2001 National Cancer Institute review for tissue banks to help overcome a dearth of research into pancreatic cancer.

One of the biggest questions: Why do some patients die with huge pancreatic tumors while others have tiny ones that prove equally as lethal by seeding themselves throughout the body?

Nebraska's program is the most comprehensive, and most strict, requiring autopsy within two hours of death. Patients may die at home, or the program may pay for them to spend their final days in a hospice. An 18-member team of doctors, pathologists, medical students and scientists is on standby, ready to preserve not just cancer-riddled tissue but top-to-bottom samples that make up a library

open to international researchers.

At Hopkins, Iacobuzio-Donahue has collected autopsy samples from 45 patients, but culls far fewer from each person, focusing more on the initial tumor and sites where it has spread. She will accept autopsies within six hours of death — and, unlike in Nebraska, arranges for out-of-state patients to have autopsies performed by their hometown pathologists, who then ship the samples to her Baltimore lab.

The autopsy costs families nothing and doesn't interfere with normal funeral arrangements. Still, recruiting participants is a balancing act. Doctors don't want to deprive patients of hope, and gently broach the program for those who accept that they're terminally ill.

Schunk, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, had what Sasson calls a typical reaction. "He just said, 'If they can take anything that will help them identify a way to find this sooner, then I am 100 percent for it,'" recalls his daughter, Karen Sater.

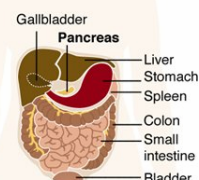
Ardith Hopp of Unadilla, Neb., didn't wait to be asked. Her cancer was caught early enough for Sasson to operate in 2001, and she still feels good despite battling back a recurrence a year ago. But not knowing she'd fare so well, she signed up for the program shortly after surgery, a decision she hasn't second-guessed.

"I'm not afraid of dying. It's going to happen to everybody," says Hopp, 62. "If there's something there they can use, I'm not going to need it anymore."

Donating organs to study cancer

In unique "rapid autopsies," patients dying of pancreatic cancer can volunteer to donate their organs and other tissue to scientists researching what makes this particularly lethal cancer grow.

The abdomen



About the pancreas

- ▶ The pancreas lies high in the abdomen, just behind the stomach
- ▶ It is about six inches long and shaped like a leaf
- ▶ Produces pancreatic digestive juices and insulin
- ▶ Pancreatic cancer will strike 33,700 Americans this year and kill 32,300 of them.

Residency Program



Shane Kohl, MD has been named the recipient of a 4-week rotation in immunohistochemistry with Dr. Allen M. Gown at PhenoPath Laboratories in Seattle. Shane was awarded the resident grant from the ASCP. The ASCP Resident Council Resident Subspecialty Pathology Grant Committee selects individuals for the opportunity.

Shane has also been selected for a one-month Donald West King Fellowship at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the Department of Soft Tissue Pathology.

Welcome New Residents!

Kohl



Manouilova



Torabi



Fritz

Three new residents have joined the Department.

Lidia Manouilova, MD, PhD has joined us from the I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy.

Alireza Torabi, MD, PhD comes from the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

Bari Fritz, MD has arrived from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine.

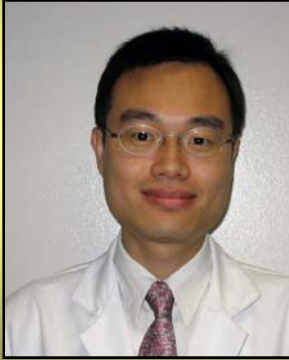
We're glad to have you with us!

NOTE:

Please clean out your Lotus Notes accounts, including your inbox, out-box, and sent folders.

The path server (path uservol) is near capacity. Please delete files or transfer to CDs.

HemePath Fellowship Program



Choi

The HemePath program welcomes two new members this month. Dr. Wai (William) Lap Choi and Dr. Alejandro Arevalo.

Dr. Choi is a Fellow and joins us from Emory University's Department of Anatomic/Clinical Pathology.

He received his medical degree from the University of Hong Kong.



Arevalo

Dr. Arevalo is a Research Associate and has most recently been part of the faculty at the University of Santo Tomas.

He received his MD from the University of Santo Tomas—España, Manila in the Philippines.

Graduate Program

The following graduate students presented their thesis dissertations:

•June 8

Matthew W. Curtis (MS) — Advisor, Dr. Keith Johnson
Aspects of Alpha-Catenin Complex Formation

Destination: Begin work on a PhD degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the College of Engineering, in the program of Tissue Engineering. He will begin a few weeks after receiving his M.S. degree.

•June 13

Brian Farrell (Ph.D.) — Advisor: Dr. Robert Lahue
*Mechanistic Insights into CAG*CTG Contractions in Cultured Human and Simian Cells*

Destination: Return to Medical School

•June 14

Xiaoling Shen (PhD) — Advisor: Dr. M.A. Hollingsworth
Preclinical Models of MUC1-targeted Immunotherapy

Destination: Unknown

•June 16

Jill Pecha (PhD) — Dr. Hua Xiao
Role of Tip30 in Mammary Gland Development and Tumorigenesis

Destination: Return to Medical School

*Inspiration
exists, but
it has to
find you
working.*

Pablo Picasso

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Farewell Wishes . . .

In June, we sadly said good-bye to nine members of our path/micro "team." We wish each of them the best of luck in their endeavors and are anxious to see them again.



Mary Haven, Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions for the past 11 years, retired in June.

JoLene Jones, receptionist for the past nine years, announced her retirement in May.



HemePath Fellow, Vishala Neppali, MD, will join the faculty at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.



Jim and Julie Gulizia are moving to Texas to join Pathology Partners, Inc. in Irving, and Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, respectively.



Resident Kurt Mathews has joined the University of California—San Diego to participate in the surgical pathology fellowship program.



Rachel Stevens, MD will join a private practice in renal pathology in Hutchinson, KS.

John Gentry, MD will begin a surgical pathology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Brent Keenportz, MD, will join the faculty at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, LA in the surgical pathology fellowship program.

Congratulations!

- Megan Slagle, daughter of **Peggy Slagle**, graduated from Harlan Community High School on May 13.
- Congratulations to Nick and **Jennifer Strachota** (and Grandpa **Tom Jerrells**) on the birth of Abby Justine on April 10th. Abby weighed 8 lb. 4 oz. and was 20½". Abby has an older sister, Cassie.
- **Randi Nelson**, Business and Marketing Coordinator for Regional Pathology Services has completed the class hours required for the Masters in Public Health Administration. Randi will be working on her Capstone to complete her graduate degree.
- **Barbara Johnson** was awarded the Silver U in June. Congratulations, Barb, on a well-deserved award!
- **Steve Hinrichs** was presented the *Vocational Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Community* at the Northwest Rotary Club Luncheon on May 2nd.

Announcements

- **Christine Hans, MD** has assumed the responsibility of the M4 student rotations. Any questions should be directed to her or her assistant, Kim Christian.
- **Dominick DiMaio, MD** has recently been named as the Rapid Pancreas Autopsy Program director for Pathology.
- **Attention Faculty and Support Staff:** Please check your web bio to make sure your information is current. <http://www.unmc.edu/Pathology/faculty>. Contact Tuire Cechin for more information (9-4040).
- The **Departmental seminar calendar** can be found on-line at <http://www.calendarwiz.com/unmcpathologyseminars> or by clicking on the Seminars link from the Pathology homepage. Please contact Tuire Cechin at 9-4040 with any questions or comments.

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