



PATH/MICRO.EDU NEWSLETTER

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Issue 24

Seemayer Educational Symposium Big Success



(L to R: Dr. Walter Schurch, Dr. Jean-Pierre de Chadarevian, Dr. Thomas Seemayer, Dr. Christian Nezelof, Dr. Wayne Lapp – Sitting: Dr. Robert Bolande)

On Friday, November 14th, 2003, the Department of Pathology and Microbiology hosted The Thomas A. Seemayer, M.D., Educational Symposium in honor of one of its most honored and longtime pathologists, Dr. Seemayer. Highlights of the symposium included opening remarks from Dr. Harold Maurer, UNMC Chancellor and guest speakers from around the world. Professor Christian Nezelof, from Paris, France, presented, “From Histiocytosis X to Langerhans Cell histiocytosis: A Still Moving Story.” Dr. Wayne Lapp, from Montreal,

(Continued in Column 2)

Seemayer Symposium

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Quebec, Canada, spoke on “Graft-Versus-Host Disease: The Thymus Connection and Beyond.” Dr. Walter Schurch, also from Montreal, Quebec, Canada, presented on “Myofibroblast in Neoplasia,” Dr. Jean-Pierre de Chadarevian, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, spoke on “Ten Years to Make a Diagnosis,” and Dr. Robert P. Bolande, from Pineville, North Carolina, presented on “The Neurocristopathies.”



(Mrs. Lucette Seemayer, Dr. Thomas Seemayer & Dr. Walter Schurch)

All five distinguished speakers were friends and colleagues of Dr. Seemayer. The night before the event, a dinner was held at the Double Tree Hotel to honor Dr. Seemayer’s distinguished career as a pathologist. Attending the dinner were friends, colleagues and relatives of Dr. Seemayer’s, including his wife, Lucette, his daughter, Claire, and many other family members.



(Dr. Sam Cohen and Dr. Thomas Seemayer at the Symposium.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** LETTER FROM THE CHAIR / GOLD U AWARDS
- 4** HONORS AND AWARDS / GRANTS AWARDED
- 5** HONORS AND AWARDS CONTINUED / PUBLICATIONS / DOCTORAL DEFENSE / NATIONAL BIOSECURITY CENTER CREATED
- 6** NEW HIRES / DR. COHEN NAMED DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST

Letter from the Chair

The Department of Pathology and Microbiology has experienced incredible growth over the past five years, evolving into an outstanding academic and clinical department. It is an apt time to plan for continued growth.

In education, several of our faculty have leadership positions, not only in the medical curriculum, but in the curricula of other schools at UNMC. Several of our faculty have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to education with awards from the University and recognition nationally. Extramural support for some of these programs, particularly for the Distance Learning Programs in Medical Technology, has been achieved. Training grants for predoctoral and post-doctoral fellows have also been obtained.

The unification of the former University and Clarkson Hospital laboratories has been completed, and we are in the process of planning for the future of the laboratory so that we can consolidate our present disbursed laboratory facilities into one central home. In addition, our outreach programs for the laboratory have exceeded \$10 million in annual billings and we have clearly become recognized as a regional resource for esoteric testing and consultations in anatomic pathology.

Extramural funding to the department has grown dramatically in the past few years so that we are now over \$10 million in annual funding. Much of this funding support is in the areas of biologic and chemical terrorism preparedness, cancer research, neurosciences, immunology, and infectious diseases. The opening of the Durham Research Center provides a vast increase in space available for research efforts on campus and will help considerably in our continued efforts to recruit outstanding faculty.

Such a dynamic and exciting department is only possible with outstanding individuals. We have been fortunate in being able to recruit outstanding faculty, students, fellows and support staff for all missions of the department. Recent additions to our faculty include Dr. Chris Hans, Dr. Catherine Gebhart, Dr. Anser Azim, and Dr. Kai Fu, and the pursuit of at least three additional



(Dr. Sam Cohen)

Two Receive Gold U Award

Annika Weber, a researcher and Associate Director of the Technology Advancement Group (TAG), was the recipient of the UNMC Gold U Award for November, 2003. Annika received the award because of her “consistent, outstanding performance and creativity at UNMC.” According to her nominator, Annika “has been instrumental in helping other scientists, technicians and graduate students become more productive by contributing to their research, providing technical advice, designing experiments and performing the bench work for many experiments.” In addition to her role as researcher, Annika has been Associate Director of TAG for the past five years. TAG provides resources to add value to UNMC’s intellectual property and to increase the technology’s commercialization potential. As Associate Director, Annika uses her skills and experience to provide data to other scientists to enhance the marketing of their technology.



(Annika Weber)

Outside the research lab, Annika has spent the past 10 years taking care of the costumes for Opera Omaha. In her spare time, she enjoys bicycling, camping, photography and traveling with her husband, Tom, who is a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. They have two grown children and are expecting their first grandchild.



(Julie Ditter)

In January, another Pathology and Microbiology employee, Julie Ditter, was honored with the Gold U Award. As the Administrator for the Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disorders (CNND), Julie is responsible for the fiscal and administrative oversight of the center. In addition to those duties, Julie coordinates business affairs, manages personnel and is responsible for long-term planning and development of the center.

Dr. Howard Gendelman, M.D, Director of CNND, describes Julie as “a tremendous individual, dedicated, professional, intelligent and resourceful.” Julie credits the

(Continued on Page 7)

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Honors & Awards



(Dr. Neil Abrahams)

Neil Abrahams, M.D., was one of nine residents to receive the CAP Foundation/Abbott Training in Technology Award. Dr. Abrahams completed his residency training at MD Anderson Cancer Center before joining our faculty as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and

Microbiology in August, 2003.

Steven Hinrichs, M.D., Professor of Pathology and Microbiology, has been elected as a Faculty Member of Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Society by the members of Alpha of Nebraska Chapter. The election is provisional until the time of initiation in the spring. Among the purposes of $\Omega\Omega$ are the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools and the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students. Dr. Hinrichs was selected because of leadership displayed in his profession.



(Dr. Steven Hinrichs)



(Dr. Yuri Persidsky)

The UNMC Research and Development Committee selected Yuri Persidsky, M.D., Ph. D., Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, to receive the 2004 College of Medicine Joseph P. Gilmore Outstanding Investigator Award.

The Nebraska Medical Center Medical Staff has awarded Jennifer Fontana the Ancillary Staff Recognition Award. This is the first year the Medical Staff has chosen to recognize the ancillary staff.



(Jennifer Fontana)

Mark S. Synovec, M.D., FCAP, Topeka Pathology Group PA, and Volunteer Faculty in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, was one of two pathologists recognized for their leadership in 2003 by receiving the CAP Foundation Lansky Award.

(Continued on Page 5)

Grants Awarded

Steven Carson, Ph.D., Junction Adhesion Molecule CAR and the Immune System. Awarded by: DHHS/NIH/NAID. 1/1/04 – 12/31/04 - \$213,450.

Samuel Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Study No. DM03050 – BMS – 298585 – Three Month Oral Investigative Urinary Bladder Study in Young Versus Aged Male and Female Rats. Awarded by: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. 12/08/03 – 6/04/04 - \$201,531.

Samuel M. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Study No. DM03051 - BMS-298585. Twenty-One Month Investigative Timecourse Study of Urinary Bladder Effects in Male Rats. Awarded by: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. 11/13/03 – 11/12/05 - \$130,533.

Howard Gendelman, M.D., COBRE – CNND Administrative Core. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. 9/1/03 – 6/30/04 - \$27,003.

Howard Gendelman, M.D., Core B: Cell, Tissue & Animal Core – Novel HIV Therapies. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Rochester. 9/1/03 – 8/31/04 - \$210,294.

Tsuneya Ikezu, M.D., Ph.D., COBRE – Recruitment Project – Ikezu. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. 9/1/03 – 6/30/04 - \$54,736.

Peter Iwen, Ph.D., Comparison of the Phoenix ID/AST System to MicroScan Walkway 96 – Marketing Evaluation of Phoenix System sponsored by Becton Dickinson & Company (Protocol 03MT-017-PXUNMC). Awarded by: Becton Dickinson and Company. 10/27/03 – 2/15/04 - \$10,500.

Peter Iwen, Ph.D., Rapid Neg ID 4. Awarded by: Dade Microscan, Inc. 11/12/03 – 03/01/04 - \$15,000.

Larisa Poluektova, M.D., Ph.D., COBRE – CNND Recruitment Project – Poluektova. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. 9/1/03 – 6/30/04. \$91,227.

James Talmadge, Ph.D., Augmenting Innate and Vaccine Immune Response with rG. Awarded by: NIH through the Cel-Sci Corporation. 9/30/03 – 3/31/04. \$41,730.

James Talmadge, Ph.D., Determination of the Anti-Angiogenic and Anti-Neoplastic Activity of Nanoparticles with Adriamycin. Awarded by: NIH through Alnis Biosciences, Inc. 3/10/03 – 3/09/05. \$83,382.

Jialin Zheng, M.D., COBRE – CNND Zheng Project “Cellular Mechanisms for HIV-1 Induced Neuronal Injury. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. 9/30/03 – 6/30/04 - \$58,385.

Honors & Awards

(Continued from Page 4)



(Tony Sambol)

The NCCLS and its Board of Directors presented Anthony (Tony) Sambol, M.A., SM(NRM), with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding volunteer service during the development and successful completion of X4-R, *Planning for Challenges to Clinical Laboratory Operations During a Disaster: A Report*. Tony is the coordinator of the Special Pathogens Laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology.

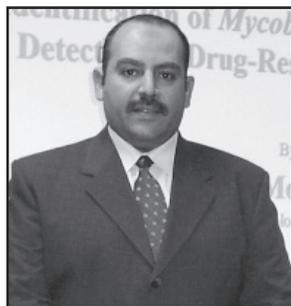
Konnie Zeitner, neuropathology histotechnologist, was recently awarded the Lee G. Luna Foreign Travel Scholarship. The scholarship, awarded annually by the National Society for Planning for Histotechnology, is to be used for histotechnology education opportunities abroad. Konnie is planning to travel to Leeds, England and Edinburgh Scotland to attend education on Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease with the award.



(Konnie Zeitner)

Doctoral Dissertation Defended

Amr Mohamed, Ph.D. Candidate and Graduate Student in Dr. Steven Hinrichs' laboratory, successfully presented his doctoral defense on January 5, 2004. His presentation was entitled "Molecular Approach to Differential Identification of Mycobacterium Species and Detection of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis."



(Amr Mohamad)

Publications

Gilroy, RK, Coccia PF, Talmadge, JE, Hatcher LI, Pirruccello, SJ, Shaw Jr, BJ, Rubocki, RJ, Sudan, DL, Langnas, AL, Horslen, SP. *Donor Immune Reconstitution after Liver-Small Bowel Transplantation for Multiple Intestinal Atresia with Immunodeficiency*. Blood. 2003, October 2. (Epub ahead of print).

Talmadge, JE, and Cowan, KH. 2004. *Gene Therapy in Oncology*. In: Clinical Oncology, 3rd Edition. Editors: M. Abeloff, J. Armitage, M. Kastan, J. Niederhuber, and D. Meloni. Elsevier Science. Philadelphia, PA. In press.

Singh, RK and Talmadge, JE. 2004. *The Evolution of Diversity within Tumors and Metastases*. In: *Fundamental Aspects of Cancer*, volume 1, CAGP series. Editor: RH Goldfarb. Kluwer Academic Publishers. The Netherlands. In press.

National Biosecurity Center for Rural Health to be Created at UNMC

Funding for a National Biosecurity Center for Rural Health (NBCRH) was part of a \$1 million appropriation bill recently approved by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Bush on January 23rd. Steve Hinrichs, M.D., Professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology and Director of the University of Nebraska Center for Biosecurity, believes the NBCRH will facilitate interaction between academic researchers who specialize in infectious disease and researchers focused on agriculture-related fields such as food production and veterinary medicine.

According to Dr. Hinrichs, "the cooperation and the ability to work between the animal and the human diagnostic arenas is especially critical in rural areas of the country to reduce the risks of food being used to deliver a biological weapon." The database to be developed by this funding will contain information on how to contact each person and can be used to send messages electronically to everyone in the system or to just a select group – such as veterinarians in the western part of the state.

New Hires:

Kossi Ali – Laboratory Assistant – 11/03/03
Misty Brestel – Laboratory Assistant – 11/05/03
Tammy Carey – Staff Medical Technologist – 10/27/03
Lisa Cornet – Staff Medical Technologist – 11/17/03
Patricia Cotton – Secretary Specialist – 1/19/04
Kevin Chytil – Research Technologist I – 11/03/03
Elisabeth Deffenbacher – Postdoctoral Fellow – 1/5/04
Randall Fields – Researcher – 11/24/03
Andrew Ferguson – EM Technician – 12/08/03
Lesley Gendelman – Other Hourly Worker – 12/15/03
Ciara Guy – Laboratory Assistant – 11/10/03
Mark Hammel – Histotech – 12/15/03
Christine Hans – Assistant Professor – 1/1/04
Maureen Holbrook – Administrative Tech I – 11/03/03
Tao Jing – Other Hourly Worker – 11/03/03
Jennifer Kopanic – Laboratory Assistant – 11/21/03
Deborah Kuhn – Laboratory Assistant – 11/17/03
Maria Mauricio – Staff Medical Technologist – 11/20/03
Daniel Munt – Graduate Student – 1/12/04
Shinji Sato – Postdoctoral Fellow – 1/14/04
Heather Seeley – Laboratory Assistant – 12/29/03
Jennifer Smithberg – Staff Medical Technologist – 11/06/03
Jennifer Strachota – Research Technologist II – 12/31/03
Shonia Struck – Billing Representative II – 1/5/04
Jennifer Van Evera – Research Technologist I – 12/08/03
Cynthia Vazquez – Client Service Representative – 1/12/04
Wen-Wei Wang – Postdoc Research Associate – 12/18/03
Wei Zhuang – Other Hourly Worker – 1/5/04

Dr. Sam Cohen is Named the Distinguished Scientist in Cancer Research

Samuel Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, has been named the 2004 Distinguished Scientist in Cancer Research by the Foundation for Promotion of Cancer Research (FPCR) of Japan. Dr. Cohen is being recognized for his research on chemical carcinogenesis and his



(Dr. Sam Cohen)

contributions to the issue of the evaluation of the risk assessment of chemicals to humans, especially chemicals in our environment and in foods. During his trip to Japan, Dr. Cohen will present two lectures, one at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo, and the second at Nagoya City University Medical School in Nagoya. The titles of his presentations are “Human Risk of Environmental Chemicals: Man is Not a Rat or a Mouse,” and “Urinary Bladder Carcinogenesis: Aromatic Amines to Arsenic.”

Dr. Cohen, accompanied by his wife, Jan, will be guests of the Japan Academy, as the guests of Dr. Takashi Sugimura, president emeritus of the Japanese National Cancer Center in Tokyo and Chairman of Section II of the Japan Academy.

After receiving the honor in Tokyo, Dr. Cohen will be the plenary speaker at the meeting of the International Academy of Toxicologic Pathology, being held in Kobe, Japan. The title for his presentation in Kobe is “Human Relevance of Carcinogenesis in Rodents.”

Path/Micro Baby Party

The annual Pathology/Microbiology Baby Party will be held on Friday, March 19th in the UNMC Private Dining Rooms. All employees who have had a child or grandchild born in the last year are invited to be guests of the event. Please contact Earline Titsworth in the Chair’s office for more information.

Letter from the Chair

(Continued from Page 3)

faculty members is underway. Five of our faculty have undergone the rigors of the process for academic promotion successfully this year and will rise in rank effective July 1, 2004.

We look forward to the evolution of the planning efforts that are underway and, more importantly, to the implementation of the goals set forth through the process to make this truly one of the outstanding departments in the nation.

Gold U Awarded to 2 Path/Micro Employees

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job and working with a diverse group of people as her motivators, noting that she has had the "opportunity to work with individuals from all over the world, including China, India, Japan, Russia, Thailand, Venezuela, Camaroon, Latvia, Poland, Albania, Ukraine and Vietnam. According to Dr. Gendelman, through her example, Julie inspires others around her to do their best.

In her personal life, Julie, and her husband Randy, stay busy raising their two children, Katie 10, and Will, 6. Julie also stays active playing volleyball and teaching CCD classes.

Congratulations To

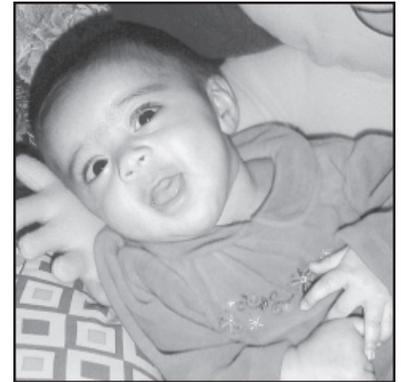
Shirley Bonneau in Clinical Services. Shirley celebrated her 30th anniversary with The Nebraska Medical Center in January.

Robin Hartley in Regional Pathology Services. Robin graduated from Bellevue University on January 24, 2004. Her major is Business Administration with a minor in Spanish.

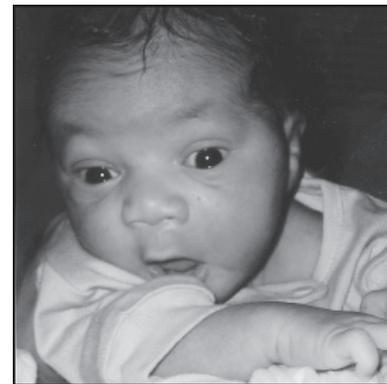
New Arrivals

Samantha and David Stott became proud parents of a new baby girl, Jaicee, born November 19th. Jaicee weighed 8 lb, 8 oz.

Dr. Hina Naushad and her husband, Naushad Querishi, became parents for the second time with the birth of their daughter, Laila, born November 27, 2003. Laila weighed 7 lb, 13 oz.



(Laila Naushad)



(JayVont)

Paula Barte-Williams and retired UNMC employee, Walter Williams, became new grandparents on January 21, 2004, with the birth of their grandson, JayVont. Proud parents are Brandon and Stephanie. JayVont weighed 7 lb, 6 oz.

Barb Johnson also became a grandmother again this year with the birth of her first granddaughter, Isabel Cassandra. Isabel was born on January 28, 2004. She weighed 7.1 lbs and was 19" long. Mom, Tasha Reyes, and baby are doing fine.



(Isabel Cassandra)

Happy Birthday To:

November Birthdays

11/02 - Alok Dhar
Thanh Thach –
Sue (Linda) Thornton
Trent Walters
Dennis Weisenburger
11/04 - Marcia Anderson
11/07 - Holly Mixan
11/08 - Kay Nielsen
Peggy Slagle
11/09 - Konnie Zeitner
11/10 - Barb (Jodi) Booth
Laura Marsh
11/12 - Peter Iwen
Brenda Jerishin
Anita Young
11/17 - Jennifer Smithberg
11/18 - Andi Hudson
11/20 - Toby Hardiman
Lyn Pfaltzgraff
11/22 - John Baker
Mary Barry
11/23 - Cynthia Jolliffe
11/24 - Sharon Sorensen
11/25 - Lynn Arrieta
Jane Mutum
11/28 - Jamie Carrell
Jeff Gehring
Christine Thomas
11/29 - Ben Hinrichs
Li Wu

December Birthdays

12/01- James Degner
12/02 - James Akers
12/04 - Mary Kolar
12/05 - Francene Harms
Bryan Knipe
12/09 - Christine Hans
12/10 - Crystal Clinchard
Kathy Talmon
12/14 - Katrina Matthews
Jay Nelson
12/15 - Denise Timko
12/17 - Don Rowland
12/19 - Rachel Reed
12/20 - Shelley Herek
12/21 - Alicia Lopez
Kavita Patel
12/23 - Jodi Christensen
12/24 - Micki Bethea
12/25 - Robert Wickert
12/26 - Colleen Yates
12/27 - Julie Ditter
12/28 - Mervin Olberding
12/29 - Betty Ellenberger
12/31 - Traci Anderson
Na Ly

January Birthdays

1/01 - Abdruman Addi
Karen Hansen
Ron Rubocki
Glenda Pierce
1/02 - Glenda Felber
Darla Hook
Robert Janes
Ximena Paez
1/06 - Kyung Soo Kim
1/07 - Kevin Chytil
Dominick DiMaio
Dalton Johnson
1/08 - Gay Wernett
1/09 - Jean Bailey
1/10 - Ana Vargas
1/11 - Ken Kono
1/12 - Leelamma Staley
Harouna Zouladeny
1/13 - Robert Guerin
1/16 - Elizabeth Rubin
1/17 - Deb Bergman
Nell Ingraham
Stephanie Walden
1/18 - Mary Damon-Burke
1/19 - Melissa Koch
Travis Lewis
1/21 - Yoshimi Enose
Erin Scdoris
1/23 - Steven Hinrichs
1/24 - Tsuneya Ikezu
1/25 - Michael Arington
1/28 - Carol Ern
1/29 - Masaru Yamamoto
1/30 - Shinji Sato
1/31 - Susan Brusnahan

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