PATH/MICRO.EDU NEWSLETTER

May, June, July – 2004
Issue 26
James Booth Receives
Golden Apple

Dr. James Booth, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology and Year Two Co-Director, is this year's recipient of the Golden Apple Award. The award is presented each year by the local AMSA (American Medical Student Association) chapter to M1 and M2 faculty members who, in the students' opinion, have excelled in educational endeavors. The award is one of the highest teaching awards that a faculty member can receive.

Dr. Booth is a major contributor to the educational programs on campus and continues to accumulate awards and recognition. We congratulate him on an outstanding job and for receiving another tribute to his accomplishments.

Allied Health Receives
HRSA Grant

The Career Advancement through Distance Education Technology (CADET) Project HRSA grant proposal from the School of Allied Health Professions has been funded in the amounts of $470,048 over a three year period. Karen Nichols, MS, RT(R)(M) (Primary Investigator) and Linda Fell, MS, MT(ASCP) (Co-Project Director) will lead efforts to provide access and opportunity for medical laboratory personnel (MLTs) to earn their B.S. degree in medical technology with required laboratory components at their site of employment, and diagnostic imaging technologies (RTIs and NMIs) to earn their B.S. degree in radiation science technology from UNMC. These technologies will be able to complete their degrees, while they continue to live and work in their own communities, through distance education courses online.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3 Letter from the Chair/Grants Awarded
4 New Employees/Farewell Tea for Steve Leiberg
5 Manuscripts Published/Residents Corner
6 Dissertation Defenses/Summer Students/Honors
7 Anniversaries/Congratulations/Path/Micro Picnic

The degree completion programs will be available regionally and nationally. The SAHP and the RSTE Divisions currently deliver several courses online and continue to add course offerings to the online curriculum. Karen Honeycutt, IMEd, MT(ASCP) is directing the adaptation of medical technology curriculum for delivery online in this project.
Letter from the Chair

Change seems to be the only constant, bringing with it challenges and opportunities. New faculty, new residents, new fellows, and new students to start a new academic year. Moves to new buildings, moves to old buildings, laboratory redesigns, new equipment, and new technologies. New research center, new addition to the hospital, new clinics and facilities to be built in west Omaha, along with designs for additional new research and education buildings for the main campus in the near future. New science. Truly an exciting time at UNMC and in the world of biomedical research, education, and clinical service.

In addition to all of these more common changes, a member of our department, Dr. Howard Gendelman, has been named Chair of the Department of Pharmacology at UNMC, to be effective September 1. His move to a new department will also carry with it many of the members of the Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disorders (CNND) from our department. Hosey and the other faculty at the CNND have been highly productive in research, and undoubtedly, this will continue in this new arrangement. We wish Hosey and his colleagues continued success.

While this change is occurring, new faculty, Dr. Paul Dunnan and Kai Fu, are joining the department, and additional trainees are underway. We are pleased also to have three new residents in Pathology, along with a new histopathology fellow, and additional graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Constructing growth of the clinical and anatomical laboratories, Regional Laboratory, the state public health laboratory and biological and chemical terrorism preparedness programs have also increased the need for additional individuals in the department.

The strength of the department is entirely dependent upon the individuals in it, and it was exciting to celebrate their numerous accomplishments of this past year with a departmental picnic held at the Henry Doorly Zoo. As Chair, it is gratifying and exciting to see the accomplishments and growth of the faculty and others in the department as well as to recruit new individuals with their vitality, enthusiasm and challenges.

Grants Awarded:


Howard Gendelman, M.D., Blood Brain Barrier Physiology and HIV Dementia. Awarded by: DHHS/NIH/NIH/NIAID. 7/1/04 - 6/30/05 - $376,454.

Howard Gendelman, M.D., Immunopathogenesis of HIV Neurological Disorders: Project 2: Monocyte Immunity and HIV-1 Induced Dementia. Awarded by: NIH through the University of Puerto Rico. 10/1/03 - 9/30/2004 - $119,719.


Steven Hartich, M.D., Nebraska Bonneroszcz Fund, Focus Area D: Laboratory Capacity - Chemical Agents. Awarded by: Nebraska DHHS. 7/31/2003 - 9/30/2004 - $218,593.


(Continued on Page 7)
New Employees
Lyndulcia Brazilina – Research Technologist I – 5/8/04
Patti Brou – Staff Assistant – 7/26/04
Cari Connors – Billing Representative III – 6/1/04
Tisa Cartney-McCoy – Graduate Student Fellow – 7/1/04
Allison Cashman-Volkmann – House Officer I – 7/1/04
Kathryn Dailey – Secretary Specialist – 7/12/04
Paul Dunham – Assistant Professor – 7/1/04
Nathan Erdmann – Graduate Student Fellow – 7/20/04
Melina Fladeth – Research Technologist I – 5/18/04
Kroey Hanson – Laboratory Assistant – 5/17/04
Gerri Hollman – Lab Assistant – 7/19/04
Jamie Krueger-Goense – Lab Assistant – 6/21/04
Vishnu Nigulipalli – House Offier V – 7/11/04
Craig Nesby – House Officer I – 7/11/04
Kreis Olimi – Clinical Assistant III – 7/7/04
Heather Peck – House Officer I – 7/7/04
Raghava Potlala – Postdoctoral Research Associate – 7/1/04
Shirine Serai – Residency Program Coordinator – 6/28/04
Laura Sched – Researcher – 6/16/04
Victoria Smith – Research Technologist II – 6/1/04
Leigh Ann Thigpen – Lab Assistant – 5/24/04
Gabrielle Tyree – Lab Assistant – 5/24/04
Lisa Walters – Research Technologist I – 5/17/04
Lori Zobel – Research Technologist I – 7/26/04

Humor –
The one important thing i have learned over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking one's self seriously. The first is imperative and the second dangerous.

- Margaret Fordey

Farewell Tea Held For Steve DeBerg

A farewell/retirement tea was held for Steve DeBerg, Director of the Clinical Laboratory, on Thursday, July 22, 2004, in the Private Dining Room. Steve joined the Department as Clinical Director and as instructor in the Medical Technology Program in January, 2000. He had previously been employed at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

(L to R: Sharron Jackson, Steve DeBerg, Karen Hansen & Diane Schaffer)

Steve is retiring from the medical field, but not from the work that he truly loves – cooking. He and his wife, Cindy, are planning to build a home in northern Illinois in the near future. Their long term goals include travel, opening a culinary arts program and continuing with their longtime hobby as wine connoisseurs.

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BRTP Recruits 9 New Graduates

The Biomedical Research Training Program (BRTP) has recruited nine new graduate students for the upcoming year. These students will begin their first year this fall and will rotate in laboratories of the five basic science departments to find a laboratory for their doctoral work.

Our department will have the opportunity to present our research and meet these students on August 16, 17 or 18*. If you have an interest in recruiting a student to your laboratory for rotation in the 2004-2005 academic year, please contact Marge Boyden (mboyden@uicms.edu or ext. 94040) to arrange presentation of your research and a chance to meet these new graduate students.
Residents’ Corner

Welcome to the Residents’ Corner!

Let me start by introducing myself. I’m a third-year resident and I have recently accepted the position as the Resident Coordinator for Pathology. I have been working at the residency program for the past two years and I’m excited to bring my experience to this position.

Coordinator for Pathology: I have been working at the residency program for over two years and I’m excited to bring my experience to this position.

Welcome, Tina

We would like to welcome our three new first-year residents who started the program on July 1, 2004. Allison Cushman-Yovan, Craig Netby and Heather Pears.

Congratulations, Tina


(Continued on Page 7)
Dissertation Defenses

Jodi R. Ah, Ph.D. candidate, gave her Doctoral Dissertation on July 26, 2004: "The Role of Mdm2 in Lymphomagenesis and dDNA Repair." Her advisor is Dr. Christine Etchen.

Cory Berndt, Ph.D. candidate, gave his Doctoral Dissertation on June 2, 2004: "The role of the CCAAT box and NF-Y in the differential regulation of the GOF-4 gene." Cory is in the M.D./Ph.D. program and will be returning to medical school. His advisor is Dr. A.A. Rivizzo.

Robert Korturn, Ph.D. candidate, gave his Doctoral Dissertation on May 21, 2004: "The Molecular scaffold KSR1 in ERK activation and determinants of proliferative, oncogenic and adipogenic potential." Robert Korturn is in the M.D./Ph.D. program and he will be returning to medical school. His advisor is Dr. Robert E. Lewis.

Valerie Penning, M.S. candidate, gave her Master of Science Dissertation on July 23, 2004: "Identification and Characterization of TIP30-Interacting Proteins." Her advisor is Dr. Hua Xiao.

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Summer Students of 2004

The Department of Pathology and Microbiology would like to acknowledge the following students who participated in the 2004 Summer Students Program and the researchers with whom they worked:

CNND Labs Hosted: Oluwafiyayo Adjuyigbe, Robin Coetter, Sierra Gendelman Sara Gordon, Michel Kawarzeg, Timothy McNally, Tolulope Olade, Anastasia Pensillosky, Rivka Reedly, Jennifer Beloff, Jessica Schutte, Christopher Shi

Dr. Sam Cohen’s Lab Hosted: James Sczibor

Dr. Steve Hinrichs’ Lab Hosted: Sarah Hanson, Curt Safianek & Jason Uher

Dr. Thomas Jerrell’s Lab Hosted: Coziana Gibbons, Danielle Pelt & Quinna Seigh

It is easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn’t.
- Martin Van Buren

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Honors

Anthony Sambol, MA, SM(NRM), SV (ASCSP, CBSP), Assistant Professor in the School of Allied Health Professions and Assistant Director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory, was presented with a Homeland Planning Team award in June, 2004. They received the honor for their outstanding service to the State of Nebraska as a member of the Governor’s Homeland Security Planning Team.

The work was completed for the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on behalf of the State and University of Nebraska system. Team members were honored for being "instrumental in the development and carrying out of the State Homeland Security effort, especially the 2004 strategy development, data assessment and implementation activities."

Douglas Sickle, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, will serve as President of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry (ABCC) for a two-year term (2005-2006). The ABCC provides certification examinations in clinical chemistry, toxicology and molecular diagnostics for doctoral level scientists. ABCC board certification is a requirement under CLIA regulations for Ph.D. directors of clinical chemistry laboratories.

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Grand Rounds 2004/2005

The speakers for the Grand Rounds fall session of 2004 have been finalized and will include an interesting list of topics. This year Grand Rounds will be held in the School of Nursing Auditorium on the first Wednesday of each month. Speakers are still needed for the January-May, 2005 sessions. Please contact Dr. Dennis Wiedenburger if you have ideas for local or national speakers.
Grants Awarded
(Continued from Page 3)

Congratulations To:
- Joshua Barfman and Vive Schner who returned from Military Service in Israel after being gone nearly 18 months. Welcome Home!
- Catherine Mosemsri who passed her ASCP Phlebotomy certification exam.
- Marc Tompkins, Janice Tompkin’s son, who graduated from UNMC with the degree of Doctor of Medicine on May 14th. Marc began a preliminary year of Internal Medicine at the University of Massachusetts at Worcester on July 1st.
- Michelle and David Vaney on the birth of their baby boy, Colis John. Colis was born on June 30th. He weighed 7 lbs, 3 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Huge Turnout at Path/Micro Picnic
Saturday, July 10th, was the perfect day for a picnic and hundreds of Path/Micro employees and their families did just that. Dr. Samuel Cohen, Chair, and Dr. Rodney Markov, Vice Chair, hosted the all day event at the Henry Doorly Zoo, which included a picnic lunch and access to all the zoo exhibits, including the train, train rides and the IMAX feature.

Manuscripts
(Continued from Page 5)

Anniversaries
The following Pathology and Microbiology staff celebrated anniversaries this year at the University of Nebraska Medical Center/The Nebraska Medical Center:
30 Years of Service:
- Shirley Bonneau, Cheryl Cole, Barbara Miller, Barbara Nielsen, Kevin Olsberg, Anne Rice & Diane Weber
25 Years of Service:
- Milena Gerken, Shirley Shephard & Delinda Sundlof
20 Years of Service:
- Beverly Lavio, Deb Lytle, Phyllis Orliboom & Barb Swizer
15 Years of Service:
- Nanette Crompton, Mary Damon-Bufal, Kurt Fogarty, Margaret Hausen, Susan Holmes, Robert Janes, Catherine Marcella, Cynthia Pago, Kaye Shephard, Katharine Sawyer & Keith Young
10 Years of Service:
- Gayla Davis, Kevin Klahr, Robin Taylor & Thad Thach
5 Years of Service:
- Kathleen Greene, Junior Jerrells, Barb Johnson, Veena Kastenstein, Melissa Kach, Periina Lassey, Jean Lien, Lois Mage, Allisson McConchie, Michelle Petersen, LeeLoma Scales, Jennifer Strachst, Aria Vargas & Monica Wilcox