Dear Friends & Colleagues!

Welcome to the first Chair’s report in 2018!

The provincial Lab Services Transition and Lab Hub Projects are advancing at the project pace in their planning activities. The third round of functional programming is completed, and Schematic Design will start in late March / early April. Regular meetings of Lab Leadership are taking place developing the governance model for the new Lab entity as a wholly owned subsidiary to AHS. In parallel, the Naming Process for this new entity is underway. The Build Phase of EPIC as the new provincial electronic health record ‘Connecting Care’ is fully underway in the Edmonton Zone. These large-scale transformative projects will shape our future and I’m personally very grateful to all members from our department investing their time, energy, and commitment to make this a successful transition of Lab Services & Pathology in Edmonton and all Alberta over the next 4 years!

Please join me in welcoming our new faculty members and students (page 3 of the report) and in congratulating Ms. Lisa Purdy for being appointed as Assistant Dean, Graduate Students Affairs in the Office of Learner Advocacy & Wellness.

Please review our Spotlight on Education. In this issue the Forensic Pathology Residency Program is introduced to you. Our program is one of only three in Canada and the only one in Western Canada. Having this program as part of our department is a great asset since it positions us to cross train many learners from our pathology related training programs. The Forensic Pathology Residency Program (Director: Dr. Mitchell Weinberg) just received full accreditation as did all our other residency programs in Anatomical Pathology (Director: Dr. Will Chen), General Pathology (Director: Dr. Dean Tung and Dr. Andrea Macyk Davey), and Hematological Pathology (Director: Dr. Kathleen Wong) after comprehensively being externally reviewed in November 2017. This is an outstanding success! I would like to recognize the hard work and significant leadership of our Program Directors achieving this fantastic outcome. This would not be possible without the countless hours all members of our department contribute to teaching! Thank you for your tremendous efforts and ongoing, commitment, and support of our training programs. Effectively, January 01, 2018 the residency training program for Medical Microbiology has been transitioned from the Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology to our Department in Laboratory Medicine & Pathology. Simultaneously Dr. Kinga Kowalewska-Grochowska transitioned the Program Director role to Dr. Hong Zhou. This transition will allow us to align the training in Medical Microbiology better with our clinical operations in this area while working on the transition to the Lab Hub and to synergize more with the Clinical Fellowship training program in Microbiology.

Mark your calendar for the 2018 DRIvE Days scheduled for April 13 & 14, 2018 and also the 2018 Banff Pathology Course which we again plan and organize together with our colleagues from the University of Calgary and in partnership with the Canadian Association of Pathologists and to be held on September 05. - 02. 2018 – topic will be Thoracic Pathology!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Mengel, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
University of Alberta
Interim Zone Clinical Department Head
AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone
Spotlight on Education

Forensic Pathology
Residency Program

Dr. Mitchell Weinberg - Program Director

Forensic pathology has been practised in Canada for many years, but the field was only recognized as a distinct subspecialty by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2009. Prior to that time, Canadian forensic pathologists, whether Canadian or from another country, sought their forensic pathology training outside of Canada (such as in the United States or the United Kingdom), and then plied their trade across Canada. But since 2009, Canadians who wish to pursue their forensic pathology training in Canada can do so without having to leave the country. At present, there are three training sites approved by the Royal College for forensic pathology residency training, two in Ontario (McMaster University and the University of Toronto), and the University of Alberta. As Ontario is a Coroner system of medicolegal death investigation, that makes the University of Alberta program the only Medical Examiner training site in the country as of 2017. Forensic pathology is an extremely small subspecialty in North America, with less than 600 forensic pathologists estimated to be actively practicing within Canada and the United States, including approximately 50 in Canada.

Forensic pathology is a subspecialty of pathology that deals with examination of deceased persons for the primary purpose of determining cause and manner of death. We do this by evaluating decedents for the presence or absence of both natural disease processes and injuries, and utilize various ancillary tests such as toxicology, histology, and microbiology. For each case, we consider the patient's past medical history, the circumstances of the death (including findings at the scene when applicable), and all examination and ancillary test findings. We use this information to offer our best opinions on the underlying cause of death (which is defined as the natural disease process or injury that initiates a cascade of events that ultimately leads to death, no matter how brief or long a period of time) and the manner of death (which is the circumstances of death, with the primary manner of death categories being natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or undetermined).

The primary prerequisite for training in forensic pathology is successful completion of a Canadian residency program in Anatomic or General Pathology. Forensic pathology training is generally one year in length, with the overwhelming majority of the resident’s time is spent working on cases under the supervision of the various staff forensic pathologists at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Edmonton (located walking distance from Foote Field).

Continued …..
Forensic Pathology - Residency Program (cont’d)

The OCME operates under the Alberta Fatality Inquiries Act, which is the provincial legislation that governs what we do, and under the leadership of Drs. Elizabeth Brooks-Lim (Chief Medical Examiner, based in Edmonton), Enrico Risso (Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Edmonton), and Sharon Boone (Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Calgary). The residency Program Director is Dr. Mitchell Weinberg, and the Program Administrator is Laura Cline. All other OCME pathologists serve as core teaching faculty (which at present includes Drs. Cecilia Wu and Bannach in Edmonton and Drs. Tera Jones, Bamidele Adeagbo, Allison Edgecombe, and Angela Miller in Calgary, for a total of 10 full time forensic pathologists). Our current resident is Dr. Eric Bol. Dr. Bol is originally from British Columbia and completed his residency training at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver; however, he was no stranger to the Alberta OCME prior to July 2017, having completed an elective rotation in Edmonton during his residency training, as well as a medical student elective in Calgary.

The University of Alberta has a great asset in the forensic pathology residency program, which shows the joint benefit both the Pathology Department and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner enjoy through this relationship.

Residency Programs Accreditation

Our 4 residency programs received full accreditation status in November 2017:

- **Anatomical Pathology, Director: Dr. Will Chen**
- **Forensic Pathology, Director: Dr. Mitchell Weinberg**
- **General Pathology, Directors: Dr. Dean Tung and Dr. Andrea Macyk-Davey**
- **Hematological Pathology, Director: Dr. Kathleen Wong**

Thank you to everyone who is directly involved in running our residency programs and also to everyone in our department across the whole Edmonton Zone for their contributions and countless hours dedicated to training our future colleagues!

Without each of you supporting our training programs directly or indirectly every day, we would not be able to celebrate such success!

*Congratulations!!*
**Grants**

Dr. Ben Adam:
University Hospital Foundation Medical Research Competition. $35,000. 01/2018-12/2018. Principal Investigator. “Molecular injury and repair assessment in ex vivo perfused human lung transplants”.

Dr. Mathew Estey:
University Hospital Foundation Medical Research Competition Grant ($34,500; 1 year). “Validation of fructosamine as a screening test for cystic fibrosis-related diabetes (CFRD)”. Co-Principal Investigator – Dr. Winnie Leung.

Dr. Iyare Izevbaye received a grant of $154,215 (with Dr Saini of Hematology as coPI) from the Marshall Eliuk Fund for “Clinical Innovation in Hematology for Mucosal Analysis of Myeloid Neoplasms by Next Generation Sequencing”.

Dr. Lori West has received the following grants:
1. “Scale up” preparation of regulatory T cells (Tregs) from discarded human thymus for adoptive cell immunotherapy: Moving garbage to gold”. West LJ (PI). University Hospital Foundation – Alberta Transplant Innovation Fund. $100,000 Total Funding; October 2017-September 2018.
2. “Alberta Diabetes Institute T1D Immune Tolerance Grant”. Light P (PI); West LJ (Co-PI). Alberta Diabetes Foundation Donation. $55,852 Total Funding; May 2017 (Grant received in West Lab in November 2017) – April 2022. ($10,000 Total to West Laboratory).

**New Appointments**

Dr. Janet Elliott has been appointed as:
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board of Langmuir (American Chemical Society journal of colloids and surfaces), Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2019
- Member, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) College of Reviewers, Sept. 19, 2017 – present

Dr. Chris Le has served as a member of an CIHR grant panel.

Dr. Laura Schmitt was appointed as Neuropathology Resident Rotation Director, effective September 2017.

The Department welcomes the following new members:
- Dr. Terence Agbor - Clinical Lecturer
- Dr. Mona Anand - Assistant Clinical Professor
- Dr. Sumit Das - Clinical Lecturer
- Dr. Quentin Nakonechny - Assistant Clinical Professor
- Dr. Enrico Risso - Assistant Clinical Professor
- Dr. Albert Tsui - Assistant Professor
- Dr. Hong Yuan Zhou - Assistant Clinical Professor

**Awards & Honours**


Ms. Anne Halpin received $7,000 for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry 75th Anniversary Award.
Office of Learner Advocacy & Wellness

Ms. Lisa Purdy
Assistant Dean
Graduate Student Affairs

What is the Office of Learner Advocacy & Wellness?
Safe and confidential place to seek out resources and support any situation that might affect your ability to perform at your best. Examples:
- Mental and physical health concerns
- Situations of harassment or intimidation
- Personal crisis
- Academic issues
- Accommodation requirements for events like pregnancy, time off of training, or disabilities

What can the Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Affairs help you with?

♦ Navigating a graduate studies program is a fulfilling feat BUT sometimes difficult and stressful.
♦ My goal is to be your resource person when difficulty and stress happen.
♦ Confidential and safe place to come with academic or personal issues.
♦ Listen to your concerns as you talk through a problem, provide advice, refer to other university services, act as your advocate and “go to” person.

I’m here to help! Please feel free to contact me at anytime at: lpurdy@ualberta.ca or 780-492-3150
Milestones

We are proud to announce that the following students have completed their programs:

Doctoral:

Jiaying Liu (supervisors, Jonathan Martin, Irina Dinu). Her thesis is titled *Exposure, Placental Transfer, and Neurodevelopmental Effects of Bisphenol A (BPA) and BPA-Alternatives*.

Yanna Liu (supervisor, Jonathan Martin). Her thesis is titled *Target Monitoring and Non-target Discovery of Halogenated Contaminants in Water, Wildlife and Humans*.

Yung-Hsing (Winston) Huang (supervisor, Raymond Lai) passed his doctoral candidacy exam.

Awards

A number of students received awards that acknowledge their research/support their graduate programs:

- Jagdeesh Uppal received a FoMD / AHS Graduate Student Recruitment Studentship.
- Evelyn Asiedu, Gurnit Kaur, Betty Kipkeu, and Mahalakshmi Kumaran each received a Medical Sciences Graduate Program Scholarship.
- Angela Ma received a 75th Anniversary Graduate Student Award.
- Janet Zhou receive the HE Bell Scholarship.

Graduate Students

We welcomed 1 student to our programs this winter:

Jiaao Yu (MSc student, Xiaoli Lilly Pang, supervisor)
**Presentations**

**Dr. Jason Acker:**

**Presentations:**

   - “Current state of the quality of cryopreserved red cell concentrates”.
   - “What do we know about the quality of stored red cells”.
   - “Can the production of blood products be used to reduce TRIM?”

2. BEST LIV Meeting, La Jolla, CA, Oct 5, 2017.
   - “Donor factors and blood processing methods that contribute to red cell hemolysis”.
   - “ACP-215 cryopreserved red cells: Proposal to evaluate international exchange of products”.

**Dr. Ben Adam:**

**Abstracts:**


**Dr. Laura Canterbury:**

Jeffery Tompkins, Joseph Andrews, Laura Canterbury.


**Dr. Penny Colbourne:**


**Dr. Jelena Holovati:**

1. American Association of Blood Banks Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (October 2017)
Presentations (cont’d)

Dr. Jelena Holovati (cont’d):

Dr. Mireille Kattar:

Dr. X. Chris Le:
Was invited to present the following lectures:

Dr. Michael Mengel:
Invited lectures:
1. American Society of Transplantation Fellows Symposium on Transplant Medicine (September 15. – September 17.) 2017 Dallas, Tx, USA
   - “Histopathologic features of Antibody Mediated Rejection”
   - “Organ Discard: Role of Biopsy”

Ms. Lisa Purdy:

Dr. Karina Rodriguez-Capote:
1. Rodríguez-Capote K and Nuria Gimenez-Gomez. “Perceived competencies and need of training regarding the practice of evidence based medicine among medical laboratory professionals”. IFCC World Lab. Durban, South Africa, October 22 2017
Presentations (cont’d)

Dr. Lori West:
1. Alberta Glycomics Centre, Scientific Advisory Board Meeting (SAB), Invited Speaker, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, December 5, 2017. Co-presenter: Dr. Chris Cairo. “Glyconanotechnology in transplantation”.
   - Invited Keynote Speaker, Keynote Lecture 1, Basic. “Team science for donation and transplantation: advances in ABO immunobiology, cell therapy and ex vivo organ perfusion from the Canadian National Transplant Research Program”.
   - Invited Speaker, Session: Bench to bedside in organ transplantation. “Characteristics of Anti-ABO antibody response in transplantation”.
   - Invited Speaker. Session: Women in Transplantation Meeting. “How to approach gender issues in a professional field”.
   - Invited Speaker, “ABO glycomics in transplantation”.

Recent Publications

Dr. Jason Acker:
Publications:

Dr. Ben Adam:
Publications:

Dr. Craig Chatterton:
Recent Publications Cont’d ...

Dr. Sumit Das:

Dr. Tanis Dingle:

Dr. Steven Drews:

Drs. Janet Elliott & Locksley McGann:
Dr. Mathew Estey:

Dr. Jelena Holovati:

Dr. X. Chris Le:

Dr. Michael Mengel:

Dr. Karina Rodriguez-Capote:
Peer-reviewed papers
Dr. Karina Rodriguez-Capote: (cont’d)


Dr. Laura Schmitt:


Dr. Consolato Sergi:


DRiVe

Discovery, Research, Innovation and Education

Friday, April 13
&
Saturday, April 14, 2018

Edmonton Clinic Health Academy
University of Alberta

Detailed information, including registration and program for the two days, are posted on our website (www.uab.ca/drive).

We are now accepting abstracts for the “Discovery & Research and Innovation Sessions” that are scheduled on Friday, April 13, 2018. The deadline for submissions is midnight, Sunday, March 04th. Details are posted on the website under Abstract Submissions.
The focus for 2018 is **Thoracic Pathology** and will provide a forum for sharing information on current molecular diagnostics in the era of personalized medicine.

**OBJECTIVES**

After attending this course, participants will be able to:

- Deliver basic diagnostic approaches in thoracic pathology as a non-subspecialized pathologist
- Review recent up-dates in neoplastic and non-neoplastic thoracic pathology
- Describe novel insights from molecular diagnostics in thoracic pathology
- Discuss diagnostic pitfalls and limitations in thoracic pathology