Dear Friends & Colleagues!

Welcome back after the Summer Break! I hope you all are recharged and well prepared to enter the next phase of our major transformative projects:

The Edmonton Lab Hub Project continues to advance on schedule. Hub Lab Schematic Design is close to completion and initial foundation work for the building is scheduled to start this winter. Design plans for the building have been shared during lab transition “Big Meetings” and an open house for the adjacent communities will be held on October 30, 2018 during which Alberta Infrastructure and the Design firm will be presenting models and animations of the building design and answer questions. In parallel a strategic plan and business plan for the integrated translational research space is under development, which is paired with the drafting of a large scale CFI grant pre-application. Both are due for implementation in 2019. Together these will position the Hub Lab as a state-of-the-art translational research, innovation, and clinical care facility.

The regular meetings of Lab Leadership are continuing after the transition to Alberta Public Laboratories (APL) as a wholly owned subsidiary to AHS. Over the next 2-3 months all staff will be transitioned to APL and the new organizational structure (renamed leadership positions and committee structure) will be implemented.

The Build Phase of EPIC as the new provincial electronic health record ‘Connect Care’ is fully underway and we are only one year away from implementation in the Edmonton Zone.

Thank you very much to all of you for your continuously investing your time, energy, and commitment to work on these large scale transformative projects and making them a success for Lab Services & Pathology in Edmonton and all Alberta!

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Chris Le for his exceptional achievement in receiving the 2018 University Cup, the highest honour the University of Alberta is awarding to faculty members of outstanding distinction. Please read more about Chris’ major contributions and achievements recognized through this award (page 9).

Way to go for Dr. Jelena Holovati being recognized by Canadian Blood Services for her leadership and work as the Director of the Edmonton Stem Cell Manufacturing Program (see page 8).

Continued …
Letter from the Chair (cont’d)

Please review our Spotlight on Education. In this issue our Microbiology Residency and Fellowship Programs are introduced to you. The Medical Microbiology program was recently transitioned to our Department and Dr. Hong Yuan Zhou is doing a fantastic job in effective integrating the program into our clinical operations and academic environment and with that, positioning it well to transition to competency-based medical education by 2020. The two-year Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Program just received full accreditation under the leadership of Dr. Tanis Dingle – congratulations! Both programs are synergistically aligned and represent a critical source for the future workforce needed in this specialty.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Andrea Macyk-Davey as the new Program Director for our General Pathology Residency Program and Dr. Bryony Walker as the new Assistant Program Director for our Hematological Pathology Residency Program.

Mark your calendar for the 2019 DRIVe Days (April 12.-13.2019) and Banff Pathology Course, the latter again planned and organized 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. - 07. 2019 – topic will be Breast 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
The Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

October 2018

Spotlight on Education

Medical Microbiology Residency Program
Dr. Hong Yuan Zhou - Program Director

and

Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program
Dr. Tanis Dingle - Program Director

Medical Microbiology Residency Program

The Medical Microbiology residency program is a five year post graduate medical training program in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta. It is designed to facilitate the development of expertise in medical microbiology, and for residents to acquire broad-based clinical and laboratory experience to meet training requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The inherent flexibility within the program allows it to accommodate and fulfill special interests of the trainee and initiate further advanced training in a chosen area. Completion of the program prepares residents to function as Medical Microbiology specialists covering different activities including but not limited to clinical consultations, administrative leadership of microbiology laboratories, infection prevention, infection control and surveillance, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Rotations primarily take place at the Provincial Laboratory of Public Health for Alberta, at the University of Alberta Hospital and at a private diagnostic laboratory, DynaLIFEDx. Our faculty members have expertise and interest in a wide variety of fields including the core disciplines of bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, molecular microbiology and laboratory management. The program provides diverse curriculums and educational activities including Boot Camp, weekly Academic Half Day sessions, journal clubs, bench rounds, Infectious Disease rounds and Virology rounds. The trainees are encouraged to participate in research projects in all areas of microbiology, infectious diseases, public health, epidemiology, infection control and laboratory management.

2018/2019 Residents
Dr. Luiz Lisboa
Dr. Clayton Macdonald (Chief Resident)
Dr. Laura Burnes
Dr. Peet van der Walt
Dr. Heather Glassman
Dr. Sean Ling
Dr. Xiaofeng Ding
Dr. Ying Yu
Dr. Ifueko Joan Adegh
Dr. Bohdan Savaryn (dual training ID/Med Micro)
**Missing: Dr. Sean Ling & Dr. Bohdan Savaryn**
Dr. Sean Ling. Dr. Ling was recently appointed Diagnostic Program Liaison for PARA (2018/2019) and is also a CMA Ambassador.

Congratulations to Dr. Clayton Macdonald. Dr. MacDonald is one of this year’s recipients of the Dr. T.A. Kasper Resident Excellence Scholarship. The award is given to a Medicine Resident with superior academic achievement demonstrated by excellence on the residency exam. Dr. MacDonald is also the Chief Resident for the 2018/2019 Academic Year.

The Medical Microbiology Residency Program welcomed Dr. Ifueko Joan Adeghe to the program in July 2018.

Our program recognizes the importance of Quality Management. Most of our residents have taken the Quality Improvement Workshop presented by the PGME office.
Dr. Luiz Lisboa is in his fifth and final year of the program and will graduate in 2019. We asked him to share a bit about himself and what he has accomplished during his residency.

I am an MD PhD IMG, with previous training in Infectious Diseases, currently completing my residency Medical Micro (PGY5). My interests in Microbiology are broad, but best exemplified by my ongoing clinical and research work in antimicrobial susceptibility testing, infection prevention and control, and genomics, and by my previous translational research work in infections in transplant recipients.

Publications (research performed during residency only)


Abstract presentations (research performed during residency only)

Lisboa LF, Croxen MA, Boyd D, Dingle TC, Lee BE, Li V, Smith SW, Taylor G, Mulvey MR, Chui L. Evidence of Circulation of blaGES-5 Carbapenemase Within and Across Clinical Strains of Pseudomonas aeruginosa at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Alberta. AMMI CACMID 2018. JAMMI 2018:3(S1):17 (oral presentation)


Committee/Appointments
Chief Resident – 2017/2018 academic year
Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program

The Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program at the University of Alberta is a full time, two-year program designed to train Ph.D. graduates in clinical microbiology. An optional third year may be spent conducting an applied translational research project. The purpose of the program is to train those who wish to pursue a career as a clinical microbiologist in a laboratory where both medical microbiology and applied research activities are conducted. Training encompasses clinical laboratory rotations, didactic lectures, hospital rounds and clinical seminars covering all aspects of clinical microbiology. The primary location of training is at the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health at the University of Alberta Hospital. At the completion of training, fellows are eligible to sit for the Canadian College of Microbiologists (FCCM) exam.

The program generally accepts one trainee every two years. Natalie Marshall began her two year fellowship in July 2018.

******************************

Dr. Natalie Marshall

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Grants

Dr. Linda Chui was awarded grants for the following projects:


Dr. Michael Mengel received a grant for $250,000 CAN from Roche Pharma Canada and Astra Zeneca Canada for a project entitled “Precise, Accessible, Cost-effective Implementation of Omics technologies and interventions: Liquid biopsy in Cancer Care”.

Drs. Janet Elliott & Locksley McGann received the following grants:


2. $65,324 Sub-grant to PI JAW Elliott from Stanford University “Cell and tissue preservation to construct a Human Cell Atlas”, Oct. 2017 – Sept. 2018

3. $50,000 Alberta Innovates CASBE and NSERC Engage: “Cryopreservation of livestock udder-cells derived mesenchymal stem cells” March 1, 2018 – Feb. 28, 2019, PI JAW Elliott.

Dr. Consolato Sergi is Co-Pi in ”Understanding changes in structure and function of the tricuspid heart valve in children with heart disease using a piglet model”. PI: Dr. Nee Seze Khoo, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta. Funding Agency: WCHRI

New Appointments

The Department welcomes:

- Dr. Erone Farog - Assistant Clinical Professor
- Dr. Barry Kyle - Clinical Lecturer
- Dr. Michelle Parker - Clinical Lecturer
- Dr. Mark Pepler - Associate Clinical Professor
- Dr. Artur Szkotak - transitioned from Faculty to Clinical Faculty as Associate Clinical Professor
- Dr. Harry Vinters - Clinical Professor

Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following on their promotions effective July 1st:

- Dr. Maruf Saddik to Clinical Professor
- Dr. Greg Charrois to Clinical Associate Professor
- Dr. Andrea Macyk-Davey to Clinical Associate Professor
- Dr. David Ross McLean to Clinical Associate Professor
- Dr. Roger Hsu to Clinical Assistant Professor
- Dr. Cheryl Mather to Clinical Assistant Professor
- Dr. Elona Turley to Clinical Assistant Professor
- Dr. Tyler Verdun to Clinical Assistant Professor
- Dr. Liena Zhao to Clinical Assistant Professor

Awards & Honours

Dr. Michael Mengel received the 2018 Clinical Science Established Investigator Award from the American Society of Transplantation. This award is granted once per year to:

1. a senior clinical scientist in the field of transplantation at the Professor Level.
2. Who made significant contributions and be recognized as an expert in his/her field.
3. Who did service to the AST

Continued...
Awards & Honours (cont’d)

Dr. Jelena Holovati
Associate Professor
Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology

Dr. Holovati was recently profiled by Canadian Blood Services (CBS) about her work as a Canadian Blood Services Adjunct Scientist and her role as Laboratory Director of the Edmonton Stem Cell Manufacturing Program. Please see link for full article: https://blood.ca/en/research/research-education-discovery/meet-researcher-dr-jelena-holovati

Dr. Holovati was first introduced to Canadian Blood Services in 2002, as an MLS student working on a validation project in a blood component production. This experience led her to LMP graduate program, during which she was supervised by two Canadian Blood Services’ scientists, Drs. McGann and Acker. She was supported by a CBS graduate fellowship award and completed a PhD thesis focused on innovative ways to cryopreserve red blood cells. Dr. Holovati then accepted a faculty position at the LMP Department, University of Alberta and started focusing on her academic and professional interests in the fields of transfusion, transplantation and cell therapy. She was invited to join Canadian Blood Services as an Adjunct Scientist and now supervises undergraduate and graduate students working on Canadian Blood Services’ funded projects, so she says she feels she has came a full circle from her MLS student research days.

As Laboratory Director of the Edmonton Stem Cell Manufacturing Program, Dr. Holovati is involved in multiple development, validation, and quality improvement projects in the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Laboratory. For example, in March 2017, they were the first lab in Canada to implement an automated process for plasma reduction during processing of hematopoietic stem cells, a change which improved stem cell product quality and safety for the patient.

Apart from her laboratory leadership service and research activities, during the university semester, Dr. Holovati is quite busy with teaching and serving on many provincial, national and international transplant committees and laboratory standards groups. As an educator in the division of the Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Alberta, she is involved in education and training of MLS and medical undergraduate students, as well as MSc and PhD students in the Graduate Laboratory Medicine Program.

Dr. Holovati says that “Seeing all the wonderful things undergraduate and graduate students end up doing after I’ve had the privilege of mentoring and supporting them, even for a short while, makes me feel like I’m contributing to the development of tomorrow’s laboratory medicine leaders and visionaries.”

Thank you Dr. Holovati for your dedication to research and education!

Photo and article courtesy of Canadian Blood Services
Dr. X. Chris Le has been awarded the **2018 University Cup**. “The University Cup is the highest honour this university can bestow on a member of the academic staff and is awarded only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, and service to the university and the community at large. Thus, the recipient of the University Cup is a leader whose scholarly work has merited international attention, whose teaching and student supervision ability is highly esteemed by colleagues and students alike as exceptional, and who has earned outstanding regard from the community which favours both the individual and the university”.

The University President Dr. David Turpin presented the University Cup to Dr. Le at a special ceremony on October 12, 2018, when the Provost & Vice-President Academic Dr. Steven Dew and Vice-President Research Dr. Matthias Ruth also recognized Dr. Le’s scholarly achievements and contributions. (See full article at: [https://blog.ualberta.ca/2018-university-cup-recipients-3e0dd88c5486](https://blog.ualberta.ca/2018-university-cup-recipients-3e0dd88c5486))

Dr. Chris Le joined the University in 1994 as a Killam Post-Doctoral Fellow. In 2011 he was selected as a Distinguished University Professor, a position he still holds today. He was elected as a Fellow in the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom in 2016. He has obtained more than 23 million dollars in research funding, has 250 referred journal publications, 10 approved or pending patents, 27 non-referred publications and has done 400 conference presentation and abstracts. His research links chemistry to toxicology, clinical medicine and public health with three major themes: arsenic chemistry and toxicology, DNA damage biomarkers, and novel techniques for protein detection, enabling trace-level, environmentally and clinically relevant exposure and outcome research.

*Congratulations Dr. Le!*
General Pathology Residency Program

As of July 1st, Dr. Andrea Macyk-Davey took over the position of Residency Program Director for General Pathology from Dr. Dean Tung.

Andrea completed her medical degree and residency training in General Pathology at the University of Alberta, and provides clinical service at the Grey Nuns Hospital.

Hematopathology Residency Program

Effectively Oct 15th, Dr. Bryony Walker will assume the role of Assistant Program Director for our Hematological Pathology Residency Program.

Bryony joined our department in 2015 as a hematological pathologist from South Africa. She will join Dr. Kathleen Wong in leading the Hematological Pathology Residency Program with the prospect of transitioning the program to Competency Based Medical Education.

Pathologists’ Assistant Program

Effective Oct 15th, Dr. Erin Chapman will assume the role of Director for our Pathologists’ Assistant Program. Erin served as Assistant Program Director together with Dr. Monika Keelan over the past year to transition into this role.

Dr. Keelan continues her role as the Director of Graduate Studies / Graduate Coordinator.
Graduate Studies

Milestones

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

Doctoral:

Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Dr. Sambasivarao Damaraju, supervisor). Her thesis is titled “Identification and characterization of a novel premenopausal breast cancer locus and insights into copy number variations for disease predisposition and prognosis”.

Lacey Haddon (Dr. Judith Hugh, supervisor). Her thesis is titled “Increased estrogen receptor expression leads to a novel DNA binding signature which differentiates luminal A and luminal B breast cancers”.

Sudha Bhavanam (Dr. Steven Drews, Dr. Dennis Kunimoto, supervisors). Her thesis is titled “In vitro model of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb): Impact of donor BCG vaccination and T regulatory cells on host immune responses and Mtb growth”.

Master’s Students, Pathologists’ Assistant Program:

Ainsley Chan, research project titled “Scope of practice descriptions vary for Pathologists’ Assistants in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario” (Danielle Lee, Dr. Monika Keelan, Dr. Cheryl Mather, supervisors).

Fatema Dhalla, research project titled “Evaluation of human identity determination ordering practices in the Edmonton Zone” (Dr. Cheryl Mather, supervisor).
Graduate Studies (Cont’d)

New Students

We welcome Wenhui Li, Nicholas Wawryk and Nishaka William to our thesis-based research program, as well as Lillian Feng and Laura He-nao Caviedes to our course-based Pathologists’ Assistant program.

Awards

Wenhui Li has received a China Scholarship Council Scholarship to support her graduate studies.

Pathologists’ Assistant Program

Danielle Lee, a Pathology Scientist at the Misericordia Hospital, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Pathologists-Association canadienne des pathologistes for her work in initiating the certification of Pathologists’ Assistants/Pathology Scientists in Canada. The award was presented in Quebec City at the July 2018 annual meeting of the CAP-ACP.
Presentations

Dr. Jason Acker:

**Presentations:**


3. 35th International Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion, Toronto, ON, June 6, 2018.


   - Turner, T.R., Ben R. and Acker, J. “Ice recrystallization due to transient warming of red cell concentrates can be mitigated by novel small molecule inhibitors”. Poster.


Dr. Benjamin Adam:

1. American Transplant Congress, Seattle, WA, June 2-6, 2018:


Presentations (cont’d)

Dr. Benjamin Adam (cont’d):


3. Beyer D, Adam B. “An Emerging Post-Cardiac Surgery Complication: Tip of the Iceberg?” Banff Pathology Course, Banff, AB, Sept 6-8, 2018

Dr. Laura Canterbury:

Dr. Linda Chui:

Dr. Matthew Croxen:

Dr. Tanis Dingle:

Drs. Janet Elliott & Locksley McGann
The 55th Annual Meeting of the Society of Cryobiology, July 10–13, 2018 Madrid, Spain:


3. Kezhou Wu (Poster presenter), Nadia Shadrnt, Leila Lauuar, Rachael Dong, Janet A. W. Elliott, Locksley E. McGann, Nadr M. Jomha “Multi-cryoprotectant efflux from porcine cartilage after a shorter loading protocol with additives” Runner-up for Best Student Poster Presentation; Travel Award.

Dr. Judith Hannon:
Abstract Posters presented at ISBT, Toronto, ON June 2-6, 2018.


Dr. Jelena Holovati
Poster presentations at the International Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion, Toronto, Canada (June 2018).


Dr. Mireille Kattar
Oral presentation at the Banff Pathology Course Sept. 5-8, 2018 entitled “Clinical Microbiology For the Thoracic Pathologist”.
Dr. Michael Mengel:
Invited lectures:
3. The Transplantation Society International Congress (July 01. – 05.) 2018, Madrid, Spain: “Clinical Science Session: Becoming Precise - Transplantation Pathology”
4. Canadian Association of Pathologists, Annual Meeting (July 07.-11.) 2018, Quebec City, Canadian: “Renal Pathology Workshop – Transplantation Pathology”.

Dr. Heidi Paulin

Dr. Josh Raizman:

Dr. Albert Tsui:
Abstracts presented at Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists, Ottawa, Ontario, June 2018
1. Brun M, Füzéry AK, Higgins T, Tsui AKY. “Effects of hand delivery vs pneumatic tube system transport on ammonia results”.
2. Tsui AKY, Füzéry AK, Venner AA, Cembrowski GS. “QC performance for Roche Accu-Chek Inform II glucose meter: An opportunity for QC reduction.”

Dr. Jason Acker:
Published Abstracts:

Publications:
Recent Publications Cont’d ...

Dr. Jason Acker (cont’d):

Publications:

Dr. Benjamin Adam:

Peer-reviewed papers:

Dr. Linda Chui:

Dr. Sumit Das:
2. Sumit Das, “Two unusual cases of high grade gliomas with eosinophilic granular bodies representing diagnostic dilemmas”. Clinical Neuropathology 2018; Accepted for publication.

Dr. Steven Drews:

Peer reviewed manuscripts
Recent Publications Cont’d ...

Dr. Steven Drews (cont’d):

Standards and Guidelines

Dr. Jelena Holovati:


Dr. Nausherwan Mahmood:


Dr. Michael Mengel:

Peer-reviewed publications

Dr. Josh Raizman:


Dr. Consolato Sergi:

Here my publications of July 1-Sep30:
Recent Publications
Cont’d ...

Dr. Farshid Siadat:

Dr. Albert Tsui:

2019
SAVE THE DATES....

April 2019

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Banff Pathology Course