

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

URMC DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

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BAILEY ROAD MOVE BECOMING REALITY



The needs of today's clinical laboratories are not what they used to be. In fact, many of the laboratories at the Medical Center were designed in the 1920s or 30s.

"I'm guessing they were state-of-the-art 90 years ago," said department chair, Bruce Smoller, M.D. "We all know that we're in desperate need for more, modernized space so that we can make a laboratory that reflects where we're going and not where we've been."

This set the tone for the long awaited groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the forthcoming laboratory facility at Bailey Road in Henrietta this past October.

The University-funded development project has long been talked about, but is now materializing, with a tentative completion date of fall 2018 for the first of two phases.

Medical Center leadership believes that bringing operations under one roof will not only improve workflow for outpatient testing but provide ample space for the department to better accommodate steady growth and changing technology.

"We couldn't be prouder of the work from our laboratory pathology leadership, faculty and all our staff," said hospital Chief Operating Officer, Kathy Parrinello. "With the construction of this building, we are creating a modern laboratory facility that encourages collaboration among faculty and staff and allows us to accommodate the growing volume that we have."

Last year 7.6 million tests were run at Strong Memorial Hospital. This volume continues to grow as the institution takes on specimens from affiliate hospitals. At least 65 percent of all non-acute testing is planned to move, along with 600 staff, once the whole project is complete.

Targeted Timeline:

October 2017 – Construction for Phase I began.

October 2018 – Construction slated for completion.

Equipment validation starts.

February 2019 – Phase I labs open for business at Bailey Road.

Spring 2020 – Phase II construction slated for completion.

Throughout this clinical relocation process, the department remains strongly committed to research and education. Each of its 15 active research laboratories will remain at URMC, and faculty with clinical responsibilities will have office space(s) that allow them to continue their research.

The robust educational programs including the residency, fellowship, and graduate programs, as well as the newly-launched medical technology program, will all stay on campus.
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dr. Bruce Smoller

Time flies by and with it, the ongoing projects seem only to gain in strength and in speed. We had the Bailey Road groundbreaking ceremony back in October to celebrate the long anticipated construction of new laboratory space. The plans for the move are very tightly coordinated and our faculty and staff have done a superb job preparing for the move, which is now scheduled for just over a year

from now.

We continue to work in earnest with our affiliated hospitals, as well as with other community hospital-based practices and hospitals, to build a consolidated, central UR Medicine Laboratory. The department has been front and center in conversations with the leadership and Boards of Directors of many of these facilities in recent months. We are making progress and will likely fully realize this plan within the next year or two. Again, our faculty and staff have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and willingness to attack the future creatively and optimistically.

Speaking of faculty, I am thrilled to present a spate of new faculty members as an acknowledgement of our rapidly growing and evolving mission. Dr. Ioana Moisini has joined our subspecialty sections in breast and gynecologic pathology. Dr. Moises Velez has joined the thoracic pathology section.

Dr. Helene McMurray has joined the HLA and Molecular Pathology divisions and Dr. Maria Cecilia Reyes has joined the group of Affiliated Hospital Pathologists, spending the majority of her time working at FF Thompson Hospital. Our ranks have expanded by 15 pathologists over the past few years as the Medical Center administration realizes just how rapidly our workload is growing. There are several more vacant positions that we are currently recruiting for, and I look forward to introducing even more new faculty in short order.

Our administrative leadership team held an off-site retreat at which plans were developed to develop a new infrastructure that will enable the department to effectively manage a centralized laboratory, two major sites of laboratory operations and multiple outlying community hospital practices. While these plans are not yet finalized, we are acutely aware that our landscape is undergoing a revolutionary change and are attempting to stay ahead of the changes. I am optimistic that we will succeed.

I want to express my sincere thanks to our faculty, staff, friends and alumni for their continued support as we move forward with this ambitious agenda that will result in a complete transformation of the department. I am committed to accomplishing these changes without in any way sacrificing the academic or educational missions. Thank you all for your positive feedback, contributions and encouragement during this major transition period.

SAVE THE DATE

Are you coming to USCAP 2018? You are cordially invited to a cocktail reception for alumni and friends of the department on **Monday, March 19**. Please stay tuned for more details.

MEET THE NEW FACULTY

We are pleased to welcome four new faculty who joined the department in September.



Ioana Moisini, M.D., Ph.D.

Service: Breast, Gynecologic Pathology

Fellowships: University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), Magee-Women's Hospital of University of Pittsburgh.



Maria Cecilia Reyes, M.D.

Service: Affiliate hospital division, based at FF Thompson Hospital

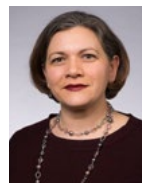
Fellowships: Roswell Park Cancer Institute, University of Miami (Fla.)



Moises Velez, M.D.

Service: Surgical Pathology, specializing in Thoracic Pathology

Fellowships: Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Tufts Medical Center



Helene McMurray, Ph.D.

Service: HLA and Molecular Pathology; she provides expertise in bioinformatics and biostatistics.

Education: Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology and Immunology, URSMD

BAILEY ROAD MOVE BECOMING REALITY (CONT.)



The first confirmed lab areas to move to Bailey Road in Phase I of the project include all operations from the Ridgeland Road site. That site is currently under lease and is home to the Reference Laboratory, Microarray, Clinical Trials, a portion of Specimen Receiving, Outreach, Client Services, and Courier Services.

The hospital-based labs moving in Phase I include parts of Chemistry and Hematology, Specimen Management, and Microbiology. Sections of Phlebotomy management, scheduling, and services for nursing and home draws will also be based at Bailey Road.

Acute (inpatient or emergency) testing, James P. Wilmot Cancer Center testing, and on-campus clinic testing will remain at SMH. All non-acute (off-campus) and reference laboratory

testing will be performed exclusively at Bailey Road after Phase I.

There are no anticipated plans for interruptions to service for providers or affiliates as laboratories work through the transition and equipment validation periods.

With the new space comes room for new instrumentation – especially for labs that have been restricted due to small or fragmented lab space. Microbiology, for example, will add large automation that won't fit in its current space.

“The new facility will allow us to collaborate in ways that have never been possible before, and to work smarter than we do today,” said

Vicki VanDeWalle, director of performance improvement and Projects for the department.

The layout of new laboratories has been designed to encourage different areas to interface with one another, VanDeWalle explained. Now that they will exist together under one roof, staff will be able to collaborate on the same specimens more quickly; making work flow efficiently from the time a specimen is received to when the physician receives the final report.

“This facility is done by the lab, for the lab,” she said. “When we come into this new space, we'll know that our needs are met and have a great sense of pride and accomplishment for our new surroundings.”



STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

More than 60 department staff were recognized for serving 10 or more years (measured in 5-year increments) at the annual recognition luncheon on Oct. 25.



MEIKLEJOHN RETIRES AFTER FOUR DECADES

Congratulations to Barbara Meiklejohn, Chief Supervisor of Chemistry, who retired in October after 42 years of service in the department. We wish you well!

STOLER LOOKS BACK ON ACCOMPLISHED CAREER



Mark H. Stoler, M.D. has deep roots at the University of Rochester, from starting as an undergraduate and staying through residency, to later becoming a faculty member in Pathology and Gynecology.

Stoler was the chief Pathology resident in 1984 and

cytopathology fellow in 1985, later becoming an assistant professor. He was one of several department faculty (Drs. David Wilbur and Margaret Fallon, to name a few) who were born and raised in Rochester, graduated from local high schools and continued their careers at UR.

“I sound like an old guy when I say this, but when you look back on your career, it’s all about the relationships,” said Stoler, who now lives in Charlottesville, Va. with his wife, Paula Piccini. They have two daughters and two grandsons.

Though it’s been six years since he retired from the University of Virginia, Stoler says he’s “semi-retired” and maintains a full schedule of speaking engagements centered on management of cervical cancer. In October, he received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from the publisher, Marquis Who’s Who.

We caught up with him recently, and here is an edited version of that conversation.

Were there people you encountered at Rochester whom you consider mentors?

Yes, there are several. The first would be Don Stuard, who taught me in medical school and then convinced me to try pathology in my first year of residency. There were also Drs. Thomas Bonfiglio and Stanley Patten and a whole cadre of cytotechs who were mentors to me – Mary Ann Rutkowski, Karen Atkinson, Mike Facik, and others. The structure that Stan (Patten) had set up really had the techs acting as teachers of residents.

What was it about pathology that first drew your interest?

I was in a department where AP and morphology were very strong, and took a liking to it. At Rochester, surgical pathology and cytopathology were very tightly integrated in that you’re using both tissue and cytologic samples to dictate patient care. Diagnostics places you in the center of active clinical management and is really what I think is attractive about pathology.

Your work has advanced the use of molecular methods to study genetic expression of disease. How has technology changed the way pathologists work?

When I started, electron microscopy was new, and then IHC came along. After this came in situ, or applying molecular probes to tissues, which has been a big focus of my career. It took 20 or 30 years but adjunctive molecular diagnostics are now routine. I think a major role of academic pathology is to bring technology forward when it can be validated and proven useful...research and clinical application are perhaps a little too blurred right now and should be more separated.

What has been the most rewarding volunteer position you have held?

Being on the board of ASCP, which culminated in being president, was the most rewarding. It gave me insight into how government works and how pathology is viewed by clinicians. We spend a lot of time trying to improve the visibility and respect of pathologists in the greater medical community.

Speaking of visibility, what do you think will help pathologists become more recognized?

The main thing that helps is that pathologists have to view themselves as part of the team. They have to get out there, so when a clinician submits a biopsy or blood sample, the pathologist talks to them about the abnormal results. You have to be out there and demonstrate your importance and relevance, and traditionally we are reticent to do that. Pathologists have to be at the table when (a medical center) is planning to expand services or remodel the building, for example. If they’re not, people are going to make decisions that aren’t optimal for patient care.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I spend a lot of time working and not enough time with family. So I’m trying to balance that part of my life increasingly over the next several years. Every summer I go fishing in Alaska and load up my freezer with salmon, halibut, cod – the good stuff.

What advice would you give pathology trainees?

You have to read a lot if you’re going to be a diagnostic surgical or cytopathologist. Learning to recognize what is on the slide is only step one. Figuring out the diagnostic line is not the end of the story. The real job of the pathologist is knowing how those words impact the patient and helping the clinicians do the right thing ... That’s why we’re here.

PARTNERSHIP EXPOSES ANESTHESIOLOGY TRAINEES TO TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

Residents in the Department of Anesthesiology now have a mandatory one-week rotation with the Blood Bank. This is the first partnership of its kind, which provides insight into how best to use the resources of the transfusion services to provide evidence-based diagnoses and treatment.

Drs. Neil Blumberg and Majed Refaai, transfusion service attendings, noted, “It’s important that anesthesiologists, who make more transfusion decisions than almost any other specialty, have advanced training beyond what is provided in most medical schools, which we hope to provide in this partnership.”

RESIDENT HONORED AT CAP 2017

Associate chief resident, Sohaib Abu-Farsakh, M.D. (PGY-4), was honored at the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Annual Meeting. His “Clinicopathologic features of incidental meningiomas,” won Fourth Place in the Top 5 Junior Member Abstract Program. His work was showcased at a proffered poster session and he was recognized at the Spotlight ceremony at the event, held in National Harbor, MD.

CRANE’S WORK APPEARS IN NATURE REVIEWS

Genevieve Crane, MD, PhD, was the lead author in the paper, “Adult haematopoietic stem cell niches,” published in Nature Reviews Immunology. The study explores the role and functions of stem cell niches, which are microenvironments that regulate stem cells in blood. Crane joined the Hematopathology team in July

ZHOU COAUTHOR’S PAPER IN NATURE

Zhongren (David) Zhou, B.Med., Ph.D. has coauthored a paper in Nature on GI Barrett’s esophagus. The study was led by Jianwen Que, M.D. (Columbia) who previously worked in Biomedical Genetics at URM.



HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT A SUCCESS

Julia Polidore, a Histopathology employee, recently led a charity drive to collect items to help the victims of Hurricane Maria in Dominica in the northeastern Caribbean. Her parents were among those affected by Maria. Thanks to donations from UR employees and various community groups, 13 barrels (3,000 pounds total) were sent to Dominica.

FOCUS ON FACULTY (CONT.)

Rather than pursuing a Ph.D. she chose to stick with medicine and become a pathologist out of a desire to stay “directly” linked to patient care.

To this day, she is driven by a desire to get to the root of human diseases – namely, getting to the bottom of the many complexities in breast cancer.

“Breast cancer is a heterogeneous group of diseases,” said Wang. “Their cell of origin, genetic pathway, morphology and biological behavior are all different.”

She finished residency at West Virginia University and was trained as a pathology fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering from 2001-2002. She joined the faculty at URM in 2002.

Moving forward, she plans to use genetic sequencing to support her p53 hypothesis previously demonstrated using immunohistochemistry. But you can only do one thing at a time.

“I just do what I can and it’s rewarding to find something – a new theory that you truly believe,” she said. “It makes me enthusiastic.”

Her hobbies include travel, reading creative nonfiction, and traditional Chinese dance. She is married to Englishman and retired Kodak chemist, Ed Schofield. They live in Webster.



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FOCUS ON FACULTY: XI WANG, B. MED.



For Xi Wang, it's a pleasure to come to work.

"I like to feel that my work is needed," said the breast pathologist in a recent interview. "That's the reason I came to medicine and pathology."

Her clinical care has inspired her to discover more about the ways in which normal tissue cells become atypical and, eventually, cancerous.

Wang most recently published findings in *Human Pathology* that suggest an alteration in the tumor-suppressing gene p53 could be a precursor to aggressive breast cancer. This theory, which could lead to earlier detection of high grade tumors, was presented at last year's USCAP meeting and has been met with widespread support.

Wang first came to the U.S. from China to pursue research. Her interest began while compiling data for her master's thesis, which explored the behavior of cultured cells after they had been chemically treated and turned malignant. She noticed that a chromosomal change occurred during the cell transformation process. This piqued her curiosity into detecting the genetic signs of cancer.

"I read a lot of reference publications from this country and saw a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health doing the same thing as me," she said. Wang wrote a letter to Dr. John Little, who invited her to come to his lab in 1991 as a research fellow. She accepted, and stayed at Harvard for six years. It was during this time that she became interested in the role of p53 in lung cancer – putting her at the forefront of what would become a hot topic in the medical field. Science Magazine named p53 the "Molecule of the Year" in 1993. The article lauded those who followed the molecule "blazing a bright trail in cancer research" while meanwhile, Wang says, "I was already doing that," with a quiet smile. (*continued on pg. 5*)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We have been fortunate to receive philanthropic support from many individuals, allowing us to maintain and accelerate vital clinical, educational, and research initiatives. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible gift today, or as part of your estate plans, please visit www.pathology.urmc.edu and look for the "Make a Gift" button, or contact Matt Haag at 585-276-3638 or matthew.haag@rochester.edu.