New Residents
We are happy to welcome the Class of 2018

Naziheh Assarzadegan, MD, Shahr-E-Kord University of Medical Sciences, 2009 (Iran)

Wesly (Wes) Hiser, MD, University of Nebraska College of Medicine, 2014

James (Jim) Sikora, MD, University of Miami School of Medicine, 2010

Jorge Trejo-Lopez, MD, University of Florida College of Medicine, 2014

New Faculty
We would also like to welcome our new faculty who will be joining us soon:

Dara Wakefield MD, VA-Surgical Pathology, Medical Renal, Hematology

Jesse Kresak MD, Neuropathology and GI-Pathology

Felipe Solano MD, VA-Surgical Pathology

Petr Starostik MD, Molecular Pathology
Leaving the Nest

Several of our current fourth year residents are staying at UF to pursue an additional year of fellowship training. Matthew Martelli will be one of our GI Pathology fellows, Ethan Stoll will be the Surgical Pathology fellow, and Bret Huber will be the Hematopathology fellow. Bernadette Harris will be leaving for Surgical Pathology at Methodist Hospital, Houston followed by a Hematopathology fellowship at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Congratulations to all of our residents and all the best in your future training.

“When you know better you do better.”

Maya Angelou

Congratulations to Michael Chang and Yanfei Huang Our New Chief and Co-Chief Residents!
**New Faculty Members**

**Dr. Wonwoo Shon** joined us as a new faculty member in dermatopathology in the fall of 2014. He is originally from Seoul, South Korea but grew up in New York. Dr. Shon has a major in biological science from Binghamton University and received his medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also has a pre-doctoral fellowship from New York University. He attended Anatomic Pathology Residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where he stayed and completed fellowship training in dermatopathology and bone and soft tissue pathology. Dr. Shon is a very strong NY Yankee fan and enjoys sports, traveling and movies.

**Dr. Layla Alizadeh** is one of our new faculty members who joined the department in August of 2013. She is originally from a small rural community (Hagerstown, MD) but spent most of her adult years in DC and its surrounding areas. Dr. Alizadeh is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where she majored in Neurobiology and Physiology. She completed her medical education at the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC in 2008 and stayed at Howard University Hospital to continue her medical training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology where she served as chief resident for two years. Her training at Howard permitted her the opportunity to rotate at many outside institutions; her most memorable rotations included her time at the AFIP, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, MD, and a one month rotation in consultative pathology in Milan with Dr. Juan Rosai. She then went on to pursue a surgical pathology fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles with a focus on gynecologic pathology before joining the faculty at UF. Dr. Alizadeh says she feels very lucky to be a part of the great team here at UF and states that her interests are gynecologic and breast pathology and that she truly enjoys taking part in resident education. Her favorite things to do are spend time on the beach, listen to live music, travel, and spend time with her friends.

**Dr. David Gonzalo** joined us in July as a gastrointestinal pathologist. He was born and raised in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, Canary Islands. He received his medical degree from Universidad de La Laguna, Spain. He also attended the prestigious Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn medical school in Germany where he completed a year of his medical education. He earned his first anatomical pathology degree from the Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio, in Sevilla, Spain. Dr. Gonzalo decided to pursue a successful medical career in the United States and joined the pathology residency program at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio where he also completed a fellowship in GI pathology. Dr. Gonzalo loves spending time with his family and is a proud parent of Adriano, a precious baby boy who brings a lot of joy to his life.
Dr. Amy Collinsworth joins our department after she completed a GI and hepatobiliary fellowship in our program. She was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. Dr. Collinsworth completed a bachelor and masters degree from Louisiana Tech University in Cell and Molecular biology and received her medical degree from LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. Dr. Collinsworth’s main interests include pancreatic cancer and mucosal immunology. She loves spending time reading and playing with her son.

Dr. Steven Goldstein is our new HLA lab director. He was born and raised in Harrisburg, PA. Dr. Goldstein earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his anatomical and clinical pathology residency at the University of Florida, and then a fellowship in hematopathology here as well. Dr. Goldstein worked at Neogenomics as a hematopathologist for two and a half years focusing on flow cytometry and FISH analysis. He joined our department to pursue histocompatibility fellowship training with Dr. Scornik and decided to stay with us as faculty. His current interests in pathology are histocompatibility, HLA antibodies, and marrow transplant engraftment. Dr. Goldstein enjoys volleyball, hiking and also basketball when he can gather enough pathology folks to play.

Dr. Kimberly Merkel joins the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center as a new attending. Dr. Merkel, a native Floridian, was born in Gainesville and raised in Orlando, Florida. She received her medical degree from the University of Florida and stayed to complete a dermatology residency and then a dermatopathology fellowship here. She holds dual appointments as a dermatologist and dermatopathologist at UF/Shands and at the VA. She is very interested in cases which combine hematopathology and dermatopathology, as she finds them very challenging. She is a big college football fan and her favorite team is, of course, the Gators! She also enjoys pilates and yoga, watching movies, and traveling.
Eva Vertes George was born in Toronto, Canada. She came to the United States for undergraduate studies, and completed a degree in Molecular Biology at Princeton University. After college she worked for two years at Weill Cornell Medical College in NYC, in a research lab studying the microenvironment of leukemic and normal hematopoietic stem cells. She then came to the University of Florida for medical school, during which she met her husband, Evan George. They had their first baby girl, Evelyn, who is now 9 months old (who still doesn't sleep even half as well as Bret's baby). Outside of work, Eva loves running, beach sports, camping/hiking/traveling with her family, and playing Taboo.

Vatsal Patel was born and raised in India. He majored in Biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin and later received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Vatsal did an internship in ENT surgery at the University of Florida before joining our program. His current interests in pathology are blood bank/hematology/HLA lab, general surgical, and GI pathology. He really enjoys traveling, learning how to cook, watching TV, model railway and videogames.

Namrah Aijaz was born in Karachi, Pakistan. She earned her undergraduate education from Federal Science College in Pakistan and later completed her medical education from King Edward Medical College in Pakistan. She came to the United States to pursue further medical training. She is married and in her free time really loves spending time with her husband, reading books, especially autobiographies, playing tennis, painting, traveling and going to the gym.

JT Kim was born and grew up in South Korea and moved to the United States in middle school. He majored in biology at the University of Mississippi and completed his medical education at the University of South Alabama. JT completed two years of Orthopedic surgery residency before deciding to pursue pathology training. His current interests in pathology are molecular pathology and bone and soft tissue pathology. He enjoys staying active, college football, surfing and walking his dog.
Dr. Ahmad Alkhasawneh is one of the current Hematopathology fellows. He completed his residency at the University of Florida and will be staying here for a GI Pathology fellowship. In his free time, when he is not at Rocky Point interpreting flow, he enjoys eating out at Indian restaurants and frequents Falafel King almost weekly.

Dr. John (Johnny) Ross joined us from Alabama and is one of our current Hematopathology fellows. He completed his anatomical and clinical pathology residency at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. He will be taking a job in Montgomery, Alabama as an assistant professor through UAB's community practice pathology program. He and his family really have enjoyed their time in Gainesville, but are also looking forward to being closer to family again.

Dr. Jesse Kresak will be staying on as faculty at UF signing out GI and neuropathology. She has formed research collaborations with the department of neurosurgery and was recently awarded grant funding from the Florida Center for Brain Tumor Research for the immunoprofiling of gliomas. Her spare time is spent at the baseball field with her three sons and husband, as well as enjoying Florida’s natural parks and waterways.

Dr. Dara Wakefield is originally from Alabama. She completed her pathology residency at the University of Florida and a Hematopathology fellowship at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. She decided to return to UF to pursue additional fellowship training in both Surgical Pathology and Medical Renal Pathology. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, caring for baby Carter, and buying large floppy hats.
**Dr. Kristianna Fredenburg** has been one of our Surgical Pathology fellows this past year. She will stay on as a fellow pursuing additional ENT and pulmonary pathology training. She also plans to continue her long standing passion for research in the Department of Oral Pathology working on microRNA analysis of oral squamous cell carcinoma. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family and reading and is excitedly awaiting the birth of her third child.

**Dr. Michael Black** attended the University of Florida for both undergraduate studies and medical school. He then went on to do his pathology residency at the University of Hawaii. He returned to Gator Nation for his GI pathology fellowship and will pursue a Surgical Pathology fellowship at the University of South Florida. He enjoys surfing waves the size of three story buildings off the coast of Hawaii as well as twelve inch high waves off of St. Augustine.

**Dr. Jennifer Loch** is our current Cytopathology fellow having developed a keen eye for singling out a single malignant cell in the background of millions of cells. She completed her pathology residency training at the University of Florida and will be moving with her family to Amelia Island, Florida. Her interests are spending time with family and caring for her new baby Ethan.
Rish Pai, M.D, Ph.D

On January 17th we had the pleasure to have an expert in gastrointestinal pathology Dr. Rish Pai MD, PhD, who is currently assistant professor at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.

Dr. Pai received his medical and PhD degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. He completed anatomic pathology residency and a gastrointestinal and hepatic pathology fellowship at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Dr. Pai started his visit to University of Florida with an unknown session with a variety of interesting and challenging Gastrointestinal Pathology cases. This session was followed by a lecture titled "The Serrated Neoplasia Pathway to Colorectal Carcinoma" given to faculty, residents and fellows. At the luncheon, Dr. Pai had an informal discussion with the residents and fellows regarding the molecular pathology behind the sessile serrated polyps and the clinical implications for patient surveillance.

Michael Laposata, M.D.

On March 28th we had the honor of having Dr. Michael Laposata in our department.

Dr. Laposata started his visit at the University of Florida with a very dynamic lecture given to residents and fellows titled “Finding your place in Pathology”. This session was followed by a departmental lecture titled “The diagnostic management team: Advising Clinicians on Laboratory Test Selection and Result Interpretation”.

He received his MD and PhD degrees from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed his postdoctoral research fellowship and residency in Clinical Pathology at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Laposata has authored more than 170 publications including original peer-reviewed articles, 6 books, 12 book chapters, and numerous editorials and reviews.

Michael Laposata, MD, PhD, will be joining UTMB as Chair of the Department of Pathology and holder of the 1955 Teaching Professorship in the School of Medicine on July 1. He joins UTMB from Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he has been the Edward and Nancy Foder Professor and Executive Vice Chair of Pathology. He is also Director of the Division of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Laboratories and holds a faculty appointment in Microbiology and Immunology. Dr. Laposata developed and implemented a clinical system where laboratory data are systematically interpreted by a physician with expertise in the area who then writes a patient-specific narrative paragraph similar to those provided by radiologists or anatomic pathologists. In 2005, he was recognized by the Institute of Quality in Laboratory Medicine of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for this innovation. Dr. Laposata has an excellent track record of mentoring faculty, fellows and house staff members, who have gone on to highly successful careers and become leaders in their fields.

Robert J. Kurman, M.D.

Our special guest speaker for Research Day is Dr. Robert Kurman. Dr. Kurman is the Richard W. TeLinde Distinguished Professor of Gynecologic Pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with appointments in the Departments of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Pathology and is the Director of the Division of Gynecologic Pathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

He is boarded in Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology and has had a specific interest in gynecologic pathology for nearly 30 years. His research has involved morphologic and molecular genetic characterization of a variety of gynecologic cancers with the aim of developing methods for prevention and early detection.

Dr. Kurman is a national and internationally recognized authority in the field. He is the editor of Blaustein's Pathology of the Female Genital Tract. He is also on the WHO committee charged with revising the Classification of Tumors of The Female Reproductive Organs. In addition, he receives approximately 1,500 slide consultations a year on difficult diagnostic problems, many involving ovarian pathology (particularly borderline tumors and MPSCs), from throughout the US and abroad.
Congratulations on a job well done!!!

Congratulations to Dr. Craig Fletcher on his MVP award from the UF Cancer Center as part of the “2014 Celebration of Excellence”. Dr. Fletcher was nominated for this award for his dedicated work and outstanding contributions to the Department of Pathology and Transfusion Medicine in addition to resident education. We wish him the best in his move to Beaumont Health in Michigan. You will be greatly missed!

Dr. Ahmad Alkhasawneh’s poster entitled “Loss of SMAD4 Expression is a Poor Prognostic Factor in Ampullary Adenocarcinoma” received the first place poster award at the Florida Society of Pathologists winter meeting this past February. Congratulations!

Pathology Offices

It has been over a year in the making, but the niche for the Department of Pathology on the third floor of the hospital has now relocated to the first floor in newly constructed office space adjacent to the Founder’s Gallery. The official ribbon cutting ceremony with informal tours took place on 28 May 2014. The new space is arranged around a central glass encased sign out area, each with a multi-headed microscope. There are now separate sign out areas for Bone and Soft Tissue, GI, ENT, GU, Breast, Cytology, GYN, and Neuro. Surrounding the central sign out areas are eleven faculty offices in addition to two swing offices. The GI sign out will again join the rest of the department on the first floor, however administration and some faculty offices will remain on the sixth floor. The fellow offices have now been moved up to the sixth floor. Adjacent to the kitchen area is the conference room with a microscope to project images for all those unknown sessions and lectures. Residents will drink coffee and frozen forays from Opus or the nearby Starbucks as they learn everything from ependymomas to osteoblastomas. Sincere gratitude is extended to Dr.Reith, Dr.Knapik, and Dr.Clare-Salzler for all their effort and time in coordinating and obtaining new office space for the Department of Pathology.
It is with great sadness that we lost Dr. Cheryl LaMay on 11 October 2013. She completed her pathology residency at the University of Florida and was the chief resident in 1985. She worked in private practice for several years before returning to academia at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center. She enjoyed the outdoors immensely taking frequent kayak trips, cooking, and gardening. She will be remembered for her teaching and generous supply of tomato plants, herbs, and peanuts to shell in addition to providing lunch for the residents on the last day of our VA rotation.
Pathology Baby Boom!

Ethan Benjamin Loch, born 16 March 2014, 7 lbs 2 oz

Sean Patrick Feely, born on 14 February 2014, 5 lbs 13 oz

Matthew Alexander born to proud parents Lizette and Alex Duckworth and big sister Elizabeth on 5-19-14, 8 lbs 13oz

Carter Lyle Wilson born to Dara Wakefield on 16 April 2014, 9 lbs 8 oz

Evelyn George, 5 lbs 3 oz, born to Eva Vertes on 7-29-2013

Leona Huber, born 28 May 2013, 8 lbs

Adriano Gonzalo, 8 lbs 4 oz born on 11-5-2013
We will miss you!

We are losing two faculty members this year: Dr. Fletcher will be leaving to take a position at Beaumont Health, Michigan. Dr. Lindsay Bazydlo will return to the University of Virginia, where she did her PhD training, as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Pathology.
SEE YOU LATER ALLIGATOR, UNTIL NEXT YEAR